

## TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

Eritrea, a former province of Ethiopia, began to elect assemblies and executives to manage villages, districts, and provinces since its independence in 1991. Between 1993 and 1997, the central state and local communities underwent a series of reorganizations. In 1996, Eritrea's territorial boundaries were restructured, and the country grew from 10 provinces to 6 semi-autonomous regions, each made up of several districts (56 in total). These zones are the only tier of subnational local government in the country, as they are administered by governors and have their own local assemblies.<sup>1</sup>



Unless otherwise indicated, all the information in this profile is taken from the previously published Voluntary National Review (VNR).<sup>2</sup>

## 1. NATIONAL STRATEGIES FOR SDG IMPLEMENTATION

Although Eritrea has ratified international conventions for sustainable development, it has no national strategies aligned with the SDGs. Nonetheless, the 2022 VNR states that “inclusive sustainable development, in all its forms, elements, and fundamental principles, is a central element of Eritrea’s long-term national vision and policy framework”.

### 1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

Eritrea has no national coordination mechanism for SDG implementation.

### 1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

A multi-institutional **National SDG Taskforce (NST)** was created under the guidance of the Minister of Finance and National Development (MFND) for the elaboration of the VNR. Led by the National Statistics Office (NSO), the NST was composed of high-level focal points from the Ministry of Finance and National Development, Ministry of Health (MoH), and Ministry of Land, Water, and Environment (MLWE), along with representatives from the Office of the United Nations System in Eritrea. Consultations were convened regularly, and they included the involvement and contributions of local authorities.

### 1.3 MONITORING

Two thematic working groups headed by senior experts and technical officials from the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Land, Water and Environment, and comprising members including ministries, departments, local authorities, and civil society organizations, were set up to comprehensively review and report national progress on SDGs 3 and 13.

## 2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

In Eritrea, LRGs participated in the VNR elaboration process through consultation. They have also been part of working groups to monitor progress on SDGs 3 and 13. There is no evidence of an SDG localization strategy in the country.

1. See: <https://localdemocracy.net/countries/africa-east/eritrea/>;  
<https://www.nationsencyclopedia.com/Africa/Eritrea-LOCAL-GOVERNMENT.html>;

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](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%20Eritrea%20Report.pdf> (2022)

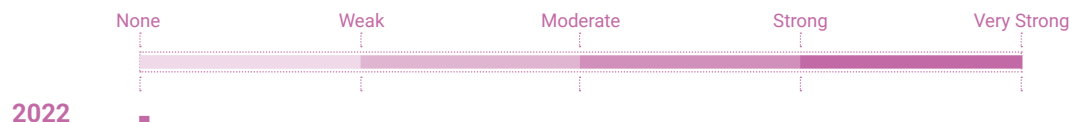
## 2.1 LRGs PARTICIPATION

### ► In the VNR process



Comments: There are a few references to LRGs in the consultation process.

### ► In national coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation



Comments: There is no national coordination mechanism 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

In the 2022 VNR, there is no specific section nor reference to LRGs' role in implementing the SDGs. There are only a few references to LRGs' involvement and no specific reference to locally-led initiatives, while the report acknowledges the need for more "robust local government structures".

## 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

No information is available in the VNR on the financial resources or budget for the implementation of the SDGs.

## 3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

**General comments:** Although the 1997 Constitution established local governance structures, this has yet to be implemented. Local governments are only responsible for policy implementation.<sup>3</sup>

### 3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

The local government law of 1996, amended in 2004, contains provisions aimed at improving the opportunity for women to participate in local government affairs. Quotas have been put in place to facilitate the representation of women in local elections; at least 30% of seats are reserved for women in local governance bodies.<sup>4</sup>

### 3.2 COVID 19

The **High-level Task Force on COVID-19** reached out to all regions of the country with structures at the sub-regional and village levels.

3. UCLG, 2022, Towards the Localization of the SDGs, [https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/hlpf\\_2022.pdf](https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/hlpf_2022.pdf)

4. 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](https://www.citiesalliance.org/sites/default/files/2022-05/CitiesAlliance_Assessing%20Inst.%20Environment%20of%20Cities%20and%20Subnal.%20Govs%20in%20Africa_EN.pdf)

## 4. SDG INDICATORS<sup>5</sup>

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)		37 (2016)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		-

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