

SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE

TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

São Tomé and Príncipe is a unitary republic with two tiers of subnational governments, comprising 2 provinces and 7 districts. The island of Príncipe is an autonomous region. The larger island of São Tomé is divided into 6 districts and Príncipe island into one.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

São Tomé and Príncipe's national strategy is underpinned by the **São Tomé and Príncipe Vision 2030**. Main strategic planning instruments include the **São Tomé and Príncipe Transformation Agenda 2030**, the **National Development Plan (NDP) 2017-2021**, and the National Sustainable Development Plan (NSDP) 2020-2024, which is the first operational plan for harmonizing, integrating, and implementing the STP 2030 Transformation Agenda, the 2030 Agenda, the Samoa Way and Agenda 2063 - "The Africa we want".

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

The NDP 2017-2021 established an institutional implementation mechanism, composed of **several committees**.³ However, in 2019, the Court of Auditors found out that this institutional mechanism has not been functioning. Hence, the national government will soon create and operationalize an institutional mechanism for the SDG implementation process, coordinated at the high political level.

The **United Nations Framework Plan for Development Assistance (UNDAF)** for São Tomé and Príncipe in 2017-2021 provided for a Steering and Coordinating Committee, co-chaired by the government of São Tomé and Príncipe through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Communities (MNEC) and the Resident Coordinator of the United Nations System, and composed, on the national side, of Directors-General of key ministries and representatives from civil society and the private sector.

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

The preparation of this first VNR was a participatory and inclusive process, coordinated by the **Ministry of Planning, Finance and Blue Economy (MPFEA)**, through the **National Directorate of Planning (DNP)**, in close technical collaboration with the **National Institute of Statistics (INE)**. To carry out the activities of the process, a **working group** comprising representatives from various sectoral public institutions and other stakeholders was set up. The group had the permanent support of the United Nations System (UNS) Resident Coordination in the country and the technical assistance of an international consultant, who facilitated the process of preparing and drafting this VNR. Two launching workshops were organized as part of the VNR process, with the participation of civil society organizations, public institutions, the National Assembly, the private sector and other stakeholders.

1.3 MONITORING

Among the 115 SDG indicators created in 2018, 42 were produced by the **National Institute of Statistics (INE)**, and the remaining 73 by other national entities. An update was made in 2019, using information from the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey, the Household Budget Survey 2017 and administrative data produced by **INE** and some sectoral institutions, which resulted in the availability of 139 indicators. For the elaboration of the VNR, national data was made available to measure 120 out of the 247 global indicators.

1. 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%20Sao%20Tome%20and%20Principe%20Report.pdf> (2022)

3. These committees include (i) an inter-ministerial follow-up committee; (ii) a consultation committee; (iii) a central technical follow-up committee, (iv) sectoral technical committees, and (v) local follow-up committees in the RAP and the Districts of Água Grande, Cantagalo, Cauê, Lembá, Lobata and Mê-Zóchi.

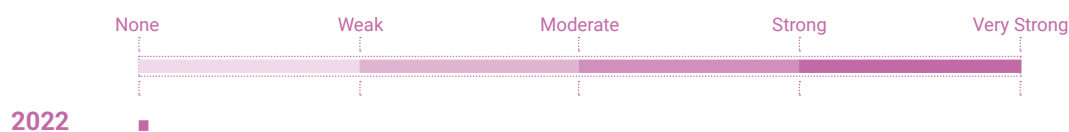
2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

The VNR lacks evidence of localization strategies or LRG involvement in national coordinating mechanisms for SDG implementation. Although the national coordination mechanism has introduced **local follow-up committees** in the Autonomous Region of Príncipe and the Districts of Água Grande, Cantagalo, Cauê, Lembá, Lobata and Mé-Zóchi, provinces and districts' role in service delivery is bypassed by national agencies.⁴

Promoting the localization of the SDGs at the level of the Autonomous Region of Príncipe and the districts is listed as one of the future steps towards SDG implementation by 2030. The national government is expected to promote with the governments of the Autonomous Region of Príncipe and the districts the integration of priority targets in the regional and district plans, in alignment with the national planning instruments.

2.1 LRGs PARTICIPATION

► In the VNR process



Comments: No evidence of LRG involvement in the drafting process of the VNR.

► In national coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation



Comments: No evidence of LRG involvement in national coordinating mechanisms for SDG implementation.

This assessment is based on the information collected in the VNR and in the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments' annual survey on the localization of the SDGs.

2.2 VNR REFERENCES

The 2022 VNR refers to LRGs (mostly to regions) throughout the report, and acknowledges their role as it highlights the "ownership and mainstreaming of the SDGs by development actors at the regional and local levels of the country is crucial for the full understanding of the 2030 Agenda as well as for the effective implementation of the SDGs" (see VNR 2022, p. 94).

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

Resource mobilization for the financing of SDG planning instruments relies on domestic resources, external resources and alternative financing. The VNR lacks information on resource mobilization and budget allocation at the local level.

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

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

General comments: The 2003 Constitution recognizes decentralization, establishing the same level of responsibility for provinces and districts. However, legislative and regulatory texts for operationalizing transfers of responsibilities are lacking.⁵

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

No reference.

3.2 COVID 19

No information at the local level.

4. SDG INDICATORS⁶

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	40 (2020)
	Rural	25 (2020)
6.2.1. (a) Proportion of population using safely managed sanitation services (%)	Urban	36 (2020)
	Rural	30 (2020)
11.1.1. Proportion of population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing (%)		85.7 (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)		39 (2016)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		-

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

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