



SIERRA LEONE

Founded in 2008

Sierra Leone is one of the world's least developed countries (184 out of 189, 2018 UN HDI). Despite many human development improvements since the end of the civil war in 2002, about 63% of Sierra Leone's population live on less than \$1.25 per day (FAO 2018). Sierra Leone is a largely agrarian economy, with agriculture contributing more than half the national GDP and a quarter of export earnings, providing livelihoods for the majority of the population. However, agricultural productivity remains low, and more than half of the population are food insecure.

Sierra Leone has a growing and youthful population. However adolescents face multiple challenges in schooling, employment, and health. Adolescent girls' sexual and reproductive health issues coupled with their social status, and economic dependency make them more vulnerable both in urban

and rural areas. Sierra Leone has a high teenage pregnancy rate, and among the highest rates of maternal and child mortality globally. Lastly, education indicators are poor. Even among the youth, the literacy rate is estimated at only 51.8%, with wide gender disparity.



OUR PROGRAMMES

BRAC Sierra Leone, since its inception in 2008, has been working to complement the efforts of the government through implementation of programmes in Microfinance, Health, WASH, Adolescent Empowerment, Education, Agriculture, Food Security and Livelihood and seed multiplication farms.

OUR TEAM



We have a total of **407** staff, of whom **95%** are Sierra Leone nationals and **87%** are women. In the Country Management Team, **30%** of staff are women.

CURRENT GRANTS

PROGRAMME	PROJECT	DONOR	STARTING DATE	DURATION	BUDGET (USD IN MILLIONS)
Agriculture Food Security and Livelihoods (AFSL)	Sustainable Livestock Development Model for Improved Food and Nutrition Security in Sierra Leone	ECOWAS	July 2018	1.5 year	0.22
	Enhance Nutrition Security through Increased production and consumption of orange flesh sweet potato and Yellow Cassava	WFP	May 2018	8 months	0.062
Health	Empowering Communities for a Malaria-free Sierra Leone	Global Fund	July 2018	3 years	0.74
ELA	Empowerment and Livelihoods for Adolescents	NoVo Foundation	January 2017	2 years	1.21
Emergency Preparedness and Response	International Emergency Preparedness Program: Phase-2	Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation	November 2017	3 years	0.31

MONITORING HIGHLIGHTS

PROGRAMME/PROJECT	KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	ANNUAL TARGET 2018	ACHIEVEMENT (SEPTEMBER 2018)	% ACHIEVED
Agriculture Food Security and Livelihoods/ Inland Valley Swamp	Acres of Inland Valley Swamp (IVS) developed and rehabilitated	240	225	93.8
Total Microfinance (All products)	Number of total borrowers (cumulative)	38,585	45,417	117.7
	Loan disbursement (million in USD)	8.96	9.16	102.3
	Operational Self Sufficiency	114.46	143.53	125.39

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- BRAC Sierra Leone received two awards: the BRAC Value award from BRAC International and the Field Officer's Appreciation award from Whole Planet Foundation.
- Increase in pig production by 3.9 percentage point, from baseline, leading to a six times increase in annual income and a 6.8 percentage point reduction of severely food insecure households.
- 22.2% of ELA club members are engaged in income generating activities
- BRAC Sierra Leone was elected as a core member of the steering committee of the Salone Adolescent Network.

CHALLENGES

- Competitive environment for international NGOs makes fundraising challenging.
- Poor infrastructure, particularly road and transportation services, make successful programming more difficult – particularly agriculture and livestock sector interventions.
- Low research budgets within project designs have adversely affected data quality and learning opportunities.

LESSONS LEARNED

- Engagement with parents, club management and communities significantly influenced attendance of ELA members in clubs.
- Pig farming is a good source of income for small scale farmers and the number of farmers considering pig farming their main livelihood, which increased from 5% to 39% from baseline to endline.

PRIORITIES FOR 2019



- Increase Country Office budget portfolio through a fundraising drive, partnerships, data collection on impact and improved communication with various donors, government, private entities and other agencies.
- Undertake rigorous analysis of the funding landscape, the quality of our proposals noting reasons for failure, strengths of our competitors and robust planning for successful fundraising
- Improve relationship with government line ministries and strengthen collaboration with other government and donor related projects
- Develop a comprehensive plan and promote capacity building of staff through internal and external training
- Expansion into new districts and branches, innovation through technology, client protection and social performance management are key priorities for Microfinance.