



ssnup

Smallholder Safety Net
Upscaling Programme

SUPPORT THE RENEWED GROWTH IN OUTREACH IN THE RURAL AREAS IN SIERRA LEONE



Africa



Latin America



Asia



Financial services



Non-financial services



Market building



Internal management

CONTEXT

Sierra Leone has strong agricultural potential. In 2020, 57% of its population was rural, 54% of the active population was employed in agriculture, forestry and fisheries, and the sector accounts for 59.5% of GDP. In 2019, the nation ranked 181 out of 189 countries in human development. Half of all households in Sierra Leone are food insecure. In 2018, the country produced 700,000 metric tons (mt) of rice against a demand of 1.6 million mt. Smallholder farmers account for most of the rural population and are key in food crops and cocoa production (IFAD 2020). The country is well endowed with arable land, forests, and fresh and sea water resources. The main value chains are rice, cassava, oil palm, groundnuts, cocoa, and fisheries.

CURRENT STATUS OF THE INVESTEE

Salone Microfinance Trust (SMT) is the microcredit component of a community-based Child Fund project in Sierra Leone. It started its activities in 2003 after the civil war. Established first as a trust, it became a company in 2013 with four up-country community-based associations and Child Fund Sierra Leone as shareholders. In 2010 it was licensed credit-only MFI, and in 2021, deposit-taking. Its headquarters are in Makeni, Northern province. It has a network of eight branches and offers mainly group loans and a few SME loan products.

OBJECTIVE OF THE PROJECT

The global objective of the TA project is to consolidate the operations re-launch plan and provide SMT with the human capacity to expand its portfolio in the rural areas through the current branch network.

The expected outcomes are:

- By 2022, the management information system has been adapted, and key officers have acquired better skills contributing to improved operations for SMT;
- By 2023, 1,000 new rural clients have received a loan and opened savings accounts; new loans directly finance three food crops and one export value chain; and outreach to rural up-country clients is more than 55%.

IMPACT INVESTOR



AGGREGATOR / INVESTEE

Salone Microfinance Trust (MFI) – Sierra Leone, serving a total of 9,979 smallholder households

AGRICULTURAL VALUE CHAIN

Cocoa, rice, vegetables, and groundnuts.

STARTING DATE

September 2022

DURATION

11 months

TOTAL TA BUDGET

€ 47,178
Including € 42,460 (90%)
contribution from SSNUP

