

## **Sierra Leone**

### **Community Reintegration and Rehabilitation Project (P040649)**

**Date Effective:** June 27, 2000

**Closing Date:** June 30, 2003

#### **Project description:**

Civil war, unrest, and indiscriminate violence plagued Sierra Leone for more than a decade. Violence left 20,000 dead, over 2 million people internally displaced and 500,000 living as refugees abroad (internally displaced people and refugees combined accounted for about 50 percent of the country's population). The Community Reintegration and Rehabilitation Project was a strategic intervention to assist the country to transition from conflict to peace. The project aimed to help reintegrate demobilized combatants into social and economic life and to restore basic socioeconomic infrastructure and services in the communities most affected by the war. The project sought to contribute to social stability and facilitate the return of displaced and refugee populations by investing at the earliest possible moment in the rehabilitation of destroyed villages.

**Impact:** *Social stability restored and economic activities rekindled for over 1 million Sierra Leoneans.*

#### **Some highlights:**

- 16 demobilization centers in 12 districts and 7 interim care centers disarmed 72,000 fighters.
- Almost 50,000 ex-combatants were trained, of which close to 50 percent found employment or self-employment.
- Over 220,000 internally displaced people are back in their locations of choice
- Two-thirds of all ex-combatants are currently residing in their community of choice.
- Just over one million Sierra Leoneans were the direct and indirect beneficiaries of the 269 projects implemented in agriculture, community infrastructure, education, health, micro-enterprise promotion and reintegration and others.
- 84 schools and 28 health centers back are in operation.
- 200,000 people have access to potable water, 9,000 hectares of land are back under cultivation and close to a million hectare agricultural land under improved production.

**Total Financing:** Total project cost was \$35 million, IDA provided \$ 23.6 million, the African Development Bank provided \$9.74 million and the Government \$0.71 million. Community contributions in kind have not been calculated, but are considered substantial in 269 sub projects.

**IDA Contribution:** The Community Reintegration and Rehabilitation Project is IDA's primary instrument to support the Government's priority rehabilitation, reconstruction

and reintegration activities in Sierra Leone. By helping to establish functional institutions, it has leveraged support for rehabilitation activities beyond the project life. The IDA contribution has been especially significant in:

- Building of functional and sustainable institution in the demobilization, disarmament, and rehabilitation of Sierra Leone Post war.
- Leveraging substantial international resources for the rehabilitation process.
- Providing the basis for social and economic recovery of the rural areas of a war torn country.

**Linkages:** The project was linked to the post conflict process of the national government and international community. With displaced persons returning home or settling and producing, economic recovery will provide additional income and initiate a rural based economy, and sustain the recovering villages. The project developed a model approach for disarmament, demobilization and rehabilitation in a fragile peace process.

**Next Steps:** The level of interaction between ex-combatants and their communities is high, indicating that ex-combatants became reintegrated into the social fabric of their country. The investments made under the project helped reinvigorate local agriculture, restart local government, and rebuild schools and health posts, creating the conditions for residents to return and take up their lives again. In 2002, leveraging on the technical capacity, management skills, assets and community approaches created by the project, the Government of Sierra Leone established the National Commission for Social Action (NaCSA). NaCSA is implementing the National Social Action Project financed by IDA under a separate credit of US\$35 million and other donor funded projects.