

EQUATORIAL GUINEA

TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

Equatorial Guinea is a unitary republic whose single tier of subnational elected government is made of 30 municipalities. Local governments are acknowledged by the constitution, but have no local autonomy and depend on the regional administration. Although legislation shall operationalize the transfer of responsibilities to the local governments, it has not yet been adopted.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

Adopted in 2019, the National Strategy for Sustainable Development “**Equatorial Guinea Agenda 2035**” (ENDS 2035) integrates the SDGs and the Agenda 2063. The strategy includes four axes: 1) Eradication of poverty; 2) Social inclusion and sustainable peace; 3) Productivity and industrialization; and 4) Environmental sustainability.

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

The **National Commission for the Coordination of the SDGs** includes the Prime Minister, representatives from all ministries, the Secretary of Planning, the Parliament, and civil society. The Commission is supported by a **Technical Secretariat** and four **working groups** that include representatives of ministries, UN agencies, civil society, the private sector, and academia.

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

The 2022 VNR was developed by the Technical Secretariat of the **National Commission for the Coordination of the SDGs**, chaired by the National Direction on Planning (DGP) within the National Agency for the Development of Equatorial Guinea (ANDGE), and the National Institute of Statistic (INEGE). The coordination was supported by a consultant of the NGO Data Pop Alliance. Workshops were organized for data gathering, involving representatives from public and private sectors, academia, civil society, and UN agencies. Complementary interviews were also conducted with national institutions. Nonetheless, the participation of civil society and local representatives was limited.

1.3 MONITORING

The **National Statistic System** is in charge of the follow-up of the 237 indicators, 121 characterized as “very urgent”. The process of production of indicators has been initiated in 2019, through the second National Household Survey (suspended in 2020 with the COVID-19 pandemic and reactivated in 2022). Important efforts have been made to strengthen the national system of statistics. However, the country faces problems of updating, systematization, and disaggregation of data. Only 27.8% of indicators have adequate data.

In 2021, the National Agency for the Development of Guinea Equatorial (ANDGE) was established to ensure the follow-up and evaluation of the ENDS 2035.

2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

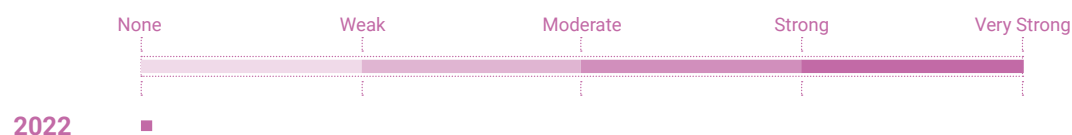
There is no evidence of SDG localization strategies nor of LRG involvement in national strategies for the SDGs.

1. It should also be noted that the Constitution does not affirm the principles of local autonomy and local election. UCLG Africa, Cities Alliance, 2021, “Assessing the Institutional Environment of Cities and Subnational Governments in Africa”, https://www.citiesalliance.org/sites/default/files/2022-05/CitiesAlliance_Assessing%20Inst.%20Environment%20of%20Cities%20and%20Subnal.%20Govs%20in%20Africa_EN.pdf

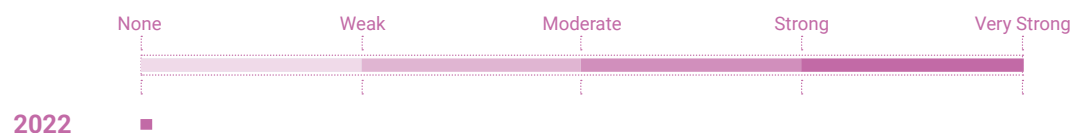
2. See: <https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/vnrs/2022/VNR%202022%20Equatorial%20Guinea%20Report.pdf> (2022)

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 VNRs and in the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments' annual survey on the localization of the SDGs.

2.2 VNR REFERENCES

Local governments or municipalities are only mentioned 8 times in the VNR, which highlights the need for improved institutional coordination and LRGs' potential contributions to specific initiatives (e.g. for environmental protection, fight against domestic violence). The VNR also underlines that LRGs are weakly equipped to support responses to the COVID-19 crisis (particularly in rural areas), and the necessity for training.

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

No initiatives from LRGs are mentioned in the 2022 VNR. Regarding urban issues, the report underlines that the national government is investing in urbanizing cities, creating new urban districts, and building social housing throughout the country.

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

Not applicable.

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

The ministries mention a lack of resources for the implementation of the projects to achieve the SDGs. The government has supported initiatives on renewable energies and has budgeted funds for forest management and climate change adaptation. It also identified several projects to mobilize resources from international partners. For example, the National Direction for Urban Development is seeking funds for urban development plans in districts and municipalities.

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

General comments: The country has been strongly impacted by the economic crisis of 2014, with the drop in fuel prices, the COVID-19 pandemic, which also reduced fuel prices, and the Bata explosions of March 2021. To address these challenges, the country is implementing the ENDS 2035 plan, which seeks to promote important changes to diversify its economy, modernize its infrastructure and institutions, reduce poverty, and protect its rich natural environment.

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

No reference to the local level. A multisectoral national action plan for the promotion of women and gender equity is in the process of being approved by Parliament.

3.2 COVID 19

The health and economic crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic caused setbacks in many activities outlined in the national development plan. In response, the government adopted a health emergency plan. Collaborating with the government, UN agencies supported efforts to prevent the spread of the virus by strengthening the actions of the Ministry of Health, facilitating vaccination, supporting persons in need and groups at risk, protection of jobs, and ensuring the continuity of educational services. There is no mention of local administration.

4. SDG INDICATORS³

5.5.1. (b) Proportion of seats held by women (%) in local governments		26.9 (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 (%)		64.9 (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)		44.5 (2016)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		-

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