

TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

Uganda is a unitary country and a presidential democratic republic. It has a single tier of subnational government, which comprises 135 local districts (municipal level), and the city of Kampala.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 second National Development Plan (NDPII) was the guiding framework for national development until 2020 and was 70% aligned to the SDGs. For 2021-2025, Uganda's third **National Development Plan (NDP III)** fully integrates the SDGs and the country's **Vision 2040**. NDP III identifies interventions under 3 categories as **SDG Accelerators: Environment, Governance and Industry**. It also sets out the imperative of applying a Human Rights Based Approach (HRBA), which is recognized as a key foundation in the 2030 Agenda. All sectors, ministries, departments and agencies and LRGs are expected to adopt a HRBA in their policies, legislation and plans.

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

The multi-stakeholder **National SDG Coordination Framework** was established in 2016 under the leadership of the Office of the Prime Minister and defines and delegates leadership roles and responsibilities for coordinating implementation of the SDGs.³ To operationalize it, the National SDG Roadmap was prepared through a wide consultative process that included government, the private sector, civil society, the UN system and development partners. As part of the national coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation, there is the **SDG Policy Coordination Committee (SDG-PCC)**, the **SDG Implementation Steering Committee (SDG-ISC)** and the **National SDG Taskforce**. The **SDG Secretariat** coordinates 5 technical working groups: on monitoring and evaluating, planning and mainstreaming, resource mobilization and financing, data and on communication. The coordination framework also includes sector working groups, ministries, departments and agencies, and local governments. In 2018, the President appointed the Minister in Charge of General Duties in the Office of the Prime Minister as Cabinet focal person on the SDGs.

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

The Office of the Prime Minister, with the support of the SDG Secretariat, has spearheaded the 2020 VNR process. The National SDG Taskforce established a **multi-institutional Advisory Committee** drawn from ministries, departments and agencies, Parliament, UN bodies, civil society organizations and the private sector, to provide oversight to all processes leading to the VNR report. Besides, the VNR benefited from technical contributions from the **Civil Society Core Reference Group on SDGs**, coordinated by the Uganda NGO Forum, and from other actors including **youth** organizations and the **Private Sector Foundation of Uganda (PSFU)**. **Citizens** also provided insights through a VNR E-platform and U-Report. Finally, the data collection process included the Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS).

1.3 MONITORING

The five-year Plans for National Statistical Development (PNSD) guide statistical planning for the National Statistical System (NSS). The capacity of the NSS to produce and make available disaggregated statistics is coordinated through the National

1. The Mayor of Kampala is elected by universal suffrage, and participates in the Kampala Capital City Authority (KCCA) through which the national government directly manages the city, but he plays a rather ceremonial role. Overall, there are 5 categories of Local Councils in the country: the Local Council I at the village or neighborhood level (LC1), the Parish (LC2), the Sub-County (LC3), the County (LC4) and the LC5, which corresponds to an entire district and the city of Kampala.

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

2. See: https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/10689Uganda%20Review%20Report_CDs1.pdf (2016) ;

https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/26352VNR_2020_Uganda_Report.pdf (2020)

3. More details in the VNR, 2020, p. 6.

Statistical Indicator (NSI) Framework. To enable data-driven policy making in the districts where there are some instabilities with neighbouring countries and an increasing refugee population, Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS) conducted one of the first comprehensive community surveys to include refugees. The government is also developing a Frequent Monitoring System to inform policy planning with more updated information.

2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

Uganda has started to roll out the SDG process systematically at the subnational level via a collaborative and multi-stakeholder approach. The SDG Secretariat, **Uganda Local Government Association (ULGA)**, **Urban Authorities' Association of Uganda (UAAU)** and the Uganda National NGO Forum jointly undertook engagements to ensure participation of all actors at the local government level. **SDG focal persons** have also been appointed by all LRGs to liaise with the SDG Secretariat and SDG Technical Working Groups. The National Planning Authority has undertaken several **capacity-building** engagements for district planners to enable them to effectively integrate the SDGs and apply a Human Rights Based Approach in the district development plans and budgets.⁴

During the 2020 VNR process, **consultations** have been held with selected local government leaders as part of the SDG localization process. Besides, the report mentions that residents and authorities of **Ngora District** informed the process via their VLR.

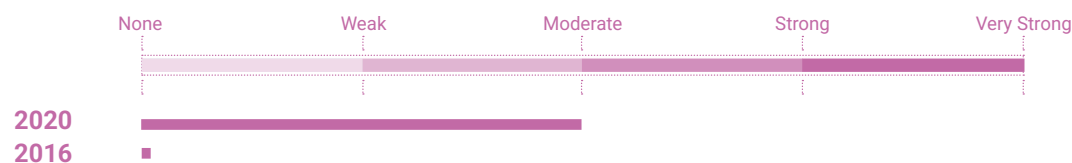
2.1 LRGs PARTICIPATION

► In the VNR process



Comments: Consultations have been held with selected local government leaders. There is also a mention of the VLR of the Ngora District in the 2020 VNR. However, the answer of the Uganda Local Government Association to the GTF Survey in 2020 mentions no participation in the VNR process.

► In national coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation



Comments: LRGs are taken into account in the national coordination framework (via ad-hoc consultations).

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

LRG involvement in SDG implementation is mentioned in the VNR, 2020, p. 7-8.

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

► Citizens' participation in urban planning has been included in the **Kampala City Strategic Plan**. The priority concerns of citizens and visitors of the city were collected at various engagements and formed the foundation of the strategic plan. These issues would go on to form the basis for the development of a citizens' charter. The strategy also mentions that service delivery will be among the key parameters to be assessed as part of a citizens' satisfaction survey.

► Still in Kampala, the **Safe Cities Free of Violence against Women and Girls discrimination project** was initiated as well as in some surrounding town councils. The project aims to ensure that women and girls are socially, economically and politically empowered in public spaces which are free from sexual harassment and other forms of sexual violence, that gender-responsive locally owned interventions are implemented, and that there are laws and policies to prevent and respond to violence against women and girls, especially in public spaces.

4. Other efforts have been made at the subnational level to contextualize the SDGs and mobilize communities. A civil society policy think tank, Advocates Coalition on Development and Environment (ACODE), has been implementing the Local Government Councils' Scorecard, in partnership with the Uganda Local Governments Association (ULGA). This scorecard is based on performance indicators aligned to the roles, responsibilities and functions of elected district authorities. For 2018-2019, it was conducted in 35 districts and indicated an improvement in the average performance of the assessed District Councils, up from 51% in 2016-17 to 62% in 2018-19.

► To contextualize the SDGs and mobilize communities to own their development agenda with meager resources, a civil society policy think tank, Advocates Coalition on Development and Environment (ACODE), has been implementing the **Local Government Councils' Scorecard**. The scorecard initiative implemented yearly by ACODE in partnership with the **Uganda Local Governments Association (ULGA)** stems from the desire to contribute to the deepening of democratic decentralization in Uganda, while addressing the problem of poor service delivery. For 2018-2019, the scorecard was conducted in 35 districts and indicated an improvement in the average performance of the assessed district councils, up from 51 percent in FY2016-17 to 62 percent in FY2018-19. This improvement in average performance is also reflected in other parameters such as legislative function, accountability to citizens, and monitoring service delivery, which went up from 15 to 16 points, 11 to 14 points and 10 to 17 points respectively. This positive change in functionality and performance of district councils is partly attributed to the sustained capacity-building programme for elected district leaders.

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

The **Ngora District** in Uganda's Eastern region prepared a VLR in 2020.⁵ Its process looked at the wider development spectrum covering institutional frameworks and aspects of "leaving no one behind" in the district development agenda. Overall, Ngora District has integrated the 2030 Agenda and aspirations of Agenda 2063 in its development processes and budgets. The national government announced in 2021, at the UNECA Regional Forum, the preparation of 6 more VLRs in **Nebbi, Sheema, Sironko, Kitagwenda, Kyotera** and **Bugiri**.

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

To ensure conformity of the national budget with the NDP III and the SDGs, Uganda's government has assessed the quality of sector budgets to evaluate their compliance. This is complemented by the Certificates of Gender and Equity measuring the responsiveness of national and district budgets to gender and equity. The annual certificate of compliance indicated an improvement in SDG alignment from 60.9% in 2017-18 to 64% in 2018-19. Analysis of alignment of the budget to the SDGs indicates that SDGs 1, 4, 5 and 16 scored over 75%, while 6, 8 and 17 scored over 70%. There is no mention of resource allocation to LRGs for SDG localization.

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

General comments: In its conclusion, the 2020 VNR highlights the overarching areas and themes that Uganda will continue to pay close attention to: stronger partnerships, coordination and collaboration; deeper localization and popularization of the 2030 Agenda; building a leadership culture for the 2030 Agenda at all levels; promoting SDG-focused innovation by all citizens and especially by young people; focusing financing for the SDGs; strengthening technology and information systems in SDG implementation.

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

The national government has set up policies and programmes to ensure women's participation and equal leadership opportunities in political, economic and public life. In relation to the UN global programme Making Every Woman and Girl Count, over 30 ministries/departments/agencies and 84 local governments have been trained in the collection, usage and dissemination of **gender statistics** and are able to integrate gender perspectives in their planning frameworks and strategic plans for statistics (under the capacity building program for gender statistics 2018-2023). At the local level, representation of women is at 45.7% of all district councils. However, women represented only 1% of local chairpersons in 2007, then 2% in 2011 and again 2% in 2017. Majority of the women councillors in the district councils have been elected on affirmative action seats with 1.6 % elected on direct seats at district level, 2% at municipality level and 8% at sub-county level. While representation at both national and local level is above the 30% quota provided in the Constitution, the number of women elected remains very low over the years.

3.2 COVID 19

No reference regarding LRGs initiatives in the face of the pandemic.

5. See: https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/ngora_district_2020.pdf

4. SDG INDICATORS⁶

5.5.1. (b) Proportion of seats held by women (%) in local governments		45.7 (2018)
6.1.1. Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services (%)	Urban	43 (2020)
	Rural	8 (2020)
6.2.1. (a) Proportion of population using safely managed sanitation services (%)	Urban	-
	Rural	16 (2020)
11.1.1. Proportion of population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing (%)		48.3 (2018)
11.6.1. Proportion of municipal solid waste collected and managed (%)		50 (2017, Kampala)
11.6.2. Air pollution – annual means of particulate matter in cities (population weighted)		42.7 (2016)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		37.0 (2019)

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/uga>