National Council for Civic Education and Democracy (NaCCED)



ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT 2025

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MR. JOSEPH MUNDA BINDI
Chairman - NaCCED

FORWARD:

It is a great honor and privilege that I present the 2025 annual report of the National Council for Civic Education and Democracy (NaCCED) which chronicles the achievements and strides made in promoting civic education on a wide range of spectrum; citizenship, rights and responsibilities, participation, inclusion, peaceful coexistence and other democratic and governance issues.

This report gives me immense pleasure and satisfaction as Chairman of NaCCED not just for fulfilling a statutory requirement but for being able to account for my stewardship to His Excellency, President, Dr. Julius Maada Bio and the people of the Republic of Sierra Leone. I will therefore, use this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude and thanks to H.E Dr. Julius Maada Bio for appointing me Chairman for NaCCED to give my humble service to people of our beloved country, Sierra Leone.

I took over leadership of NaCCED in January 2025 after my appointment as Chairman in December 2024. From that moment, I and the staff of NaCCED continued the implementation of programs and activities on the core objectives of NaCCED; to carry out nationwide civic education on the rights, responsibilities and duties of citizens, nationalism and patriotism and providing development communication.

I am pleased to report that in 2025, NaCCED successfully implemented series of civic education and citizens engagement activities including but not limited to the following; sensitization on the national budget 2025, community engagements on peaceful coexistence, tripartite committee report and recommendations, assessment of the uptake of the teaching and learning of civics in schools, quiz competitions involving school pupils, radio and television discussions on various topics, sensitization on Mpox and drug abuse and partnership engagements.

NaCCED, which serves as the Open Government Partnership (OGP) secretariat at country level provided strategic guidance and coordinated the implementation of the fifth national action plan (NAP5), carried out by seven Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs). Through the OGP ambitious reforms in the seven MDAs have been initiated and co-created with support from civil society organizations (CSOs) and are been implemented; when fully accomplished the results will have substantial positive impact on the lives of citizens in the country. In my leadership, NaCCED cultivated and maintained strong global partnership and effectively represented Sierra Leone at the OGP Africa and Middle East conference that was held in Kenya and OGP world summit held in Gasteiz in Spain. The co-creation and effective implementation of the ambitious

reform initiatives coupled with visible international representation gave the recognition of Sierra Leone as the “Trail Blazer” within the OGP community.

Recognizing the huge demand for civic education and skills development in our country and realizing that no one institution or MDA can effectively deliver nationwide civic education in isolation, NaCCED has emphasized and built on strong collaboration and partnership with MDAs, CSOs, local councils, community-based structures and development partners in achieving a nationwide reach. I am pleased to report that we worked with a good number of these institutions and organizations in the year under report and we will continue to leverage on effective partnership collaboration as a main stay in delivery the civic education mandate.

Despite notable achievements made, I will remiss in my responsibility if I fail to highlight major challenges faced by NaCCED which include; grey areas or systemic lapses in the NaCCED Act 2022, lack of civic education policy which is the cause for uncoordinated civic education activities in the country, constricted financial environment which preponderantly disadvantaged NaCCED, low logistical capacity and insufficient staffing of NaCCED. I have the hope that these challenges are not in surmountable but can be handled and fixed by the appropriate authorities in the short run in order to enhance effective civic education in our beloved country.

Let me use this opportunity to thank the management and staff of NaCCED for their invaluable sacrifices and support which have made us to get this far. We are grateful for the support from the Ministry of Information and Civic Education (MoICE) and International IDEA for supporting us to participate in the consultative meetings held on the implementation of the tripartite recommendations. I also express gratitude to our partners including the OGP global executives, OGP Steering Committee members, MDAs, CSOs, media, teachers, students, local authorities for providing requisite support and embracing civic education as a powerful tool in the governance and development of our country.

As we look ahead of 2026, on behalf of my humble self and staff of NaCCED, we pledge our unreserved commitment in promoting civic education activities in a collaborative approach to enhance nationwide reach.

Joseph Munda Bindi

Chairman
National Council for Civic Education and Democracy (NaCCED)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2025, the National Council for Civic Education and Democracy (NaCCED) strengthened its role in promoting informed citizenship, democratic participation, national cohesion and accountable governance in Sierra Leone. Despite resource limitations, staffing gaps and delayed budget releases, the Council delivered civic education, public engagement, media outreach and Open Government Partnership (OGP) coordination activities nationwide.

NaCCED continued to build civic knowledge among pupils, teachers, young people, persons with disabilities, civil society organizations and communities. Key achievements included teacher training on inclusive civic education and safeguarding; a national assessment of Civics teaching in primary and junior secondary schools; and preparations for School Civic Clubs/Hubs to give pupils practical experience in leadership, civic responsibility and democratic participation.

The Council also supported citizen participation in public finance through awareness sessions on the 2025 Citizens' Budget in Freetown, Makeni, Port Loko, Kenema and Bo. These engagements helped citizens understand national budget priorities and raise concerns about the cost of living, taxation, mining revenue, agriculture, electricity and local government financing. Participants called for budget information in local languages and stronger civic education at community level.

Communication and public outreach expanded significantly through a Memorandum of Understanding with the Sierra Leone Broadcasting Corporation (SLBC). NaCCED produced 25 live episodes of Civic and Development TOK, reaching national radio audiences with discussions on road safety, peacebuilding, environmental protection, anti-corruption, elections and the national census. It also produced 20 episodes of Mr. and Madam Gud Citizen, using drama and satire to promote responsible citizenship, respect for laws, public health, peaceful coexistence and protection of public property.

As Sierra Leone's OGP Secretariat, NaCCED coordinated implementation of the Fifth National Action Plan, which achieved a 72% completion rate in 2024 and earned Sierra Leone "Trail Blazer" recognition within the OGP community. Progress included open Parliament initiatives, beneficial ownership transparency, access to information and youth inclusion.

Key challenges remain: inadequate staffing, transport and office facilities; delayed funding; overlapping mandates; and the need for a national Civic Education Policy. Priority actions include filling vacancies, reviewing the NaCCED Act 2022, strengthening budget support and expanding inclusive civic education nationwide.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The National Council for Civic Education and Democracy (NaCCED) continued in 2025 to advance its national mandate of building civic awareness, democratic values and informed citizen participation across Sierra Leone. Seven years after its establishment by presidential declaration, the Council further strengthened its role as a national platform for civic education, public engagement and dialogue between citizens and duty bearers.

The year was marked by both progress and constraints. Despite post-electoral tensions and limited funding, NaCCED, with support from Government and development partners, delivered civic education activities for young people, teachers, persons with disabilities, communities and public institutions. These activities addressed citizenship, diversity, tolerance, conflict management, public accountability, national budgeting, road safety, public health and open government.

NaCCED's work in 2025 was guided by the principle that development depends on informed, empowered and active citizens. Through school-based learning, community engagements, media programs, town-hall meetings and stakeholder dialogues, the Council supported citizens to understand their rights, responsibilities and role in national development.

1.1 VISION, MISSION AND CORE VALUES

Mission

To inculcate in the citizens a strong sense of civic responsibility, patriotism and nationalism through civic education, development communication, public engagement, community mobilization and knowledge management

Vision

An informed, empowered and engaged citizenry contributing to democracy and national development.

Core Values

- Integrity — sincerity in all engagements.
- Honesty — honesty in words and professional obligations.
- Impartiality — neutrality without prejudice.
- Diversity — respect for differences for peaceful coexistence.
- Professionalism — commitment to duty and standards.
- Teamwork — working together to enhance performance.
- Gender Equality — equal rights and opportunities for all.
- Mutual Respect — respect for individual worth.
- Volunteerism — encouraging service without financial reward.

2.0 DEPARTMENTAL UPDATES

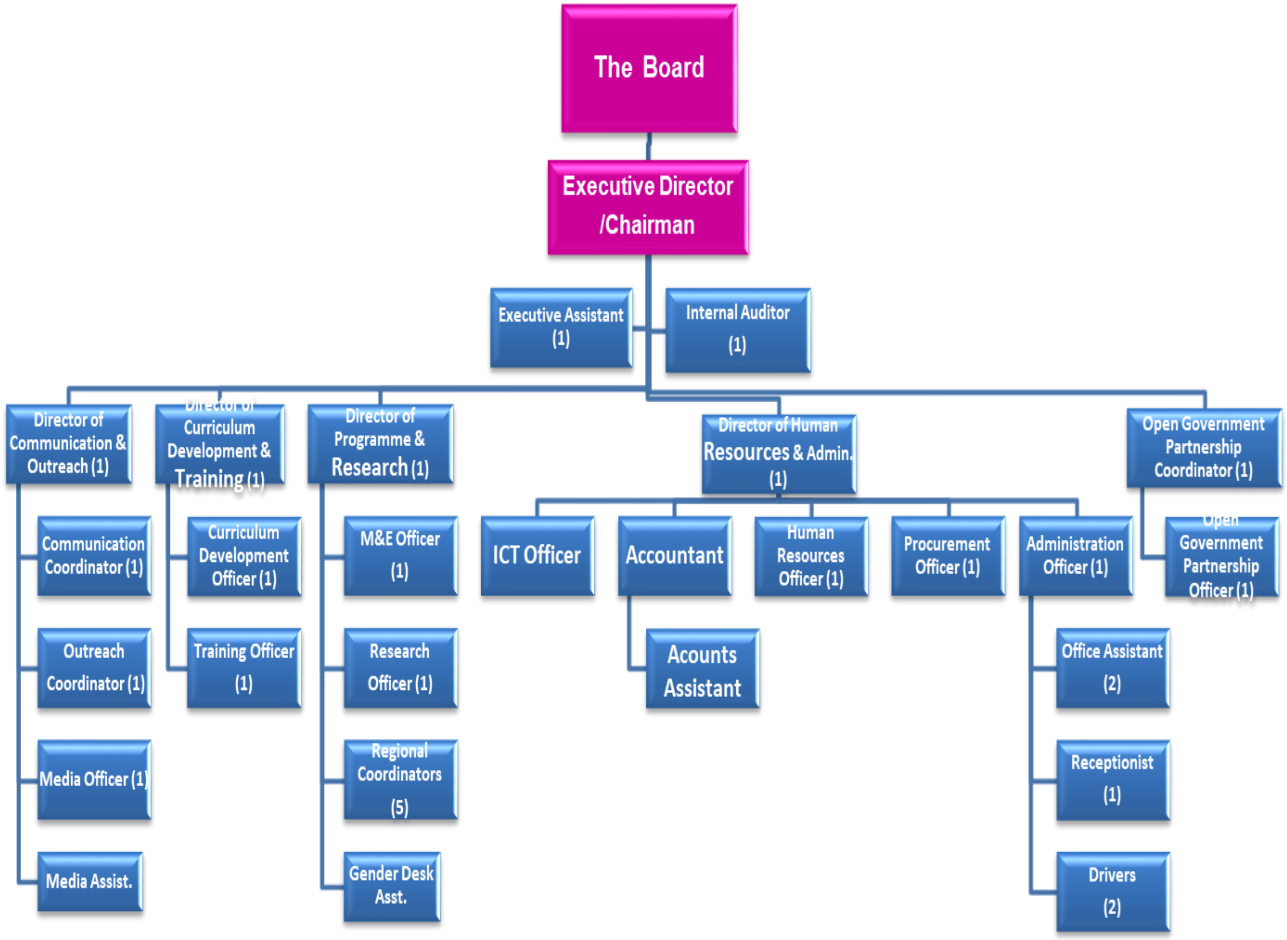
2.1 HUMAN RESOURCES AND ADMINISTRATION

The Human Resources and Administration Department provided the institutional support required for the Council's programs and operations. Its responsibilities included staff administration, records management, logistics, procurement coordination, financial administration and support to regional offices.

During 2025, the Department coordinated staff and operational resources for national and regional activities. It also continued to identify gaps in staffing, equipment, transport and timely budget releases that affect the Council's ability to deliver its mandate at scale.

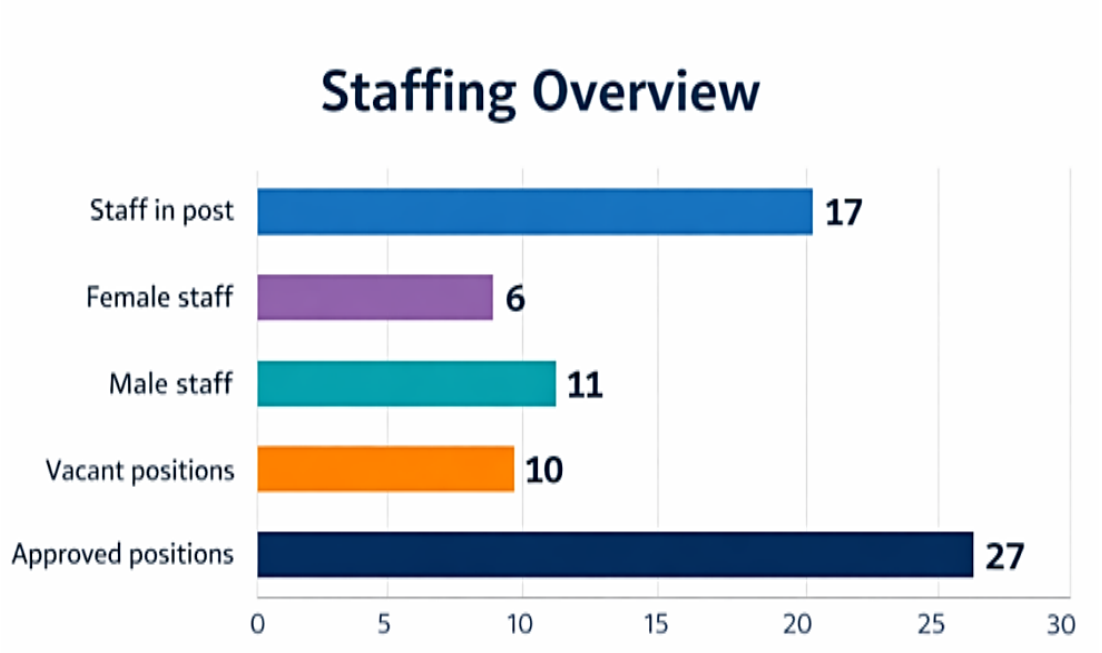
2.1.1 NaCCED Organizational Chart

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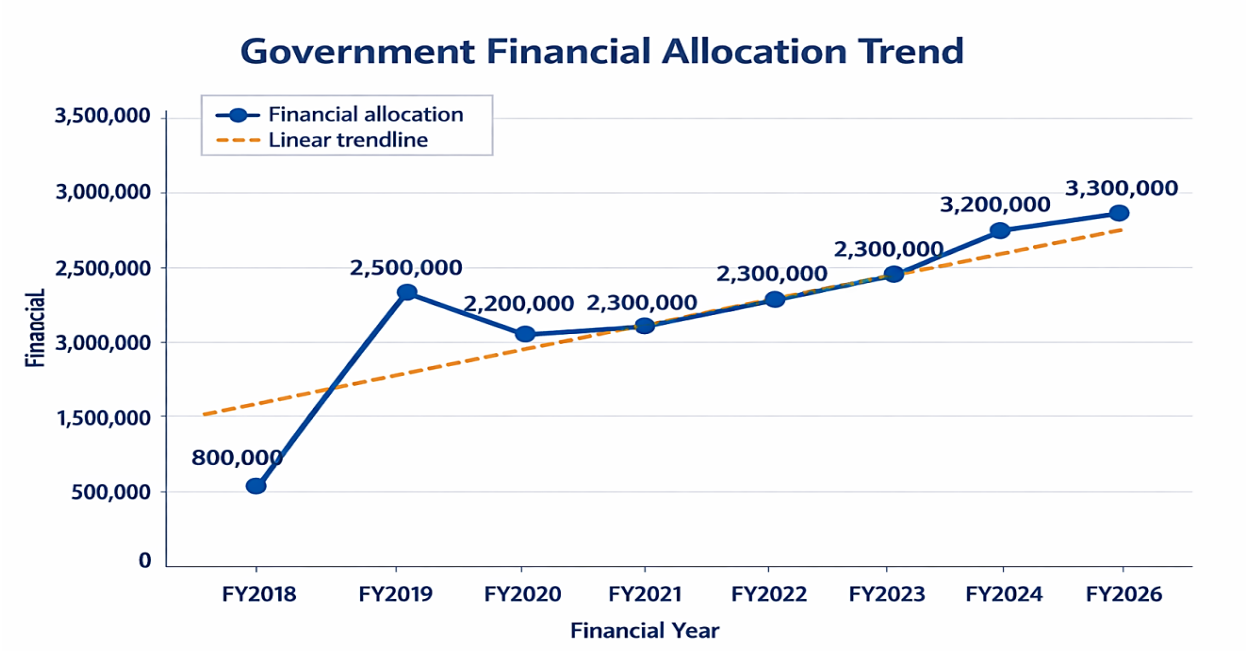
2.1.2 Staff Headcount and Infographics

NaCCED has 27 approved staff positions; of these, 17 are filled and 10 are vacant. The staffs currently in post comprise six female staff members and 11 male staff members, as shown in the graph below:



2.1.3 Government Financial Allocation Trend

Government financial allocation rose sharply from NLe0.8 million in FY2018 to NLe2.5 million in FY2019. It then remained relatively stable at approximately NLe2.2–NLe2.3 million from FY2020 to FY2023, before increasing to NLe3.2 million in FY2024 and reaching NLe3.3 million in FY2025 and FY2026, as shown in the trend graph below.



2.2 CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING DEPARTMENT

2.2.1 Capacity Building for Civic Teachers and Education Authorities in Karene District

NaCCED continued to strengthen the delivery of Civic Education through capacity-building activities for teachers, MBSSE and TSC staff and other education authorities. During the reporting period, NaCCED with support from Sightsavers Sierra Leone project - “A Better World” Project”, conducted a two-day refresher training for Civic Education teachers’ staff of MBSSE and TSC and other education authorities from eight (8) communities and schools in Karene District. The training which was held on the 15th and 16th May 2025 at the Sierra Lone Muslim Junior Secondary School, Kamakwei Town was attended by Chairman Mr. Joseph Munda Bindi, two representatives from Sightsavers –SL and the District Officer of Karene district among other stakeholders. In his key note address, Chairman Bindi underscored the important role played by Civic Education teachers and community leaders in shaping the values and attitudes of young people, especially children with disabilities. He also advised teachers and community leaders to communicate, interact and enhance children with disabilities to participate in schools and community activities in the same manner as they would with other children and cautioned against unnecessary preferential treatment, noting that such treatment may not contribute positively to the development and independence of children with disabilities. Project Manager for Sightsavers-SL, Eric Musa, the Deputy District Director of MBSSE, TSC Director in Karene and the stakeholders made meaningful contributions.

The training brought together four primary and four junior secondary schools Civic Education teachers, representatives from the Ministry of Social Welfare, Teaching Service Commission (TSC), MBSSE, NaCCED, and other relevant institutions; and focused on strengthening their knowledge and skills in inclusive civic education, disability inclusion, safeguarding, good governance, justice, tolerance and the effective participation of children with disabilities in school and community activities.

The training also provided an opportunity to review the Civic Education Curriculum and Lesson Plan Manual, with particular attention to ensuring that concepts relating to good

governance, justice and tolerance are presented in ways that promote inclusion and respect for persons with disabilities.



Participants at the training in SLMB School Kamakwe Karene



NaCCED Director doing presentation at the training in karene



Social welfare Representative doing presentation



NaCCED Showcasing the Civic Text Books

2.2.2 Key Outcomes of the Capacity Building Training

The training resulted in several important outcomes, including:

1. Increased awareness among teachers and authorities on the importance of inclusive Civic Education.
2. Improved understanding of the challenges and barriers faced by children with disabilities.
3. Greater recognition of the role teachers plays in building the confidence and self-esteem of children with disabilities.
4. Increased awareness of the negative effects of stigma and discriminatory attitudes towards persons with disabilities.
5. Improved understanding of the revised Civic Education Curriculum and Lesson Plan Manual.
6. Greater emphasis on the prevention of School-Related Gender-Based Violence.
7. Recognition of the importance of recreational and leadership activities in promoting inclusion.
8. Development of action plans to address identified challenges affecting children with disabilities.
9. Commitment from stakeholders to monitor and support the implementation of the agreed action plans.

2.2.3 Workshop on Safe Guarding and Social Behavioral Change Messages

On the 5th September, 2025, NaCCED with support from Sightsavers Sierra Leone conducted a one-day Civic Education Campaign Workshop aimed at enhancing the political participation of youths with disabilities through Social and Behavioral Change messages. The training which was held at Caritas Head quarter's office at Kingtom, Freetown brought together persons with disabilities from different groups across western urban and rural areas and addressed issues relating to civic knowledge, political participation, disability awareness, stigma and discrimination, leadership and the creation of supportive environments for persons with disabilities.

Objective of the training focuses on:

1. Having an increased participation of youths including young women, youths and PWDs in local governance decision-making processes at household, community, chiefdom, and district levels through leadership training for youth with a specific focus on building the confidence and self-esteem of young women to support their participation in leadership.

Key issues discussed during this workshop included:

1 The leadership skills training will include public speaking, mobilization, advocacy, and fund-raising. Forums will be organized with successful women in politics and entrepreneurship to coach aspiring young women leaders

2 Dialogue forums will be organized with traditional and religious leaders to share the benefits of involving young women in governance and decision-making and engage with men and boys to advocate for the safety, socio-economic development, and political participation of young women and people with disabilities
3 Enhanced participation and representation of youth (including women and PWDs) in decision-making processes.
4 Youths are capacitated to mitigate conflict and promote social cohesion.
5 Youths including young women and youths with disability engaged in diversified livelihoods.



Participants at the Safeguarding Workshop at Kingtom Freetown



NaCCED Chairman making a statement at the workshop



Sightsavers- SL making a statement at the workshop

2.2.4 Assessment of the Teaching of Civics in Primary and Junior Secondary Schools in Sierra Leone

Three years after Civics was reintroduced in primary and junior secondary schools, NaCCED commissioned an assessment of its uptake in government and government-assisted schools nationwide. The Institute of Governance Reform conducted the assessment with financial support from the Teaching Service Commission and the Free Education Project Secretariat.

The assessment examined implementation, teacher preparedness, learning resources, regional disparities and the contribution of Civics education to students' knowledge, attitudes and behaviors. It used mixed methods, combining quantitative and qualitative data from students, teachers, school administrators and policymakers.

The findings were presented and validated by education stakeholders on 23 January 2025. The validated report is available for use by policymakers and education stakeholders. NaCCED continues to monitor Civics teaching nationwide and use the findings to inform curriculum delivery, teacher support and future reforms.



Validation of the assessment report





2.2.5 Formation of School Civic Clubs in Sierra Leone

The formation of **School Civic Clubs/Hubs** is meant to reinforce the classroom experience of learning civics by bringing it into the social structures and contexts of the students and pupils. It is a proven approach in education to employ a holistic approach, and not just emphasizing the cognitive approach (teaching/studying/classroom). Education is quite enhanced when creatively designed as part of the other aspects of life like the physical or social. Students and pupils at primary and secondary levels are at natural stages of life where their social lives are important to them. Thus, school civic clubs as social structures can creatively provide contexts where they can learn, practice, discuss, promote etc. civics entirely at peer levels. The form of interaction in such a structure is very natural and therefore bound to help enhance interest in the subject and development in civic knowledge and attributes. School clubs offer students opportunities to explore interests, develop skills, and enhance leadership while balancing academics

Participating in school clubs helps students **explore passions, build leadership skills, and improve college applications**. School clubs provide a platform to develop teamwork, communication, and problem-solving abilities, while also offering a chance to discover new interests and talents leadership roles in clubs can further enhance personal growth and responsibility.

During the reporting period, NaCCED undertook the following preparatory actions:

- Visited schools in Western Area Urban, Western Area Rural and district towns, with support from regional NaCCED teams, to assess Civics teaching and the presence of civic or related clubs.
- Developed a memorandum of understanding involving the Ministry of Basic and Senior Secondary Education, NaCCED and the Teaching Service Commission.
- Developed a standard handbook to guide the formation, composition and operation of School Civic Clubs/Hubs.
- Conducted follow-up engagements with education authorities, schools and relevant stakeholders to support standardized implementation nationwide.

2.2.6 Youth and Child Participation

NaCCED partnered with the Youth and Child Advocacy Network (YACAN) to promote children's rights and meaningful child participation, including the participation of children and young persons with disabilities. As part of activities linked to the Day of the African Child, young participants from the 2024 Youth and Adolescent Parliament joined advocacy, media and peer-education activities in 2025.

The engagements enabled participants to raise issues relating to children's rights, including progress on the Child Rights Act, and to take part in radio and other media activities with YACAN, NaCCED and partner organizations. This event was organized to mark the African

Child Day (June 16) as a special event in Parliament with the full involvement of children and young people with disability.



Group Photo of young people who participated at the Peer Educators Training by YACAN as part of the DAC 2025 Activities



Disable youth from Karene and Bombali Kapri Kabia and Gbassay Kamara participated at the Ministry Advocacy events representing other disable young person on DAC 2025 in Freetown

2.3 PROGRAMS AND RESEARCH DEPARTMENT:

In the year under review, the Programs and Research department undertook several activities which bothered on positioning NaCCED to fully undertake its responsibilities to provide the platform for citizen education on their rights, responsibilities and duties in national development and governance processes. These were achieved through community engagements and duty bearer dialogue sessions in the following activities:

2.3.1 Popularization of the National Budget 2025:

On the enactment of the 2025 Finance Act and approval of the FY2025 National budget by the House of Parliament, the Ministry of Finance, in collaboration with the National

Council for Civic Education and Democracy and with technical assistance by the Oxford Policy Management, in compliance with government policy and donor requirement, prepared the Citizens Guide to the National Budget 2025 (popularly referred to as the Citizens Budget). The Citizen's Budget is a simplified version of the national budget presented in written and animated formats to enhance reading and understanding the FY 2025 budget at glance. The initiative translates complex budgetary documents into a simplified guide, enabling citizens to understand how public resources are raised, allocated, and spent. The 2025 Citizens' Budget carried the theme: **"Improving the Wellbeing and Quality of Life**

The Public Engagement Campaigns were held at the Ministry of Finance in Freetown and the regional headquarters of, Makeni, PortLoko, Kenema, and Bo. Given the impossibility of assembling the nation's entire population under one roof, a representational model was adopted. A regional and district-level engagement brought together selected community actors and influencers who could serve as multipliers of information within their respective constituencies. Key categories of participants included**;** Non-State Actors (NSA), District Budget Oversight Committees (DBOC), Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), Traditional and Local Authorities, Youth and Women's Groups, Government Duty Bearers, Local Council Representatives **and** Media Practitioners

The participants were strategically selected to ensure broad-based dissemination of the simplified budget message to grassroots communities. The sessions used presentations, simplified budget materials, an animated video, open discussions, and media outreach. Their goals were to improve public understanding of the budget, promote transparency and accountability, encourage citizen participation, strengthen local budget oversight, and enable participants to share information in their communities.

2.3.2 Citizens' concerns on the national budget 2025:

During the discussions of the national budget the following concerns were raised by the participants;

- Inflation rate was said to have been reduced but prices of commodities are still very high except for fuel and rice
- Government subsidizes the electricity generation of Karpowership but the tariffs for consumers remain very high and inconsistent power supply.
- Revenue from the mining sector is very low which do not meet the expectation of citizens

- The budget allocation for agriculture is low which cannot meet the aim of the FEED Salone program
- In the recurrent expenditure, a high percentage of the expenditure is on loan repayment or servicing for which Government could not undertake major development programs.
- Though the wage bill is high, many Government employees receive low salaries whilst a small percentage receives very high salaries.
- Only the Budget Oversight Committee members participated in the animation of the national budget leaving out the NSAs and the animation is done in Creole only.
- Inadequate information flow from the Government to the people
- Leakages observed in revenue collection at the border crossing points and many business people do not comply with the tax laws.
- Some local council does not generate enough revenue to support development in their localities.
- No revenue is projected for timber logging even though many companies are in timber logging and business.
- Early sensitization of the citizens is critical for successful national budget implementation
- The impact of the Feed Salone program is a major concern to the people.
- Budget allocation to education is very high but yet school fee subsidies are not regularly paid to the schools.
- Involvement of NaCCED in tax education and public engagement in revenue mobilization is highly necessary

2.3.3 Key achievements

The engagements recorded strong attendance and stakeholder interest. Participants reported a better understanding of budget allocations, especially for health, education, agriculture, and infrastructure. The meetings also created direct dialogue between citizens and government representatives, encouraged local monitoring of budget implementation, and generated useful feedback on service-delivery gaps

2.3.4 Recommendations/suggestions

Key recommendations that were made by the participants included; expanding civic education to chiefdoms, translating the animation into major local languages such as Mende, Temne, and Limba, and distributing it through Solar TV-supported communities.

It also recommends stronger tax education in partnership with the Ministry of Finance and National Revenue Authority, improved mining revenue collection, greater involvement of Members of Parliament in budget education, training for Budget

Oversight Committees, increased allocations to agriculture and local councils, and structured feedback tools such as comment cards.



Popularization of the National Budget 2025



2.4 COMMUNICATION AND OUTREACH DEPARTMENT

During the reporting period, particular emphasis was placed on expanding the Council's communication platforms, strengthening relationships with media institutions and stakeholders, promoting inclusive civic education, and using creative communication approaches to make civic information more accessible and understandable to citizens. In achieving these, the following activities were carried out:

2.4.1 Strategic Institutional and Partnership Engagements

In the leadership of Chairman, Joseph Munda Bindi, NaCCED conducted series of high-level courtesy visits and strategic engagements with Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs), development partners, commissions, and local councils.

The engagements were aimed at strengthening existing partnerships, identifying new areas of collaboration, communicating NaCCED's mandate and strategic priorities, and positioning the Council as the principal institution responsible for civic education and promotion of nationalism, patriotism which are fundamental for responsible citizenship, democratic governance, national cohesion, and development. Among the institutions that were engaged included;

- **Ministry of Information and Civic Education** where the Chairman met with the Minister, Deputy Minister and the Permanent Secretary who welcomed the newly appointed Chairman and pledged to provide oversight functions and support for NaCCED.
- **Free Education Project Secretariat (FEPS);** Here the Chairman and team met with the Project Coordinator and senior management staff who had given project support for NaCCED in the previous years and also committed to continue to collaborate with NaCCED in promoting civic education activities in schools in the country.
- **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP);** At the UNDP, the Chairman and team met with the UNDP Resident Representative, Mr. Fredrick Appiah who emphasized the importance of civic education, support they had provided to NaCCED and pointed out ways of leveraging on their support moving forward.
- **Independent Commission for Peace and National Cohesion (ICPNC);** Chairman and team had a collaborative work discussion with the Executive Secretary and the Senior Management team of ICPNC to foster and strengthen existing relationship between the institutions for promotion of civic education around peace and national cohesion,
- **United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF);** In engagement with UNICEF, the Education Safety Officer expressed UNICEF's commitment and support for civic education activities centered around children and furthered that conversations will continue to explore program for collaboration and support.
- **European Union:** In engagement with the European Union (EU), the head of delegation of the European Commission to Sierra Leone re-echoed the importance of civic education in developing the culture and values of good citizenship and emphasized EU's commitment to supporting the Government of Sierra Leone and pointed out that NaCCED should work with the line ministries in order to access EU support.
- **Statistics Sierra Leone (SSL);** In cognizant of the long standing ties between the two institutions and in consolidating the bond, the Chairman of NaCCED and

staff engaged in dialogue with the Board Chairman, Statistician General and Senior management team of SSL in order to co-create actions for citizens engagement on issues of the pending national census and related activities.

- **Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC);** In support to strengthen the fight against corruption, Chairman Bindi and team met with the Commissioner of the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC), Francis Ben Kaifala, to review their commitments and milestones in the OGP National Action Plan (NAP5) at which engagement the Commissioner reaffirmed his commitment in the fight against corruption in the country and collaborative work with NaCCED to achieve the desired goal.
- **Parliament of Sierra Leone**; A pivotal courtesy visit was made to the Speaker of Parliament, Rt. Hon Sengepoh Solomon Thomas Esq wherein discussion was made centered on civic education on legislative activities and promotion of Open Parliament commitment on the OGP NAP 5. In conclusion, the Speaker committed to support the work of NaCCED and to fully implement the milestones set in the NAP5 to enhance Open Parliament in Sierra Leone.
- **Ministry of Planning and Economic Development (MoPED);** In the last quarter of 2025, Chairman Bindi and his team paid a courtesy visit to the Minister of Planning and Economic Development (MoPED), Madam Kenyeh Ballay. During the meeting, Chairman Bindi expressed profound appreciation to MoPED as NaCCED's founding ministry and pledged continued collaboration. The Minister, in her appreciation of the visit and its intent committed to support and work with NaCCED to promote national development.
- **National Revenue Authority (NRA);** NaCCED’s engagement with leadership of NRA was to foster public education on citizens’ rights, responsibilities, and duties, especially on tax and revenue mobilization which is critical for effective governance and national development. The NRA Commissioner General highlighted the importance of tax education with emphasis on youths and children, and pledged commitment to collaborate with NaCCED to promote civic activities in schools and colleges.

- **Other institutions working** in the areas of justice, youth development, open governance, access to information, administrative justice, and national development.

The targeted visits and engagements throughout 2025 underscores NaCCED's committed and strategic repositioning as a nexus for civic education and a driving force for national development. The engagements provided opportunities for NaCCED to communicate its strategic priorities, including the implementation of its Strategic Plan 2024–2028, while also exploring opportunities for joint programs, technical support, institutional collaboration, and public education initiatives.

These strategic engagements contributed to increased institutional visibility, strengthened relationships with key stakeholders, and created opportunities for the Council to participate more actively in national development and governance processes.



Visit to Peace Commission



ECSL Visit



MoICE Visit



ACC Visit



EU Visit



MoPED Visit

Strategic Institutional and Partnership Engagements

2.4.2 STRATEGIC MEDIA PARTNERSHIP WITH THE SIERRA LEONE BROADCASTING CORPORATION

One of the major achievements of civic education and citizens engagement made in 2025 was the establishment of a strategic partnership between NaCCED and the Sierra Leone Broadcasting Corporation (SLBC) through the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the two institutions.

The partnership was developed to strengthen NaCCED's capacity to reach citizens nationwide through radio and television and to establish a structured platform for sustained civic and development communication. The development of the MOU involved series of consultations and institutional processes to ensure that the partnership reflected the mandates, interests, and responsibilities of both NaCCED and SLBC. Following reviews and agreement on the key provisions, the MOU was finalized and formally signed by the Chairman, NaCCED and the Director General, SLBC in the presence of staff of both institutions, establishing an institutional framework for continued collaboration in civic and development communication.



Signing of MOU between NaCCED and SLBC

2.4.3 Civic and Development Tok Radio and Television Program

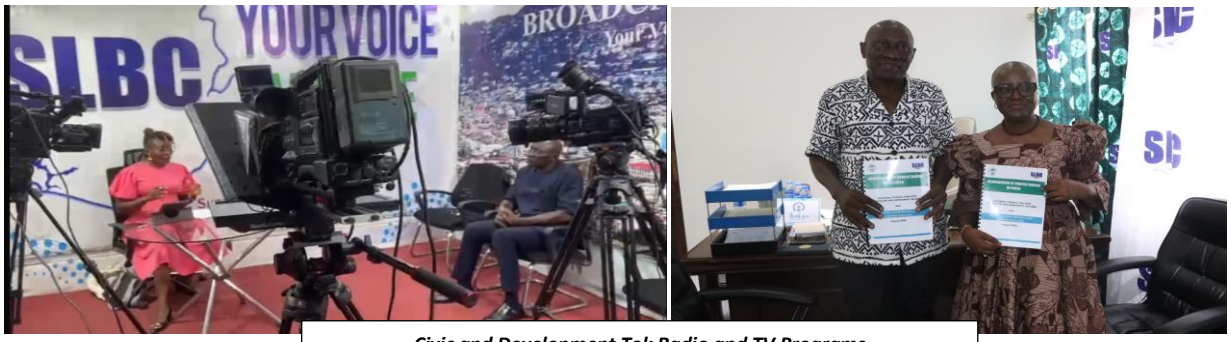
NaCCED, in its attempt to carry out nationwide civic education commenced the production and broadcasting of its weekly "Civic and Development TOK" radio and television program.

In the period under report, the program was sustained for six months (July – December 2025), through this platform NaCCED provided consistent civic education, public information, dialogue, and engagement. The program is aired live on SLBC radio in Freetown, simulcast with its regional stations in Bo, Makeni, Kenema and Port Loko every Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. and provides a platform for NaCCED officials, invited MDAs, CSOs, subject-matter experts, and members of the public to discuss issues of national importance. Twenty-five (25) radio discussion programs were held and it is estimated that at least eight thousand (8,000) listening audience are reached in each

program within the country and also a wide range of audience reached through Facebook, YouTube and other social media platforms.

A wide range of topics were discussed including issues on the environment, road safety, anti-corruption campaigns, peace and national cohesion, electoral education, census, among others.

The six-month period of continuous radio and television engagements represent significant achievement for NaCCED. It established a regular and recognizable platform through which NaCCED could communicate directly with citizens and facilitate public dialogue on civic and development issues. The program also provided opportunities for public interaction and feedback, allowing citizens to ask questions, share experiences, seek clarification, and contribute to discussions on national issues.



Civic and Development Tok Radio and TV Programs

2.4.4 The "Mr. and Madam Gud Citizen" Civic Education Satire Series

The Communication and Outreach Department continued to develop innovative approaches to civic education through the production of the "Mr. and Madam Gud Citizen" series. Through the staff of the Communication Department, NaCCED produced twenty (20) episodes of the series and disseminated them through various social media platforms (WhatsApp, Facebook, You tube) and other communication outlets. The series are designed as a civic education satire, combining humor, entertainment, everyday experiences, and educational messages to address important civic, social, governance, and national development issues. Rather than relying solely on conventional lectures or formal public education messages, the series uses fictional characters and humorous everyday situations to portray behaviors that affect individuals, communities, and the wider society.

The objective of the satire series is to make civic education simple, entertaining, relatable, accessible, memorable and relevant to the everyday experiences of citizens.
The 20 episodes that were produced portrayed common situations that citizens encounter in their daily lives. Through the actions and conversations of Mr. and Madam

Gud Citizen, the series exposes inappropriate behaviors while demonstrating the more responsible civic conduct expected of citizens. The humor helps attract the attention of audiences, especially youths, while the underlying civic message encourages reflection and behavioral change. The episodes produced and disseminated addressed various civic and social issues including: responsible citizenship, respect for laws and public institutions, road safety, environmental, health, peaceful coexistence, responsible use of public resources, respect for public property, gender-based violence among many others.

2.4.5 Regional and National Consultations on the Preferred Electoral System

NaCCED, in collaboration with the Tripartite Steering Committee Secretariat, Office of the Attorney-General and International IDEA, participated in the regional and national consultations on the preferred electoral system that could be adopted and used in Sierra Leone as recommended in the Tripartite Committee report (Recommendation 78).

Consultations were conducted in Port Loko, Makeni, Kenema, Bo, Waterloo and Freetown. During the consultations, the Chairman of NaCCED engaged citizens on the importance of informed participation and emphasized the values of patriotism, nationalism, peaceful coexistence, and respect for diverse views, inclusion, women's participation in governance and responsible democratic participation.

The consultations provided citizens and stakeholders with opportunities to express their views on the electoral reform, representation, inclusion, and participation.

The exercise contributed to participatory governance by ensuring that citizens were informed and had an opportunity to contribute to discussions concerning the electoral system and Sierra Leone's democratic future.



Regional and National Consultation Meeting

2.4.6 Transport Sector and Road Safety Communication

NaCCED organized a Round Table Dialogue Meeting of Stakeholders in the Transport Sector and Road Safety Management in Sierra Leone. The meeting which was held at the conference hall of the Ministry of Transport and Aviation (MTA) brought together representatives including the Sierra Leone Police (SLP), Sierra Leone Road Safety

Authority (SLRSA), Sierra Leone Roads Authority (SLRA), Transport Workers Union, Bike Riders Union, Freetown City Council (FCC), Western Area Rural District Council (WARD C) and Traders Union to discuss persistent road safety challenges and identify practical measures to promote responsible road use. Key issues highlighted and discussed at the meeting included; misuse of pedestrian overhead bridges in Freetown, disregard for traffic lights/signals, unsafe road-crossing practices, traffic law violations, road accidents, responsible road use and the need for law enforcement backed by stronger civic education and public awareness.

The meeting concluded with the development of a six-month roadmap assigning specific actions and responsibilities to participating institutions, NaCCED was assigned responsibility of providing overall coordination and leading the nationwide civic education and public engagement component of the initiative. The roadmap provides a framework for coordinated action, public education, community engagement, and stakeholder collaboration to improve road safety awareness and promote compliance with traffic regulations.





Round Table Dialogue Meeting of Stakeholders

2.4.7 Development of Collaborative MOUs

Following the round table dialogue meeting, NaCCED developed a draft MOU for review by key stakeholder institutions. The proposed agreement/MOU are intended to formalize collaboration between NaCCED and relevant institutions and organizations and to establish clear responsibilities for implementing agreed civic engagement and road safety activities. The signing of the MOUs will provide an institutional framework for the coordinated implementation of the agreed activities.

2.4.8 The Salone Civic Festival 2025

NaCCED participated in the three-day Salone Civic Festival 2025, organized by the Ministry of Information and Civic Education (MoICE), which provided Ministries,

Departments and Agencies (MDAs) with the national platform to showcase their mandates, programs, achievements and contributions to national development. NaCCED used the Festival to showcase its civic education mandate and engage citizens on responsible citizenship, democratic participation, national cohesion, good governance and other issues of national importance. The Council established a booth where pupils, students, members of the public, representatives of MDAs and other stakeholders visited to learn about NaCCED's mandate and civic education activities.

At the booth, educational and civic information was provided to visitors on a range of national issues, including the Census, civic responsibilities, national values, democratic participation, good governance and other matters relevant to responsible citizenship. Pupils and other visitors were given the opportunity to ask questions, seek clarification and interact with NaCCED officials. The engagement provided a direct platform for public education and helped improve awareness and understanding of important national processes and civic responsibilities.

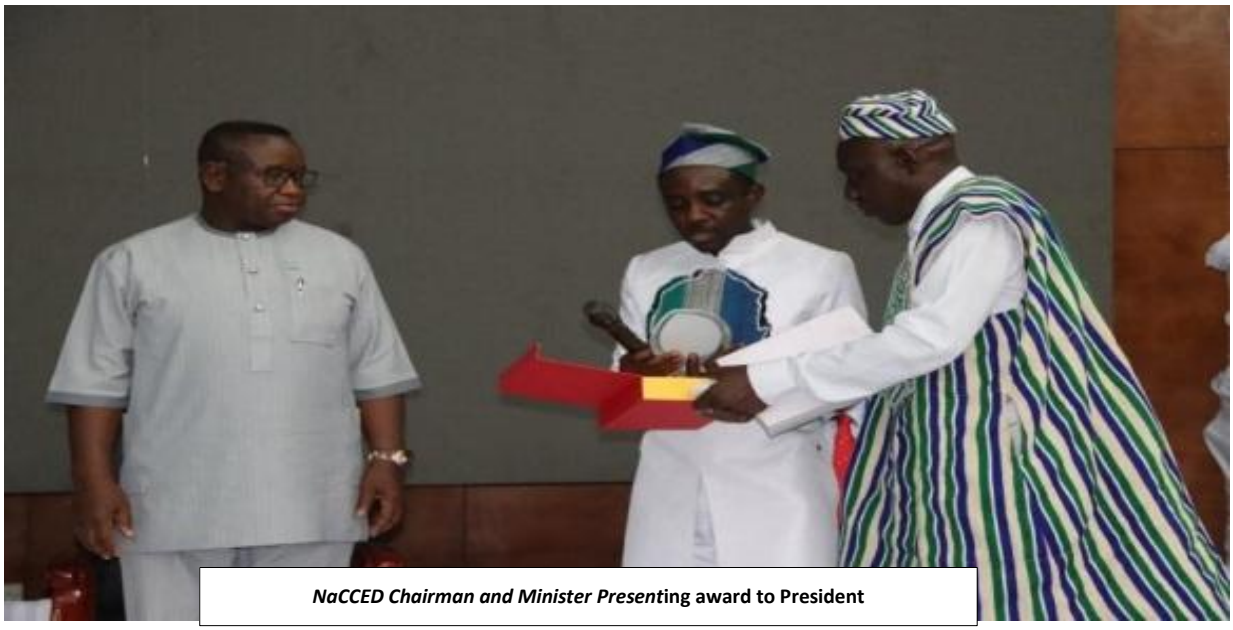
NaCCED also used the Festival to showcase its civic education materials, program and communication products among which were the national flag, national anthem and the national pledge. The engagement provided an opportunity to demonstrate how the Council uses public education and communication to reach different segments of the population, particularly young people and other members of the public.

A major institutional milestone during the Festival was the production and distribution of the maiden edition of the NaCCED Newsletter. Copies were made available to MDAs and other stakeholders as an institutional communication and documentation product, providing information on the Council's programs, activities, engagements and achievements.

A significant moment at the closing ceremony of the Festival was the presentation of an award by the Chairman of NaCCED, Mr. Joseph Munda Bindi, to His Excellency President, Dr. Julius Maada Bio at the Miatta Civic Centre. The recognition highlighted national leadership in civic education and Sierra Leone's engagement with the Open

Government Partnership (OGP). The presentation also provided an opportunity for NaCCED to emphasize the importance of civic education, citizen participation, transparency, accountability and open governance.

The Festival therefore provided NaCCED with an important opportunity to engage directly with citizens, particularly pupils and young people, provide civic and educational information, showcase its institutional work and strengthen public understanding of its mandate. The participation further enhanced NaCCED's visibility and created a direct channel for interaction between the Council and the public.



***NaCCED Chairman and Minister Present*ing award to President**



Exhibition



Civic Champion Award

2.5 OGP AT A GLANCE:

The Open Government Partnership (OGP) is a global network or platform that was launched in 2011 with a radical idea- "that governments must serve the people and not the other way around". It bridges the gap between governments and citizens by bringing together governments and CSOs to co-create reforms that are of greater benefit to the citizens. OGP has turned from a radical idea to a global movement and now brings together over 70 countries, 150 Local Governments and CSOs to drive more open and accountable governance.

OGP's Vision:

Open governments working in partnership with civil society and people to strengthen democracy and deliver better societal outcomes.

OGP's Mission:

To inspire, connect, and enable an ever-growing community of reformers and champions from government and civil society to take action together.

OGP's Principles:

Transparency, Participation and Accountability

2.5.1 Sierra Leone's Membership in the OGP

Sierra Leone became a member of OGP in 2013 - over 12 years ago and since then, Sierra Leone has implemented 4 cycles of reforms and we are now implementing the 5th cycle which is called the fifth National Action Plan (NAP5). The fifth National Action Plan contains seven (7) commitments which were and are been implemented by the following MDAs: (1) Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC), (2) The Parliament of Sierra Leone; (3) Right to Access Information Commission (RAIC), (4) Ministry of Justice. (5) Ministry of Youth Affairs (MOYA), (6) Sierra Leone Extractive Industries Transparency Initiatives (SLEITI) -Office of the Vice and (7) the Office of the Ombudsman.

Since 2018 the responsibility to coordinate the activities of OGP in Sierra Leone is given to the National Council for Civic Education and Democracy which serves as the OGP secretariat. The minister of the Ministry of Information and Civic Education (MoICE) is the Country's Point of Contact who is responsible for providing strategic direction for the activities of OGP and amplifying our actions globally.

2.5.2 Implementation of the National Action Plan (NAP5)

NaCCED is coordinating and monitoring the implementation of the NAP V in collaboration with members of the OGP Steering Committee which comprises representatives of the implementing MDAs and CSOs. The National Action Plan (NAP V) has seven commitments which are aligned with the "BIG FIVE GAME CHANGERS"

Agenda of His Excellency, President Dr. Julius Maada Bio and his Government as shown below:

- Commitment 1: strengthened Domestic Implementation of Anti-Corruption Measures and Compliance.
- Commitment 2: Open Parliament.
- Commitment 3: Systematic Disclosure of Beneficial Ownership and Extractive Data.
- Commitment 4: Access to justice for all.
- Commitment 5: Inclusion of youths in public works and infrastructure projects.
- Commitment 6: Empowering Citizens through Access to Information.
- Commitment 7: Access to Justice by all through the review of the Ombudsman Act

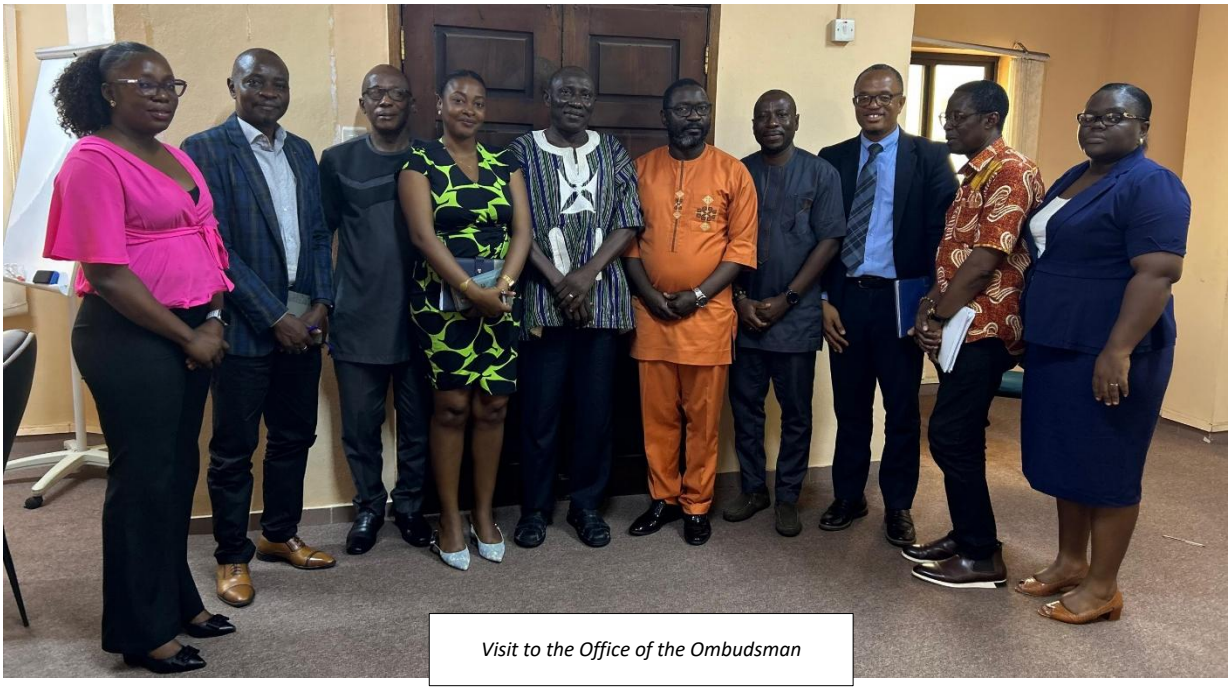
2.5.3 Independent Review Mechanism Report 2024 and the Midterm Review

After one year of implementation of NAP5 in the year under report, NaCCED in 5 activities/milestones, NaCCED collated reports from implementing MDAs and submit its annual report to the OGP global executive committee. The Independent Reporting Mechanism (IRM) committee reviewed the report and published their findings highlighting achievements, challenges and recommendations for action by relevant parties.

The IRM report indicated significant progress made in the implementation of the action plan, especially by the Ant-corruption Commission, Parliament and Right to Access Information Commission. Sierra Leone was rated 72% completion in implementing its commitments and milestones, marking a significant achievement and was recognized as a “Trail Baizer” within the OGP circle. Notwithstanding the huge accomplishment in 2024, the IRM report pointed out grey areas in some of the commitments and related milestones which if not corrected will inhibit the attainment of the goals and significant impact on the citizens.

Informed by the IRM report 2024, the OGP Steering Committee (SC) and the Multi stakeholders Platform (MSF) members in collaboration with the implementing MDAs conducted a midterm review of the milestones on the six commitments in NAP5 and co-creation of a standalone commitment by the Ombudsman’s office for the review of the Ombudsman Act 1979. The midterm review aimed to make the commitments **more ambitious, relevant milestones and lay the foundation for attainment of substantial results**. The review was done through the engagement of each

implementing MDAs by the OGP SC and MSF members who scrupulously tracked the achievements, identified challenges and co-created the milestones.



Visit to the Office of the Ombudsman



Visit to RAIC



Visit to SLEITI



Visit to Justice Sector Coordinating Unit

2.5.4 OGP Steering Committee Meetings

Coordinated and led by NaCCED, the OGP Steering Committee met every six weeks to monitor and track progress in the implementation of NAP V. The meetings were held at NaCCED's office and in the offices of the implementing MDAs. Discussions at the meetings were focused on tracking the progress and challenges in the implementation of the milestones set and suggestions/recommendations made to bolster implementation of the activities.

Key Implementation Highlights

- Sierra Leone scored **72 percent completion** in implementing commitments on NAP V in 2024.
- Sierra Leone has made **significant progress** and is recognized as a **"trail blazer"** within the OGP circle.
- Parliament has made significant progress toward open parliament, including **live streaming of Public Accounts Committee sittings**, enabling citizens to access parliamentary information firsthand and establishing Parliament and Civil Society Network (PaSONet)
- The Beneficial Ownership (BO) **bill** promoted by SLEITI and implemented in the Office of the Vice President has been drafted and it is ready for presentation to Parliament for enactment into law.
- RAIC revised its milestones from **eleven to nine**, making them more realistic, measurable, and achievable.



OGP Steering Committee Meeting at ACC





2.5.5 The OGP Africa and Middle East Regional Conference 2025

From the 24th – 27th March 2025, a delegation from Sierra Leone participated in a three (3) day Open Government Partnership (OGP) Africa and the Middle East Regional Meeting that was held in Nairobi, Kenya. The delegation led by the Deputy Minister of Information and Civic Education Mr Abdel Aziz Bawoh, included, Mr Joseph Munda Bindi, Chairman of the National Council for Civic Education and Democracy; Mrs Hannah Hamida Jimmy, OGP Coordinator; Tejan Israel Jah, The Ombudsman, The Chief Executive Officer of CHRDI; Mr Abdul M. Fatoma, Director of Strategy and Training for Parliament; Mr. Mohamed Alpha Jalloh and the Country Representative for the Westminster Foundation for Democracy; Rev. Alusine Diamond Suma.

The conference, themed "**Rebuilding Trust through Open Government Action and Ambition**," addressed critical issues such as digital governance, access to justice, fiscal transparency, anti-corruption, legislative openness, access to information, and inclusive participation in governance processes. Speakers at the opening session of meeting emphasized the importance of OGP which serves as a tool to address the numerous challenges Africa Governments are facing as their citizens are demanding for transparency and inclusion into the governance processes. OGP is tool that can be used to promote transparency, accountability and inclusion of citizens in the governance landscape of their respective countries. The Ambassador for Technology in Kenya and OGP Point of Contact, Amb Thigo said that for OGP to thrive, it has to get strong political will and support, as he presented the case in Kenya where OGP is enshrined in the National Constitution which emphasizes public participation and consultation as key OGP requirements. Ambassador Thigo furthered that OGP work is a complex and challenging task that requires tenacity and strong commitment from governments. He concluded by saying that effective public consultations are expensive but are essential and cannot be avoided if national peace and stability are to be maintained.

At the Ministerial Round Table discussions most of the OGP participating countries pointed out that OGP is situated or gets its support from the highest offices of the land.
As a high point of the conference, countries were recognized and presented certificates for their efforts in promoting OGP and Sierra Leone was given a certificate of recognition for submitting an Open Gov challenge commitment on access to justice – Amendment of the Ombudsman Act of 1997.

In recognition of key achievement within the Open Government Partnership, the newly appointed Chief Executive Officer, Mr. ***Aidan Eyakuze*** expressed keen interest to visit Sierra Leone to meet with the country's leadership to strengthen collaboration and further consolidate the country's position within the sub region. There was strong

interest to host a sub-regional OGP meeting in Sierra Leone to showcase and share experiences with other African countries.

The Sierra Leone delegation engaged themselves in several side events and meetings;

a) Meeting with Mott Foundation at which commitment was made to support the implementation of the submitted open Gov challenge – amendment of the ombudsman Act 1997.
b) At an exclusive meeting with Ambassador Thigo, discussion was made on the potential to benefit from Kenya's digital E- governance structure through technical support on the strategic use of AI to promote citizens participation and feedback.
c) In the engagement with Agence Française de Développement (AFD), valuable information and contacts were shared to facilitate potential support for the ongoing OGP country process.
d) With the UK based group called CoST which focuses on openness and accountability in infrastructural development, the potential for collaboration and partnership was initiated. Climaxing the conference was a high-level dinner night which was attended by the Prime Minister of Kenya, Mayor of Nairobi, several ministers of Kenya and delegates from the participating countries. Interspersed in the dinner were speeches, music and cultural performances.



NaCCED Delegation



Sierra Leone Delegation


Sierra Leone Delegation with New CEO

2.5.6 The Open Government Partnership Global Summit 2025 Held in Vitorial Gasteiz, Spain

Whilst previous OGP Global Summits have been held in Canada, Georgia, Estonia, France, Korea, Mexico, The United Kingdom and Brazil, the government of Spain hosted the 2025 Open Government Partnership (OGP) Global Summit in Vitorial Gasteiz from the 6th t0 10th October 2025 under the theme: **"Restoring Trust and Strengthening Democracy through Open Government."** The summit which served as a platform for promoting open government principles and values brought together

Two Thousand (2,000) representatives from government, civil society and policy making institutions worldwide. It focused on three strategic pillars:

- People – Placing citizens, rights, and civic space at the center
- Institutions – Reinforcing transparency, accountability, and integrity
- Technology and Open Data – Leveraging digital tools for inclusion and innovation

The Sierra Leone delegation to the OGP 2025 summit was led by the Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Information and Civic Education (MoICE)- Mr. Bockarie Abdel Azziz Bawoh and included; Mr. Joseph Munda Bind, Chairman, National Council for Civic Education and Democracy (NaCCED), Mr. Ibrahim S. Jabatie, OGP Officer, NaCCED, Mr. Abdul Fatorma, Chief Executive Officer, Center for human Right and Development Initiative (CHRDI) and Mr. Sahid Korjie, Director, Justice Sector Coordinating Unit.

The Open Government Partnership (OGP) Global Summit officially started on the 7th October 2025 in Vitoria-Gasteiz, at the Palacio de Congresos Europa, in Spain. During this plenary session of the opening day , the Mayor of Vitoria-Gasteiz Maider Exerbarria welcomed participants from all over the world to the 9th OGP Global Summit, and then highlighted areas that would qualify for the awarding of prizes such as: resilient and quality of governance, Participants in government or Artificial Intelligent, local government as an important element for our democracy, open parliament and open justices, new strategies to fight against corruption and open government values in action against climate change. She added that, “We want to write a new chapter in local government history, thanks for the compromise and political leadership of all the community of open government.”

Clara Mapelli Secretary of State of Spain emphasized that the OGP summit comes at a critical moment when multilateral institutions face a crisis that challenges the value of open government. She also highlighted the fact that open government can help address this crisis through collaboration between civil society and reformers at all levels of government.

Open Government Partnership Steering Committee member Laura Neman welcomed OGP’S new national Benin, Zambia, Timor Leste, Maldives, and 55 local members.
Mr. Paul Maassen in his statement gave tribute to the late Helen Darbeshire whom he described as a dear friend, former OGP Steering Committee member and a human right and access to information champion. In her memory, a Helen Barbishire fund exists to fund civil society organizations in furtherance of OGP work across the globe.
In a high-level dialogue session moderated by Rakesh Rajani , José Ulisses de Pina Correia e Silva (Prime Minister of Cabo Verde), Melanie Hui (Luminate), Maíra Martini (Transparency International), Steph Muchai, (incoming OGP Civil Society Co-Chair),

Vinicius Marques de Carvalho (Minister of the Comptroller General of the Union, Brazil), Tomás Vodanovic (Mayor of Maipú, Chile) discussed practical ways governments, business, and civil society could collaborate differently to build trust and make democracies more resilient.

Several other speakers including the Chief Executive Officer of OGP Aidan Eyakuze, Zukiswa Kota, member of the OGP Steering Committee, OGP civil society co-chair Cielo Magno, Thai Jungpanich from Political Watch, Imanol Pradales Gil, Lehendakari of the Basque country in Spain made valuable contributions filled with inspiration and motivation that could propel the work of OGP in all nations.
The President of Spain, Pedro Sancchez closed the opening plenary of the 2025 OGP Global Summit. He emphasized that the point of government is to take care of all citizens. “Government doesn’t belong to politicians - it belongs to the citizens.”
The summit broke in various sessions, group works and side events for the period of three days.

The Sierra Leone delegation at the summit took part in several sessions including: Open Local Government to Transform Democracy, Participation and Inclusion and Combatting Disinformation, Leadership in Complex Times: Advancing Democratic Resilience and Societal Trust, a field trip to Valle Salado de Affiana – (a historic heritage site in Spain) a community where salt production has taken place for over 7,500 years among others.

At the closing ceremony of the 2025 OGP Global Summit, King Felipe VI of Spain emphasized the importance of open government for democracy and societal progress. He called for the need for commitment to transparency, accountability, inclusion and the use of digital tools to strengthen citizens-parliament interaction, hence echoing the summit’s focus on building more open and resilient society for all.

Climaxing the closing ceremony was the distribution awards to nine (9) deserving national and local governments from: Kenya, Nigeria, the Philippines, Brazil, the United Kingdom, Croatia, in recognition of impactful open government initiatives from more than 160 commitments submitted by 42 countries.

2.5.7 Key Take-Away Of the 9th OGP Global Summit

In the abundance of issues discussed at the summit, the Sierra Leone delegation recorded the following for note in advancing Open Government Partnership;

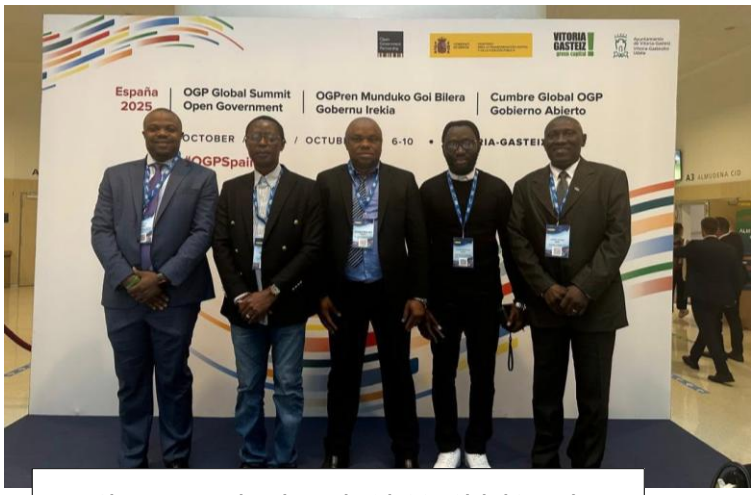
- Citizens trust in their governments continues to diminish due to unmet expectations.
- Civil society space is shrinking and confidence in institutions is eroding rapidly.

- Citizens agitation for inclusion and participation in governance issues are critical which are causes for protests against governments across the world.
- Open Government Partnership is the platform that provides the pathway to rebuild democracy, citizens trust and confidence in their governments.
- Transparency, accountability, and inclusion are central to democratic resilience. Transparency is making the right information available to the people as information is power.
- Combating disinformation in the face of AI and other social medial platforms should be a major business of government by been more open, transparent and accountable and legal reforms.
- OGP remains the most effective global platform for aligning national governance with citizen priorities.

2.5.8 Suggestions/Recommendations:

From the experiences gained and best practices learned at the summit, the following suggestions/recommendations are proffered for consideration by Government:

- To renew Sierra Leone's commitment to Open Government Partnership by signing the **Vitoria – Gasteiz declaration**
- To strengthen and provide adequate support for the development and implementation of the OGP national action plans.
- Enhance collaboration with civil society organizations to ensure inclusivity and effective monitoring.
- Institutionalize open-government principles within NaCCED and the Ministry of Information and Civic Education as part of ongoing civic engagement reforms.



Sierra Leone Delegation at the 9th OGP Global Summit



NaCCED Chairman and Deputy Minister at the 9th OGP Global Summit

3.0 PARTNERSHIP AND EXTERNAL CONFERENCES/WORKSHOPS

The National Council for Civic Education and Democracy (NaCCED), with support from the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) through the Ministry of Information and Civic Education (MOICE), participated in an international program on Holocaust and Genocide Education held from 15th to 19th September 2025 in Oświęcim, Poland.

The program was hosted at the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum and Memorial, a significant historical site associated with the Holocaust and the Nazi German concentration and extermination camp system. The program provided participants with an opportunity to deepen their understanding of how education can be used to address violent and traumatic pasts, strengthen historical awareness, promote human rights, and contribute to peaceful and democratic societies.

The program focused particularly on the internal policy training theme ***"Addressing Violent Pasts through Education."*** It brought together participants to examine the educational challenges and opportunities associated with teaching about historical atrocities, including the Holocaust and other local and international cases of mass violence, persecution, discrimination and genocide. The program was particularly relevant to NaCCED's mandate because civic education plays an important role in developing informed citizens, strengthening democratic values, promoting respect for human rights and encouraging peaceful coexistence.

NaCCED was represented by Mr. Alphan Alieu Tajawie, Director of Curriculum Development and Training. His participation provided an opportunity for NaCCED to contribute to international discussions on curriculum development, civic education and approaches to teaching sensitive historical issues. As part of the program, Mr. Tajawie participated in discussions and presentations examining possible approaches to addressing violent pasts through education. His contribution particularly focused on the possible points of entry, opportunities and obstacles that may arise when teaching local and international cases of violent pasts, including the Holocaust.

The presentation further examined the opportunities that may emerge when societies engage responsibly with difficult chapters of their history. These opportunities include promoting historical understanding, strengthening national dialogue, developing empathy, challenging prejudice and discrimination, encouraging respect for human rights, and helping younger generations understand the consequences of intolerance and violence. The discussion therefore emphasized the importance of adopting approaches that are historically accurate, evidence-based, inclusive, sensitive and appropriate to the context in which they are being taught.

3.1 Purpose of the Program

The program sought to strengthen participants' knowledge, skills and institutional capacity to address violent pasts through education in a responsible, inclusive and context-sensitive manner. It provided an opportunity to examine the Holocaust not only

as a historical event, but also as an important case through which educators and policymakers can explore broader questions concerning human rights, discrimination, prejudice, intolerance, propaganda, civic responsibility and the prevention of mass atrocities. The program also encouraged participants to consider how lessons from international cases such as the Holocaust can be responsibly connected to their own national and local histories without creating false equivalences or undermining the uniqueness of particular historical experiences.

3.2 Objectives of the Event

- To deepen participants' understanding of the Holocaust and genocide education.
- To examine approaches for teaching about violent and traumatic pasts in ways that are historically accurate, responsible and educationally meaningful.
- To identify possible entry points for incorporating local and international cases of violent pasts into education and civic education programs.
- To explore opportunities and challenges associated with teaching sensitive historical subjects, particularly subjects involving conflict, mass violence, persecution and human suffering.
- To develop strategies for responsibly connecting international historical experiences with local and national contexts.
- To strengthen educators' and policymakers' capacity to promote human rights, tolerance, peaceful coexistence and democratic values through education.
- To encourage reflection on the role of education in preventing future violence, discrimination, intolerance and violations of human rights.
- To promote international learning and exchange among institutions and professionals working in Holocaust, genocide, human rights and civic education.

One of the important lessons from the program was the need to carefully navigate the relationship between international cases, such as the Holocaust, and local or national experiences of violence. The Holocaust provides an important case for understanding the consequences of antisemitism, racism, discrimination, persecution, propaganda and systematic violence. However, the educational value of studying the Holocaust does not require treating every other historical experience as identical to it.

Participants reflected on the importance of recognizing both the specificity of individual historical experiences and the broader lessons that can be drawn from them. For NaCCED, this provides an important framework for considering how Sierra Leone's own experiences of conflict and violence can be addressed within civic and citizenship education while also exposing learners to relevant international historical experiences. Such an approach can help learners understand their own history, appreciate the experiences of others and develop the knowledge and attitudes necessary to prevent violence and promote peaceful societies.

3.3 Achievements

- Enhanced Knowledge: NaCCED gained broader exposure to international approaches to Holocaust and genocide education and to the challenges associated with teaching sensitive historical subjects.
- Identification of Educational Entry Points: The program helped identify several entry points through which violent pasts can be addressed, including history, civic education, human rights education, peace education and teacher training.
- International Experience Sharing: The participation created an opportunity for NaCCED to learn from international experiences and engage with professionals working in related fields.
- Strengthened Institutional Networking: Participation also provided an opportunity to establish and strengthen professional connections with institutions and practitioners involved in Holocaust, genocide, human rights and peace education.

3.4 Lessons Learned

1. **Education Has a Role in Preventing Future Violence:** Education is not only about transmitting historical information. It can help learners understand the consequences of hatred, discrimination, intolerance and dehumanization and develop values that support peaceful coexistence.
2. **Difficult Histories Should Not Be Ignored:** Societies need responsible ways of engaging with difficult chapters of their past. Avoiding painful histories can limit opportunities for learning, reflection, reconciliation and prevention.
3. **Historical Accuracy Is Essential:** Teaching violent pasts requires careful use of evidence and reliable historical sources. Educators need to distinguish historical facts from interpretations, political narratives and misinformation.
4. **Teachers Need Adequate Preparation:** Teachers and civic educators require appropriate training, teaching materials and methodological support before they can effectively facilitate discussions on traumatic or controversial historical subjects.
5. **Human Rights and Civic Values Should Remain Central:** Teaching about violent pasts should contribute to respect for human dignity, human rights, equality, tolerance, democracy, justice and peaceful coexistence.
6. **Dialogue Is Important:** Sensitive historical subjects require spaces where learners can ask questions, express concerns and engage with different perspectives respectfully.

The knowledge and experiences gained from the program can contribute to strengthening NaCCED's curriculum development, teacher training and civic education initiatives, particularly those aimed at promoting peaceful coexistence, democratic citizenship, tolerance, human dignity and the prevention of violence.



NaCCED Director Participating in Group work at the External Conferences



NaCCED Director doing presentation at the External Conferences

4.0 KEY CHALLENGES FACED IN IMPLEMENTING POLICIES AND PROGRAMS/PROJECTS

Whilst NaCCED made significant achievement in 2025, it however had some challenges which are stated below:

- Conflicting and overlapping legal and legislative frameworks and grey areas in the NaCCED Act 2022
- No policy for civic education in the country which implication leaves civic activities uncoordinated and adversely affects civic education outcomes.
- Low budgetary allocation to NaCCED and Late disbursement of funds by the ministry of Finance
- Constricted financial environment for civic education which preponderantly disadvantages NaCCED to access adequate financial resources from the Government and development partners.
- Many MDAs are yet to imbibe and adopt Open Government principles in their reform processes and implementation of services which is not helpful in closing the gap between Government and its citizens, thereby redu cing the trust level of citizens in the government.
- Payment for office accommodations for NaCCED in Freetown and the regions from its meager allocation/subvention.
- Inadequate logistical support (Vehicles, Bikes) to enhance effective nationwide civic education.
- Approved staff vacancies and Board positions are yet to be filled.

5.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- Government to increase budget allocation to NaCCED and ensure timely disbursement of budgetary allocation/subvention.
- Recruitment be done to fill the staff vacant positions and appointment of Board Members
- Civic Education policy be developed and NaCCED Act reviewed to enhance effective coordination of civic education activities
- Government to provide vehicles and motor bikes to enhance mobility of staff to enhance effective service delivery.
- Government to strengthen its commitment to OGP through cabinet discussion and adoption
- Government to provide office accommodation for NaCCED at Headquarter in Freetown and regional levels.

NaCCED HQ and Regional Offices

WESTERN AREA- HEAD QUARTERS
21 Steward Street,
Freetown

NORTH-WEST REGION
1B Sillah Drive,
Port Loko

NORTH-EAST REGION
33 Sylvanus Street,
Makeni City

SOUTHERN REGION
135 New Gerihun Road,
Bo City

EASTERN REGION
Gombu (RTI) Layout,
Kenema City

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