



# Sierra Leone's Second VNR Report *Successes of the Country*

Presented By

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# An Overview

- Sierra Leone was among the **first 22 countries reviewed at the July 2016 High Level Political Forum** following the launch of the 2030 Agenda in the previous year
- In that review, we presented to the world our **national adaptation strategy** to implement the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
- Today, we are pleased to share with you the milestones we have achieved **since our first review**, towards 2030.
- We shall lay special emphasis on progress made in implementing **goals 4, 8, 10, 13, 15 and 16** in the last one year



ADVANCED DRAFT REPORT ON ADAPTATION OF  
THE GOALS IN SIERRA LEONE



GOVERNMENT OF SIERRA LEONE

## Sierra Leone's 1<sup>st</sup> VNR



2019 VNR REPORT ON SDGs IN SIERRA LEONE

FINAL DRAFT



GOVERNMENT OF SIERRA LEONE

## Sierra Leone's 2<sup>nd</sup> VNR



# Commitment, Integration, Ownership, 2019 VNR Process

## National, Regional & Global Policy Alignment

- Sierra Leone has witnessed accelerated implementation of the SDGs in the last one year
- In February this year, our Government launched a new operational blueprint for the SDGs: Sierra Leone's Medium Term National Development Plan (2019-2023) that squarely integrates the UN 2030 Agenda and African Union Agenda 2063
- We have seen renewed commitment of our civil society organisations (CSOs) to the cause of the SDGs in the country
- We now have a national SDG integrated platform for all CSOs working on the 2030 Agenda with a clear framework of operation and collaboration

Sierra Leone MTNDP (2019-2023) Policy Clusters	SDGs	AU Agenda 2063 Aspirations
PC1 Human capital development	Goals 1,2,3,4,6,11 & 17	A6 People driven development
PC2 Diversifying the economy and promoting growth	Goals 1,8,9,6 & 17	A1 Inclusive growth & sustainable dev't
PC3 Infrastructure and economic competitiveness	Goals 7,9 & 17	A1 Inclusive growth & sustainable dev't
PC4 Governance and accountability for results	Goals 16,10 & 17	A2 Political unity A3 Good Governance and rule of law A4 Peace and security A5 Cultural identity and value
PC5 Empowering women, children, and persons with disability	Goals 5,10 & 17	A1 Inclusive growth & sustainable dev't
PC6 Youth employment, sports, and migration	Goals 12,10 & 17	A1 Inclusive growth & sustainable dev't A6 People driven development
PC7 Addressing vulnerabilities and building resilience	Goals 13,14,15 & 17	A6 People driven development A1 Inclusive growth & sustainable dev't
PC8 Means of implementation	Goals 17	A7 Partnership for development

# Commitment, Integration, Ownership, VNR Process

- CSOs played leading role in the preparation of our 2019 VNR; used their nationwide structures to mobilised communities across 16 districts of the country to gather SDG data & success stories, while deepening knowledge of the goals in town hall meetings & on radio & TV in the process
- This platform, whose representatives form part of the Sierra Leone delegate to this Forum, draws membership from all, including women & youth groups, persons with disability, volunteers network
- The CSO platform, together with sustained cooperation from our Development Partners made Government's overall coordination of the 2019 VNR process a lot easy
- The UN Country Team (with special reference to the UNDP, FAO & UNICEF) have been especially pivotal in the process, not forgetting technical input from IOM, the EU, USAID and others.

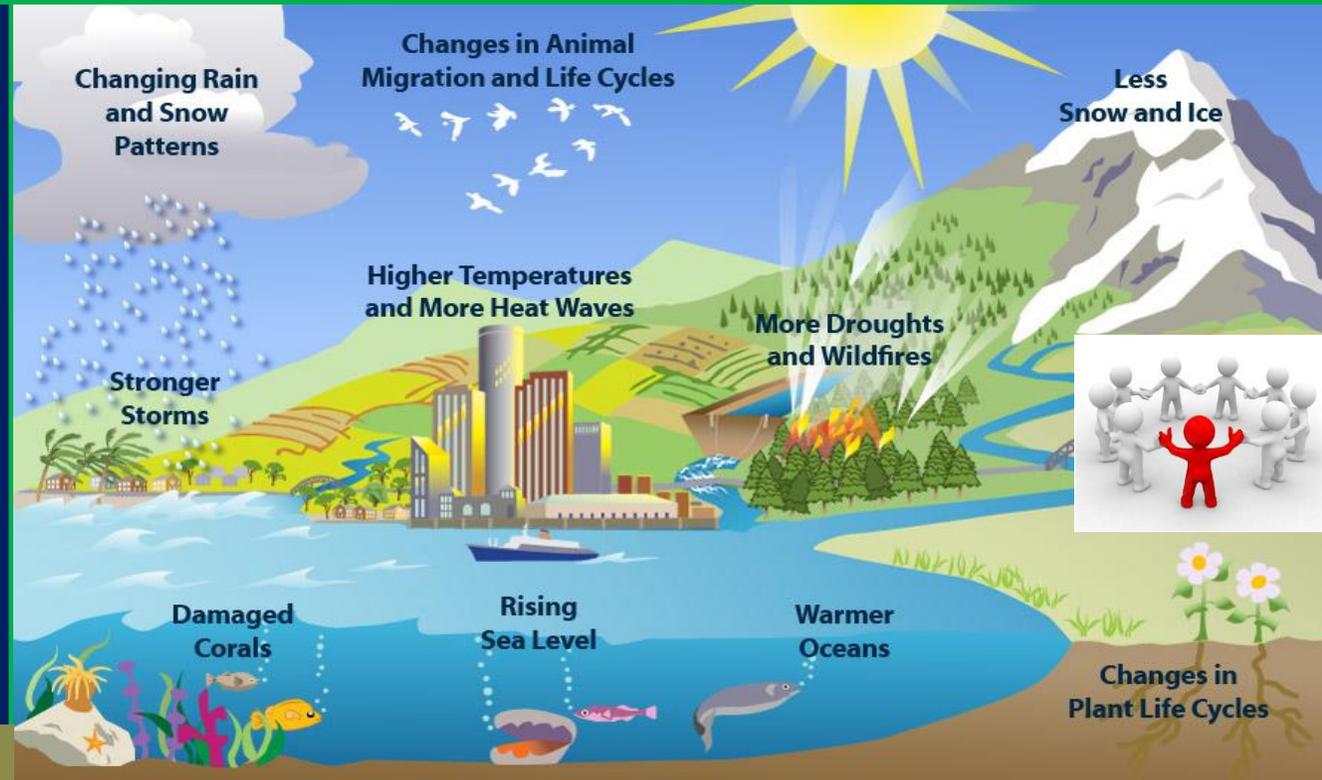
- School pupils, university students and academics were part of the VNR data respondents



# The 3 Dimensions of SD & Leaving No One Behind

## Balancing the 3 dimensions of sustainable development (SD)

- Throughout our SDG journey, so far, we have been mindful of the need to ensure **integration of the social, economic and environmental dimensions of sustainable development** in our national plan
- Sierra Leone Environment Protection Agency tested environmental sensitivity of our Medium Term National Development Plan (2019-2023); and scored the plan about 60% for sensitivity to the environment



## Leaving No One Behind (LNOB)

- Our national processes remained guided by this **principle**, and we have monitored and reported in this VNR the following:
  - a. inclusiveness; empowerment of children, women, girls, the aged and the disabled

- b. addressing stigmatisation, food insecurity & extreme poverty in communities;
- c. improving justice system; managing natural resources, ensuring justice for future generations;
- d. addressing concerns & welfare of island & coastal communities; and addressing data issues

# Highlights of Progress in Implementation

## SDGs 4, 8, 10, 13, 16 and 17 in the Context of Leaving No One Behind

- We paid special attention to goals 4 (inclusive and quality) and 16 (justice and strong institutions) as our **accelerator goals**, estimated as most critical in permanently walking Sierra Leone out of fragility into resilience and prosperity for all

## GOAL 4 (Inclusive & Quality Education)

- We met **gender parity index in primary school** that targeted during 2015-2018: ratio of girls to boys estimated at 1.03 in 2018 compared to 1.05 in 2015.
- Estimated close to 0.99 for 2018 compared to 0.93 in 2015 for **junior secondary**; estimated 0.91 in 2018 compared to 0.75 in 2015 for **senior secondary**.
- **Enrolment of children with disabilities** in Primary and Secondary Schools increased from about 25,000 Pupils in 2017 to at least 30,000 in 2018.

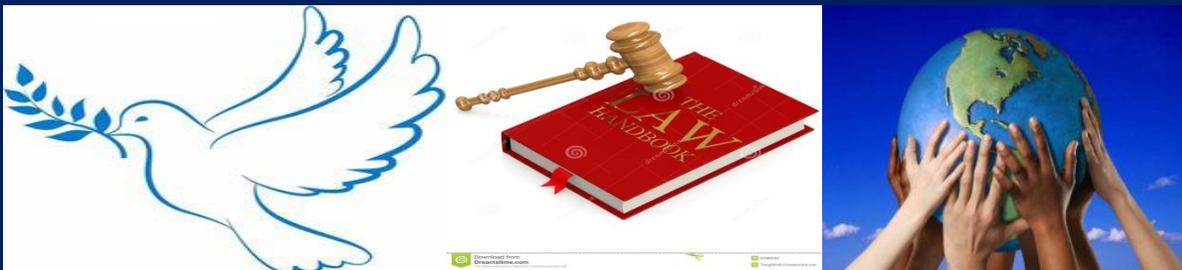
- **Primary completion** for girls estimated 90% for in 2018 compared to 65.4% in 2015; boys 92 and 66.6% over the same period
- **Junior secondary completion** for girls estimated 67% in 2018 compared to 48.7% in 2015; boys 68 and 53.6% over the same period.
- **Female youth literacy rate** (15-24 olds) estimated 64% in 2017 compared to 61.8% in 2013; **male counterpart** estimated between 72 and 76 percent the same period.
- As its **lead flagship programme** within the country's medium term plan (2019-2023), Government is implementing a **Free Quality Education Initiative** to accelerate these educational outcome



# Highlights of Progress in Implementation

## GOAL 16: Justice and Strong Institutions

- **JUSTICE:** We have expanded access to justice through our **Legal Aid Board**. From May 2015 the Board was established to 2018, less privileged persons benefited from legal representation from a count of 25, 000 to more than 215,000.
- About 14 percent of these were females and 19 percent children
- **Females and children** accounted for most of the beneficiaries of Alternative Dispute Resolution Mechanism through mediation, at 80%
- **Persons on remand without indictment** in the capital of Freetown proportionately reduced from 51.0% in 2016 to 35.6 % in March 2019.



- **Piloting of Prison Courts** assisted in identifying inmates on prolonged detention; enabling drafting and serving of total of 425 new indictments, leading to release of over 100 persons with trials in the last one year
- **Introduction of a justice mobile application** aided the tracking and management of cases by the judiciary
- And a **Peace and National Reconciliation (P&NR) Conference** recently organised; efforts on-going for establish a **P&NR Commission**
- **ANTI-CORRUPTION:** We have seen increased rate of convictions in the **fight against corruption**, running to about 98% in the last one year, as a result of deployment of more robust leadership in the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC)
- The ACC unusually recovered over Le 12 Billion Leones (Over US \$1,500,000) in stolen funds in the last one year; and more in the coming months, all to be committed to provision of social services
- A national perception survey suggests **citizens' belief in government's effort in the fight against corruption** jumped from 40 percent in 2017 to over 66 percent in 2018

# Highlights of Progress in Implementation

## GOALS 8, 10, 13 and 17

We have also treated these **goals** as fundamental to our cause of ensuring that Sierra Leone permanently stay out of fragility into resilience

### **Goal 8 (promoting decent work)**

- A comprehensive Decent Work Country Programme now in place, as well as effective Labour Market Information System and National HIV/AIDS Workplace Policy.
- And Frequency of children (aged 5-11 years) engaged in child labour dropped from 44.4 to 29.3 percent during 2017-2018



### **Goal 10 (reduce inequality)**

- A special attention has been paid to empowering the girl child in reducing inequality, from a long term perspective As noted earlier, **gender parity has been achieved in primary school**, and almost in junior secondary
- And we have provided support to **girl pupils offering Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics**.
- Additionally, government has supported the First Lady's "Hands-Off Our Girls" campaign to end child marriage and reduce teenage pregnancy.
- Generally, we are gradually increasing income share of bottom 20% of the population, increased from 7.9% in 2011 to 8.1% 2018.



# Highlights of Progress in Implementation

## Goal 13 (Climate action)

- As Sierra Leone continues to be heavily challenged with high exposure to climate change related effects, the Government has pursued various strategic fronts in response
- These include strengthening environmental governance and community outreach; mgt of forest resources, & promoting ecosystem conservation
- We have also increased enforcement of environmental protection compliance through monitoring, and integration of climate change messages into school and university curricula

## Goal 17: Implementation and Partnerships

- Here, special attention has been paid to mobilizing domestic revenues, strengthening development cooperation, public & private sector capacity, SDG-sensitive budgeting, statistical systems & the role of CSOs and local councils.

- As a percentage of GDP, domestic revenue reached 13.7 percent in 2018 from 12.2 in 2017, the highest recorded in recent years, following **heightened public financial mgt**
- We are **substantially shifting development cooperation** towards support domestic capacities to boost private sector development and revenues
- We have undertaken a Development Finance Assessment that has identified various sources of financing the SDGs, and will soon have in place an Integrated National Financing Framework to effectively pursue these sources
- **Public sector delivery** strengthened through e-governance supported by the establishment of Directorate on Science, Technology and Innovation in the Office of the President
- **Statistical systems** advanced with change management; **civil society** become more integrated in approach ; while **local council's** autonomy & capacity increased
- **A People's Planning Model**, with the village/chiefdom at the centre of national planning processes has been advanced

# Challenges and Next Steps

## Challenges

- At less than 15%, revenue-GDP ratios continue to remain substantially below minimum requirement, thereby constraining effective delivery of projects
- Limited private sector operations and illicit financial flows are major obstacles to domestic revenue generation
- Whilst CSOs role in the SDG implementation continues to increase, they remain technically and financially constrained to sustain their participation
- Community empowerment and development communication leaves considerable room for improvement
- Limited mobile network coverage in rural areas and financial inclusion restrict opportunities for SDG implementation

## Amongst Next Steps and Actions Going Forward

- Strengthen implementation of **Sierra Leone's Medium Term National Development Plan, 2019-2023**, paying special attention to human capital development, economic diversification, justice development, and curbing corruption and illicit financial flows
- Formulate and implement **Integrated National Financing Framework** to attract public and private capital flows
- **Sustain community engagement** on the SDGs, ensuring that CSOs are particularly empowered in this direction
- Scale up implementation of the **People's Planning Process model** and Alternative Dispute Resolution mechanism across the country

**THANK YOU**