



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 1st VNR



2019 VNR REPORT ON SDGs IN SIERRA LEONE

FINAL DRAFT



GOVERNMENT OF SIERRA LEONE

Sierra Leone's 2nd 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.

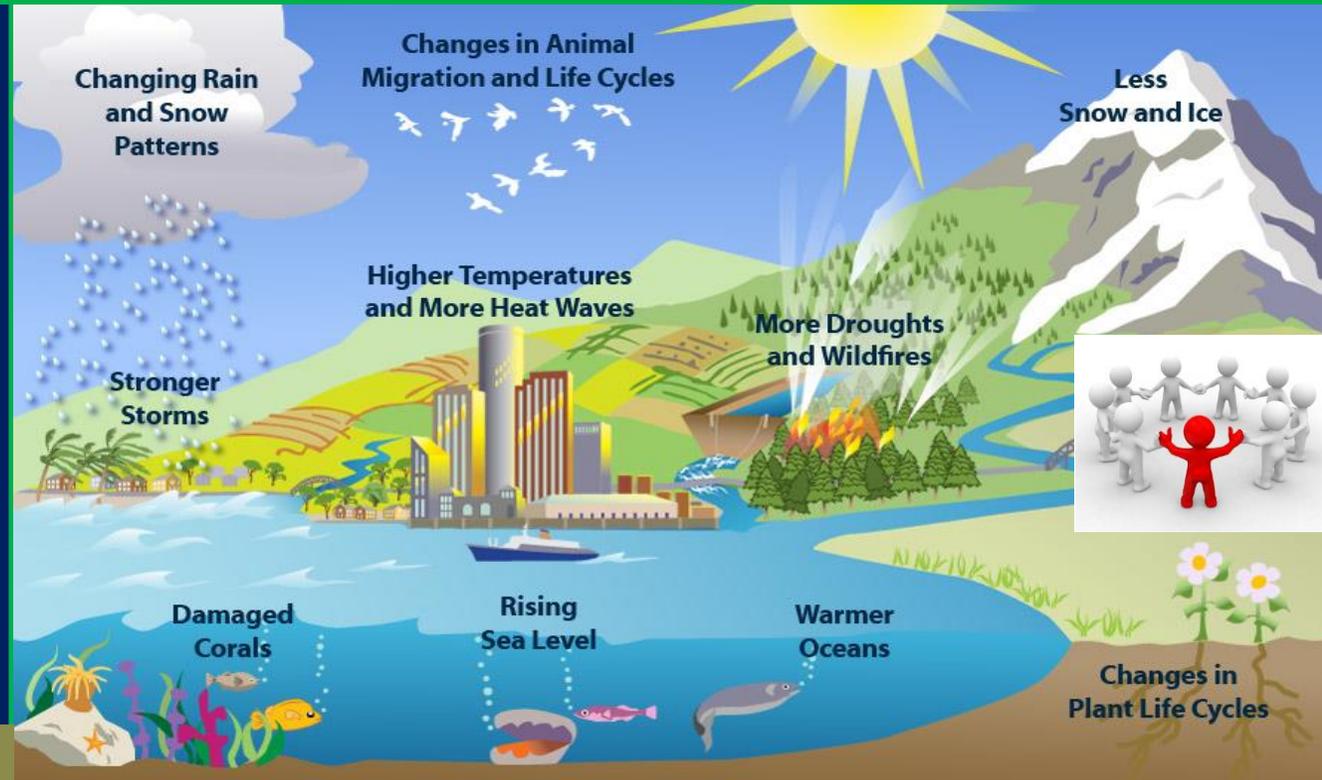
- School pupils, university students and academics were part of the VNR data respondents



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.

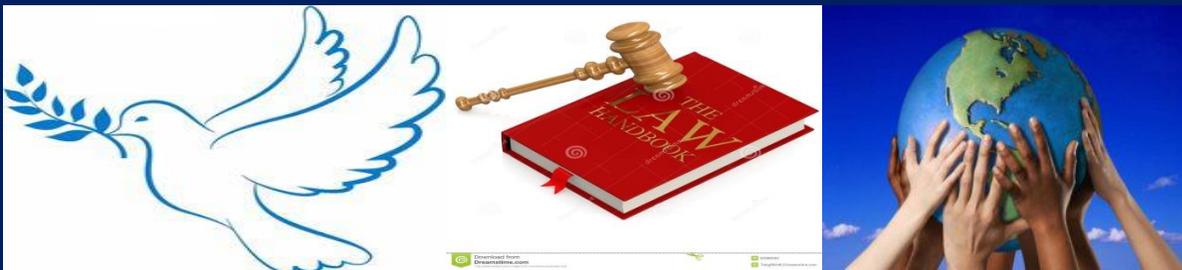
- **Primary completion** for girls estimated 90% for in 2018 compared to 65.4% in 2015; boys 92 and 66.6% over the same period
- **Junior secondary completion** for girls estimated 67% in 2018 compared to 48.7% in 2015; boys 68 and 53.6% over the same period.
- **Female youth literacy rate** (15-24 olds) 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