

The Government of Sierra Leone completed the VNR report which was a consultative process allowing citizens as well as their representatives from the private sector, CSOs, donors and other key stakeholders to provide input as part of the report. There was a clear process followed by the report which compared the first VNR report of 2016 and highlighted progress made, policies enacted to address shortcomings, and highlighted the plans of the Government to address significant gaps as expressed within the current report. The report also included community voices, as well as feedback from children and case studies of inclusion of the vulnerable and disabled citizens, which is lauded but the report needs absolute numbers to ascertain the impact of the project and sustainability and reach. In terms of Goal 4, the report highlighted the increase in completion of rate of enrolled students and the increase in the gender parity between male and female students. The details of providing WASH in schools remain scanty and with the Quality Free Education program launched what will be the impact, which is hard to ascertain as of now. For Goal 10 the push from the Government to address inequality isn't really spelled out and no mechanism in place to track progress. For Goal 16, the Government has shown marked improvements in the progress made which has included maintaining the continued peace and security Sierra Leone currently enjoys and with the recent Bintumani 3 conference it shows a continued support in this direction. We know there are various policies in place to address major gaps in the progress of the SDGs in Sierra Leone, we are worried that until Government begins to implement these policies they will do little to address these gaps. We need to see renewed and increased commitments in terms of resources to meet all of the SDGs and to permeate all aspects of the Government.