Republic of Sierra Leone

Area: 71,740 km²
Population: over 7.6 million, of which 40% is youth (2018)
Population in agriculture: 62% of labour force
GDP growth: 4.2% (2017)
Poverty: 60% of population lives on less than US$ 1.25/day
Food insecurity: 59.7% of rural households are food-insecure

Sources: IFAD, World Bank

IFAD operations
(since 1979)

8
total number of IFAD-funded projects
3
of which effective/not closed
1
IFAD-supervised project

US$ 288.8 million
total portfolio cost
US$ 130.4 million
IFAD’s share

Areas covered by projects

Agricultural production
Agricultural marketing
Rural finance
(Decentralized) institutional strengthening
Youth

Evaluation coverage

Time frame: 17 years
Projects evaluated: 5 (1 ongoing, 1 completed, 2 closed, 1 newly effective)
18 regional and global grants
IFAD financing: US$98.1 million*
(Evaluation period)


*as of July 2019
Main evaluation findings

Areas of strength

- Strong relevance of the IFAD portfolio maintained by effectively responding to country priorities
- 285,000 households successfully reached through rural finance projects
- Large strides made in increasing agricultural productivity: up to 3 MT/ha for rice per cropping cycle
- Over 100% of target of target group reached
- Sequential approach to projects successfully built on accomplishments of past projects
- Youth included through specific quotas in project activities

Areas for improvement

- Synergies between and within projects should have been improved
- Market linkages were not successfully attained
- Agricultural loans formed less than one fifth of Rural Financial Institutions’ loan portfolio
- Agricultural diversification and nutrition deserved more attention
- Infrastructure and institutions should have been built on a clear exit strategy
- Partnerships, policy engagement and knowledge management needed to be prioritized

Recommendations

#1
Deepen the developmental impact of agricultural growth through sharper focus on strengthening linkages along value chain.

#2
Pursue diversification more vigorously as a strategy to improve nutrition and build economic resilience.

#3
Elevate the engagement in rural finance by building on the existing structures and increased awareness of rural finance in the country.

#4
Re-balance the focus from an almost exclusive focus on development and oversight of individual projects to management of the country programme.

#5
Strengthen the targeting focus by mainstreaming youth in the country portfolio through a country-specific youth strategy.