

TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION*

Sudan is a federal republic divided into 18 states and 188 localities. However, subnational authorities are not elected, but appointed by the national government.¹



Unless otherwise indicated, all the information in this profile is taken from the previously published Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs).²

1. NATIONAL STRATEGIES FOR SDG IMPLEMENTATION

The SDGs are considered a tool for integrating the dimensions and principles of sustainable development into the national priorities on peace and development, and in Sudan's **Quarter-Century Strategy (QCS 2007-2031)**. Through the QCS, the implementation of development activities and programs has been organized through successive short-term **Sustainable Development Implementation Plans**. Furthermore, the integration of the SDGs in the national planning framework has been designed through the **National Program for Sustainable Development (NPSD) 2016 -2030**.³ The SDGs were also integrated into Sudan's medium-term development plan: the **Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) 2021-2023**. Pursuing inclusive economic growth, a major pillar in the PRSP, is a policy that responds to the 2030 Agenda pledge to leave no one behind.

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

The **Sovereignty Council** oversees the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. A **High National Committee** chaired by the Minister of Finance and Economic Planning (MoFEP) was created, to ensure the integration of the SDGs into the government plans and budgets. It is supported by a **technical committee** chaired by the Understory of Planning in the MoFEP, and composed of head executives of the concerned ministries. SDG implementation was coordinated by the **National Population Council (NPC)** until 2019, and is now coordinated by the **Poverty Reduction and SDGs Unit**. This Unit is part of the General Directorate of Planning and Economic Policies which falls under the Understory of Planning in the MoFEP.

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

The previous High-Level National Mechanism, composed of ministers and high-level officials, and the NPC were in charge of the 2018 VNR process. The **Poverty Reduction and SDGs Unit** coordinated and prepared the 2022 VNR under the supervision of the Understory of Planning in the MoFEP. **Technical working groups** led by the concerned ministers were created for six SDGs to be covered in depth. For both VNRs, consultations were held with the private sector, academia, youth, women, persons with disabilities, NGOs and other civil society organizations. The 2022 VNR process included consultations with subnational governments. The suspension of activities in Sudan by the development partners as a result of the military decisions of October 2021 impacted the contribution of the UN agencies in the preparation of the 2022 VNR.

1.3 MONITORING

The **Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS)** is in charge of the production and dissemination of national statistics and the coordination of statistical work across government agencies. Inadequate funding and limited capacity have restricted the production and availability of reliable statistics. To improve the availability and reliability of statistics for monitoring progress towards the SDGs, the CBS has produced its **Five Year National Strategy for Promoting Statistics 2021-2025** and the World Bank has approved a "Data and Statistics Strengthening Investment Project".

* Final boundary between the Republic of Sudan and the Republic of South Sudan has not yet been determined.

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/2021/21741VNR_Sudan.pdf (2018); <https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/vnrs/2022/VNR%202022%20Sudan%20Report.pdf> (2022)

3. The NPSD 2016-2030 consists of a general framework for the integration of the SDGs principles and targets into the national planning frameworks, harmony of the national policies, plans and institutions, data preparations for measuring the indicators, and mobilization of the means and tools of implementation.

2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

States and localities, apart from Khartoum State, face a lack of knowledge and information on the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs. They also lack the financial and technical resources to implement the SDGs. States' plans and projects very rarely integrate the SDGs. Focal points representing the states participated in the NPC. However, the 2022 VNR stresses that there is weak coordination between the federal level and subnational authorities for SDG implementation. The 2022 VNR process included consultations held in all states with representatives from the states and localities.

2.1 LRGs PARTICIPATION

Not applicable.

2.2 VNR REFERENCES

In the 2018 VNR, there is a subsection on the "role of the local communities in peace building" (see VNR, 2018, p. 38). It refers to the system of Native Administration and to the Ajaweed Council (more information below, in section 3). In both 2018 and 2022 VNRs, there are more references to states than to localities, and examples of federal/local initiatives for SDG implementation are scarce.

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

- ▶ **North Darfur State** has raised the knowledge and awareness of officials in the public and private sectors on the SDGs.
- ▶ The SDGs were integrated into **Khartoum State's** Plan for 2017-2030.

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

Not applicable.

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

The 2022 VNR states that a reform will pave the way for integrating the SDGs into the government's general budget. States are responsible for substantial spending on SDGs. However, in Sudan, states and local governments have a very limited capacity for revenue generation and tax collection, and are highly dependent on fiscal transfers from the federal government which are plagued by limited transparency and a lack of predictability. According to the 2022 VNR, a **National Revenue Fund** and a **National Commission for Dividing, Allocating and Monitoring Financial Resources and Revenues** are to be established to ensure a better allocation of national revenues between the federal government and the states, giving due consideration to conflict-affected areas, and addressing the historical grievances in resource allocations.

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

General comments: Sudan, being under sanctions during the previous regime with regard to terrorism, human rights violations, and external debt arrears, has been isolated from a meaningful engagement with the international community. Official Development Assistance was mostly humanitarian driven by conflicts and displacement.

The system of **Native Administration** forms an effective institution of local governance in Sudan. It plays an important role in peace-building through customary laws that are usually accepted and respected by all members of the community. The purpose of the Native Administration is threefold: to manage land allocation and use, to deliver justice and settle disputes, and to represent the state. The Native Administration exists side-by-side with the **Ajaweed Council (Al Joodia)**, which is an indigenous conflict resolution mechanism and is the most important social institution that provides oversight and mediation for disputed parties. The government established local authorities called **Reconciliation and Peaceful Coexistence Mechanisms** working on peace-building in the community, such as the Peace Council in Blue Nile State.

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

Not applicable as local authorities are not elected.

3.2 COVID 19

The 2022 VNR summarizes the impacts of COVID-19 on the SDGs in Sudan. There is no reference to local initiatives.

4. SDG INDICATORS⁴

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 (%)		88.4 (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)		43.8 (2016)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		11.1 (2019)

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