Project Summary

Project Background
The almost decade-long civil war (1991-1999) between Government forces and the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) has dominated Sierra Leone in its recent past. A disarmament and demobilisation programme was agreed upon in early 2002 and paved the way for peaceful presidential and parliamentary elections held in May 2002. The co-operation between the Community and Sierra Leone puts the main emphasis on the objective of reducing poverty. The allocations from the 9th EDF amount to 227.4 m€ in total, with two focal sectors, namely Rural Infrastructure and Good Governance/Institutional Strengthening. Activities to be covered by the non-focal sectors include fisheries, trade, and TA to the Ministry of Mineral Resources.

Evaluation Objectives
The evaluation focused on three elements:

- the current EC Country Strategy (CSP) and on its implementation in Sierra Leone.
- the past EC co-operation strategies with the country, and their implementation over the two previous programming cycles;
- the coherence between actions undertaken at national level and those supported in relevant regional initiatives affecting the country, with special regard to the capacity of regional institutions and to economic integration and trade.

Evaluation Activities

- Desk research: analysis of policy papers, programming documents and project documentation. Development of evaluation questions and criteria for the field research; desk-phase report.
- Field research: Interviews with beneficiaries, implementation partners and private sector institutions on the basis of evaluation questions determined in the desk-phase.
- Preparation of the Final Report incorporating findings from desk and field research and conclusions and recommendations. The report used the standard EC evaluation criteria and also assessed the coherence of actions.

Implementation Features

- Development of evaluation criteria, hypotheses etc. in order to focus the field-phase on crucial issues
- De-briefing session, including an in-country seminar on the findings, prior to submission of the Final Report.
- Focus on Infrastructure, Social Services, Good Governance, Macroeconomic support, Rural Development and Human Rights.
- Key cross-cutting issues analysed: gender, environment and conflict prevention
- 3Cs: co-ordination and complementarity with other donors, coherence with EU policies, Regional Indicative Programmes and other Programmes funded by EC budgetary lines.

Services Provided

- Intensive preparation and desk research: intervention logic, evaluation, questions & criteria, desk phase report
- Methodological inputs
- Extensive field research and discussions, de-briefing with EC Delegation and the NAO
- Presentation of preliminary findings
- Feed-back, recommendations, Final Report

Sierra Leone

Country Level Evaluation of EC Support to Sierra Leone

Client

European Commission / EC

Duration

23.01.2006 - 31.08.2006

Personnel

Team of STE (7 PM)
- 1 Team Leader
- 2 Private Sector Development Expert
- 2 Infrastructure Expert
- 1 Social Development Expert
- 1 National Development Cooperation Expert