

Civil Society Statement Samoa 2024 VNR

- The recent 2024 VNR data validation exercise has shown that much of the available information is out of date, or is fragmented Ministry by Ministry with little sharing. The government also does not collect information on marginalised groups and inclusive services, or have plans to properly engage CSOs. Can the government show its plans to provide transparent and timely data to the community to enable CSOs to effectively monitor and advocate for improvements? Can it establish clear guidelines outlining roles, responsibilities, and mechanisms for CSO participation in SDG 4 and all SDG implementation, follow-up, and monitoring.
- We are concerned about the recent cuts to the inclusive education budget. Will the government pledge to increase the education budget for those missing out – youth, the poor, those with a disability, those in rural areas – those living on the margins of Samoan society?
- Clearly, schools are struggling to operate with the current grant levels. Will the government of Samoa review and increase grants to schools and make basic education truly free?
- Samoa is highly vulnerable to the effects of global warming, yet there is little understanding in the community of likely impacts, and no curriculum in schools or practical assistance for those most badly affected. Will the government of Samoa commit to collaborating with UN agencies, donors, and the private sector to secure additional funding for CCE programs, and integrate climate change education across relevant subjects like Science, Social Studies, and Samoan Studies.