

**Inception:** BRAC introduced its development programmes in Sierra Leone in 2008. It currently provides multifaceted services to 1.5 million Sierra Leoneans through programmes in microfinance, agriculture, livestock and poultry, empowerment and livelihood of adolescents, health, and legal aid services.

**Human Resources:** There are 348 staff in BRAC Sierra Leone, of whom 71 per cent are female and 92 per cent are nationals of Sierra Leone. Female staff hold at least 26 per cent of Regional Manager or equivalent and above positions and 27 per cent of the Country Management Team members are female.

**BRAC's donors in country:** Comic Relief, WFP/JICA, DFID, Nike and Novo Foundation & Oxfam.

## Country Statistics

### Population

6.316 million (WB 2014)

### GDP per capita

USD 638

(Trading Economics, 2014)

### People living below the poverty line

52.9 (WB, 2011)

### Life expectancy at birth

51 years (WB, 2014)

### Primary School completion rate

70% (WB 2013)

### Adult literacy rate

46% (WB 2013)

### Maternal Mortality rate

(per 100, 000 live births)

1,360 (WB, 2015)

### Infant mortality rate

(per 1000 live births)

35 (WB 2015)



*Port Loko Mayni Kamara (middle) and her granddaughter attend livestock vaccination session*

## Microfinance coverage

Branch	Borrowers	PAR	Disbursement (USD in Million)	Principle Outstanding (USD in Million)
28	31,597	8.25	4.46	3.07

## Donor-funded programme coverage

Project Name	Donor	Start Date	Duration (Months)	Total Budget (USD in Million)	Direct Beneficiaries
Health	Comic Relief	2013	52	1.40	7950 under-five children, youth & women
Agriculture and Livestock	WFP/JICA	2016	12	0.21	530 rice farmers (80% female)
	DFID	2015	30	0.40	832 pig farmers
	Oxfam/DEC 2501	2015	18	0.98	poor people (80% female & 20% male)
ELA	Nike & Novel Foundation	2015	16	0.60	6880 adolescent girls (13-24)

## Programme Updates(Jan-Sept 2016)

The microfinance programme is operating in 10 out of 14 districts in Sierra Leone through 29 branches. Due to the Ebola outbreak, its programme operations were suspended for seven months, restarting initially with credit recovery and resuming credit disbursement from April 2015. Since January 2016 microfinance borrowers increased by eight per cent.

The Small Enterprise Programme is operating in 16 of BRAC's 29 branches. Borrowers increased by 26 per cent and outstanding portfolio increased by 3 per cent from December 2015. To support the Ebola-affected petty traders build resilience, BRAC supported 11,914 traders through business literacy training, start-up capitals and soft microloans in all 14 districts of Sierra Leone.

BRAC's Essential Health Care programme ensured community mobilization on health issues through house-to-house visits and health meetings, sensitization on Ebola, support for government health services, distribution of family planning products, WASH activities, health care for mothers and children, and immunization. BRAC has supported the vulnerable households quarantined during the Ebola outbreak in Koinadugu district. 2,617 households have been provided conditional and unconditional cash for better livelihood, building better resilience of rural women and developing community safety nets to strengthen long-term food security.

BRAC supported 3,000 rural kitchen gardeners providing them seed, fertilizers and tools. It also assisted 500 Ebolaaffected backyard poultry famers to rebuild their farm resources and

## BRAC Sierra Leone: At a Glance

### Microfinance& SEP

<b>Total no of borrowers</b>	<b>31,597</b>
<b>Average micro loan size</b>	<b>USD 112</b>
<b>Average SEP loan size</b>	<b>USD 1,150</b>

### Empowerment & Livelihood for Adolescents (ELA)

<b>No of clubs</b>	<b>210</b>
<b>No of club members</b>	<b>6,875</b>

### Agriculture Food Security and Livelihood Programme

<b>Trained agriculture farmers</b>	<b>139,728</b>
<b>Trained livestock farmers</b>	<b>82,959</b>

### Health

<b>Population reached</b>	<b>487,200</b>
<b>No of CHPs</b>	<b>406</b>
<b>No of Community Health Committees</b>	<b>61</b>

strengthen farming activities. To promote pig production and marketing and processing in this reporting period, BRAC has trained 7 pig breeding unit, 75 model pig farms and 750 general farmers with piglets, pig feeds and other farm inputs.

BRAC Sierra Leone is operating a Seed Testing and Multiplication farm covering 63 acres of land in two locations (Kerefay 37 acres, Magbafth 26 acres) of which three acres of land are used for rice seed production and 10 decimal for yellow cassava plantation. During January to September 2016, a total of 250 kg maize seeds have been produced. Adaptation trials are being conducted in seed farms for one variety of rice and one variety of sweet potato.

A total of 210 Empowerment and Livelihood for Adolescents (ELA) clubs are operating in all four districts of Sierra Leone. BRAC has provided support to 6,877 adolescent girls through training and micro-credit loans to revive their livelihood and financially empower them to be self-reliant. Of 6,877 ELA club members, 86 per cent are now going to school. Psychosocial training was provided to 300 adolescent girls to increase their ability to deal with rampant social issues like discrimination, physical and sexual abuse. 600 adolescent girls received training boosting their livelihood skills.

**Challenges:** Heavy rain, poor roads and communication networks for remote operational areas, low literacy rate of beneficiaries, frequent drop-out of program participants due to migration, and unavailability of quality inputs hamper programme interventions. Price hike and inflation also affect operations in the country. Furthermore, there are expectations from communities for BRAC to provide cash, free services and commodities. The ratio of student to teacher is very poor - one teacher for 200 students. There is also shortage of learning materials and mid-day meals as parents' withdrew their contribution.