

TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

Zambia is a unitary republic with a single tier of subnational government: it counts 116 local governments.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

In Zambia, the implementation of the SDGs is anchored on the **National Vision 2030**, which is implemented through a series of five-year National Development Plans (NDPs). The current is the **Seventh National Development Plan (7NDP)** covering the period 2017-2021.

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

The **Ministry of National Development Planning (MNDP)** is the designated entity to coordinate the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the SDGs at the national level. On the side-lines of the National Development Coordinating Committee (NDCC), a **National SDGs Sub-Committee** was constituted with the responsibility of ensuring inclusive partnership and capacity building, availability of data and strategic information, and conducting periodic monitoring. In addition, the Zambian Parliament has a critical role in the planning, budgeting and monitoring of the SDGs. The **Parliamentary Caucus Committee on the SDGs** has been instrumental in fostering and sustaining SDG engagement.

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

The MNDP appointed a **VNR Secretariat**, which was responsible for the 2020 VNR process. An **Inter-Ministerial Technical Working Group** was also constituted with representatives from all ministries, the private sector, the youth, civil society, academia and the UN agencies. Focal point persons from these institutions provided information for the preparation of the report. The MNDP also engaged with representatives of vulnerable groups, such as elderly persons and persons with disabilities. In addition, awareness campaigns were organized and focused on strengthening capacities at the sub-national levels to implement, monitor and report performance of the 7NDP as well as the SDGs. An SDG guide was prepared in English and translated into the 7 main local languages.

1.3 MONITORING

Key policy and legislative interventions to support implementation of the SDGs in Zambia include the **Monitoring and Evaluation Policy**, which aims at improving programme efficiency and effectiveness. The **Office of the Auditor-General (OAG)** played a critical role in the monitoring and auditing of the SDG process. It carried out an audit of Zambia's preparedness for the SDGs and recommended required actions. Key lessons from the audit are: (1) strengthening the national statistics system at both the national and subnational levels, (2) costing of SDG implementation, (3) expediting implementation of Output Based Budgeting, (4) enhancing passing of the National Planning and Budgeting Bill (more details on the latter below). Moreover, Zambia undertook measures to raise the statistical capacity of the Central Statistical Office (CSO), which is now a semi-autonomous body. It is now called Zambia Statistics Agency (ZamStats) and will strengthen the statistical capacities of Planning Units through the National Strategy for the Development of Statistics II (NSDS) 2019 -2024.

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

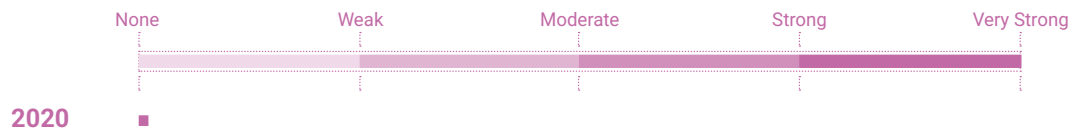
2. See: https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/26304VNR_2020_Zambia_Report.pdf (2020)

2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

Through the National Planning and Budgeting Policy approved in 2014, the Zambian Cabinet established consultative and advisory structures. At the national level, there are the **National Development Coordinating Committee (NDCC)** and **Cluster Advisory Groups (CAGs)**. The Provincial Development Coordinating Committees (PDCCs), District Development Coordinating Committees (DDCCs) and the Ward Development Committees (WDCs) are operational at the local level. The **Local Government Association of Zambia** was consulted during the preliminary/design phase of the 7NDP.³ There is no evidence of any LRG involvement in the 2020 VNR process.

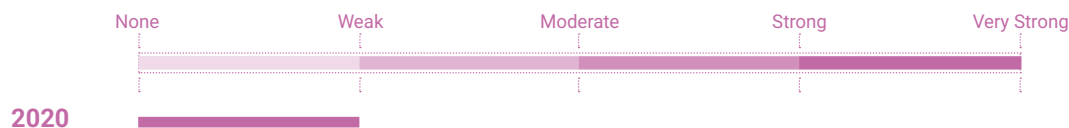
2.1 LRGs PARTICIPATION

► In the VNR process



Comments: The 2020 VNR doesn't mention LRGs participation in its preparation process nor among the stakeholders consulted. The Local Government Association of Zambia was not involved (GTF Survey 2020).

► In national coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation



Comments: The Local Government Association of Zambia was consulted in the design phase of the 7NDP (GTF Survey 2020).

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

In the 2020 VNR, there is no specific section nor reference to LRGs specific role in implementing the SDGs. However, districts are mentioned throughout the report.

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

No reference on policies and initiatives led by local authorities.

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

Not applicable.

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

In 2014, the Zambian Cabinet approved the **National Planning and Budgeting Policy**. It provides for the integration of national development plans and the national budget to improve responsiveness, transparency, accountability, and results-orientation. It also provides for a more inclusive planning and budgeting system which increases the participation of all stakeholders from the district, provincial, sectoral and national levels. The **National Planning and Budgeting Bill** of 2019 aims at strengthening accountability, oversight and participation mechanisms in the national planning and budgeting process. In addition, it is intended to strengthen the link between the national development plans and the SDGs as well as promote participatory and decentralized national planning and budgeting processes involving state and non-state actors.

3. UCLG, 2020, Towards the Localization of the SDGs, <https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/Informe%20HLPF-FINAL.pdf>

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

General comments: The youth was actively engaged among the CSOs involved in the SDG awareness campaigns organized during the 2020 VNR process. For instance, with support of the UN, a National Youth Conference was launched. Its theme was "Engaging the Youth in Monitoring and Accountability of the SDGs for a Sustainable Zambia". It attracted over 200 youth from all the 10 provinces.

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

At the local level, the proportion of local government seats held by women rose from 10% in 2016 to 38% in 2019. Nonetheless, their participation is still limited as mayors and chairpersons in local councils (8.6% in 2019).

3.2 COVID 19

The current situation, challenges and opportunities of the crisis are detailed in the VNR, 2020, p. 45. There is no reference to locally led initiatives.

4. SDG INDICATORS⁶

5.5.1. (b) Proportion of seats held by women (%) in local governments		7.1 (2019)
6.1.1. Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services (%)	Urban	50 (2020)
	Rural	
6.2.1. (a) Proportion of population using safely managed sanitation services (%)	Urban	-
	Rural	24 (2020)
11.1.1. Proportion of population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing (%)		54.6 (2018)
11.6.1. Proportion of municipal solid waste collected and managed (%)		34.6 (2015, Lusaka)
11.6.2. Air pollution – annual means of particulate matter in cities (population weighted)		30.8 (2016)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		-

4. 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/zmb>