



TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

Dominica is a unitary republic comprising 7 districts containing a network of town, village and urban councils.¹ There are five council types: a city council for the capital Roseau, a town council for the second largest urban center Portsmouth, an urban council for the third largest conurbation Canefield, the Carib Council which covers the Carib territory, and village councils. Council elections take place on a rolling basis, with each council election occurring separately.²



Unless otherwise indicated, all the information in this profile is taken from the previously published Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs).³

1. NATIONAL STRATEGIES FOR SDG IMPLEMENTATION

The government of Dominica has promulgated three key documents for achieving the SDGs, namely the **National Resilience Development Strategy (NRDS)**, **Dominica's Climate Resilience and Recovery Plan 2020-2030**, and the **Disaster Risk Financing Strategy**. These documents represent the roadmap for achieving the 2030 Agenda, while identifying critical 'accelerator points' for the SDGs and key enablers for policy coherence.

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

The **Ministry of Planning, Economic Development, Climate Resilience, Sustainable Development and Renewable Energy** has the overall responsibility for national planning, coordination, and monitoring of policies and plans in relation to the SDGs. The Ministry fosters partnerships and collaborative arrangements with stakeholders from the private sector, the public sector, civil society, the Kalinago and development partners.

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

The **Ministry of Planning, Economic Development, Climate Resilience, Sustainable Development and Renewable Energy** led the preparation process of the 2022 VNR. The Ministry chairs the **National SDG Committee** and guided the development and review of the VNR in collaboration with other ministries and agencies. The Committee was tasked with reviewing the draft of the VNR as well as verifying the information and data, with the support of the United Nations Country Team in Dominica and other UN agencies. Stakeholders including the public and private sector, non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations, academia and youth organizations were engaged through virtual workshops, consultations, and online surveys.

1.3 MONITORING

The **Central Statistical Office (CSO)** is the agency responsible for the compilation of official statistics, including data and case studies, that are used in the 2022 VNR. The CSO has adopted a selection of regional indicators for monitoring the Caribbean specific SDGs. Moreover, a database is being developed to register the SDG indicators, their definitions, responsible stakeholders, level of completion, and the method of reporting. The database largely relies on the 2022 Population and Housing Census for data related to the SDG indicators. With the aim of supporting the localization of the SDGs in the future, the government plans to conduct a national assessment of Dominica and to develop a protocol for producing official statistics that informs evidence-based policy planning as well as facilitates better monitoring, evaluation and reporting.

1. UCLG, 2022, Towards the Localization of the SDGs, https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/hlpf_2022.pdf

2. For more details on the councils, see: https://www.clgf.org.uk/default/assets/File/Country_profiles/Dominica.pdf

3. See: <https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/vnrs/2022/VNR%202022%20Dominica%20Report.pdf> (2022)

2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

The **Dominica Association of Local Community Authorities (DALCA)** reports regularly participating in the national coordination mechanism at a consultative level.⁴ The association also contributed to the VNR. However, although the 2022 VNR mentioned two planned SDG localization efforts, there is an absence of an SDG localization strategy in the country.

2.1 LRGs PARTICIPATION

► In the VNR process



Comments: The Dominica Association of Local Community Authorities (DALCA) has contributed to the VNR.

► In national coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation



Comments: The Dominica Association of Local Community Authorities (DALCA) participates regularly in national coordination (at a consultative level).

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 2022 VNR, there is very little reference to LRGs' role in implementing the SDGs and locally-led initiatives, although the report states that "the local government system is very entrenched and active in Dominica." Whereas the VNR mentions that the national government is working towards implementing reforms to strengthen local authorities as well as community-driven participatory development projects (see VNR, 2022, p. 164-165).

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

► During the implementation of the National Action Plan and Strategy on Disaster Risk Reduction 2018-2022, the **Office of Disaster Management (ODM)** strengthened the coordination between different levels of government by defining the organization and functioning of disaster management mechanisms at the national and subnational levels.

► While the **Dominica Association of Local Community Authorities (DALCA)** did not implement specific activities to disseminate the SDGs, it participated in the monitoring of shock-responsive social protection programmes, with the support of the UNDP country office and the Ministry of Planning and Economic Resilience, and in support of housing recovery "building back better" initiatives for climate adaptive communities. The association also continued its capacity-building initiatives for sustainable local economic development within communities.⁵

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

Not applicable.

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

The 2022 VNR mentions that the **Addis Ababa Action Agenda** is expected to enhance the financing landscape by introducing new partners and financing sources. While private capital and the **Citizenship by Investment** programme, whose revenue accounted for 30% of GDP, are identified as important sources of financing, there is no reference to the budgeting regarding SDG implementation.

4. UCLG, 2022, Towards the Localization of the SDGs, https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/hlpf_2022.pdf
5. UCLG, 2022, Towards the Localization of the SDGs, https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/hlpf_2022.pdf

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

General comments: In Dominica, there is no constitutional provision for local government. Districts contain a network of town, village and urban councils, whose responsibilities are generally limited to road maintenance. All authorities and district associations are members of the **Dominica Association of Local Community Authorities (DALCA)**, though membership is voluntary. Some of the seven districts have their own organizations, called district council associations, to bring together local authorities in their area.⁶

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

In 2016-2017, female councilors were 35% of total councilors (28/80) across both urban and rural councils, down from 42.2% in 2015-2016. The proportion of mayors/chairpersons who were female in 2016-2017 was 34.9% (15/43), up from 30.2% (13/43) in 2015-2016. In 2011-2012, women made up 30% of councilors in town councils, 43% in village councils, 37% in urban councils and 14% in the Carib Council.⁷

3.2 COVID 19

The 2022 VNR mentions some of the measures taken by the national government in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and summarizes the impact of the crisis. The **Dominica Association of Local Community Authorities (DALCA)** was active in supporting local authorities' actions during the COVID-19 pandemic.⁸

4. SDG INDICATORS⁹

| | | |
|---|-------|-------------|
| 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 | - |
| | 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) | | 20.5 (2016) |
| 11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%) | | - |

6. See: https://www.clgf.org.uk/default/assets/File/Country_profiles/Dominica.pdf

7. See: https://www.clgf.org.uk/default/assets/File/Country_profiles/Dominica.pdf

8. UCLG, 2022, Towards the Localization of the SDGs, https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/hlpf_2022.pdf

9. The data used for this table come from the UN SDG Indicators Database. See: <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/dataportal/database>