



The National Authorising Office announces four new EU-Funded contracts to strengthen the agricultural sector in Sierra Leone

The National Authorising Office of Sierra Leone (NAO) today (20th August 2019) announces contracts worth almost €10,000,000 in total, for four new EU-funded projects to promote diversification in the agricultural sector.

The contracts have been awarded under the *Boosting Agriculture and Food Security (BAFS) Programme*, financed through the 11th European Development Fund. BAFS is intended to contribute to reduction of poverty and food insecurity in Sierra Leone through better governance and increased agricultural productivity and diversification.

Details of the four contracts awarded are as follows:

Solidaridad Network West Africa			
Project Title: Develop a Vibrant, Competitive and Profitable Sierra Leonean Cocoa, Coffee and Cashew Economy, Driven by Private Supply Chain Actors Within a National Regulatory Framework in Sierra Leone			
Contract Amount	Beneficiary Districts	Implementation Period	Key Objectives
Total project amount: €4,000,000.00	Kono, Kailahun Kenema	48 months	Efficient and effective value chains of cash crops for export are promoted, increasing quality and quantity of production, processing, marketing and trading, and implementing environmentally sustainable agricultural practices.
EU contribution: €3,200,000.00	Bo Bonthe, Bombali		
Solidaridad contribution: €800,000.00	Port Loko Pujehun, Western Rural Koinadugu		

OXFAM GB			
Project Title: Diversifying and Boosting Crop Production in Sierra Leone			
Contract Amount	Beneficiary Districts	Implementation Period	Key Objectives
Total project amount: €2,639,901.86	Koinadugu Bombali Kono	48 months	Enhanced food security through improved farming techniques adaptable to climate change, increased market access and local entrepreneurship.
EU contribution: €2,375,911.67	Port Loko Moyamba Bo		
Oxfam GB contribution: €263,990.19	Kailahun		

Stitching BRAC International			
Project Title: Improving Food Security and Increasing Income for Smallholder Farmers Through Sustainable Livestock Production in Sierra Leone			
Contract Amount	Beneficiary Districts	Implementation Period	Key Objectives



Total project amount: €1,665,561.72	Pujehun, Bonthe Kailahun	36 months	To improve food security and reduce poverty for 4,140 smallholder livestock farmers through fostering diversification of the livestock sector and developing a better functioning livestock value chain.
EU contribution: €1,499,005.62	Western Rural Koinadugu		
Stitching BRAC International contribution: €166,556.10			

OXFAM GB			
Project Title: Diversifying and Boosting Women Centred Livestock Production			
Contract Amount	Beneficiary Districts	Implementation Period	Key Objectives
Total project amount: €1,647,971.13	Koinadugu Bombali Kono Port Loko	48 months	Improved livelihood, income and empowerment of target population through increased and diversified production, processing and marketing, assuring added value chain in the livestock sector.
EU contribution: €1,500,000			
Oxfam GB contribution: €147,971.13			

Dr. Francis Kai-Kai, the Minister of Planning and Economic Development and the National Authorising Officer for Sierra Leone, said: "Agriculture is the main source of livelihood in Sierra Leone, particularly for the poor rural households, and a major contributor to our GDP. Improving agricultural productivity and diversity is critical for the alleviation of poverty and the progress of our country. These four new contracts represent a major contribution from the European Union, which will help drive agricultural development and diversification, and encourage the participation of women and young people in the sector. The MOPED will closely monitor implementation of these projects to ensure effective delivery to targeted communities"

EU Ambassador Tom Vens added "As EU we continue to support initiatives for durable economic growth. Growth that creates fair jobs where they are most needed. Development that respects the environment and that transfers know-how to local actors. Support to agricultural diversification and the development of value chains offers great potential to realise this ambition through a strong partnership with the Government of Sierra Leone, private sector operators and building on the managerial and technical expertise of our NGO partners who will implement these four new projects."

The National Authorising Office (NAO) under the Ministry of Planning and Economic Development (MOPED) is the Contracting Authority for the 11th EDF with the mandate of facilitating the mobilisation, management and coordination of European Union Development Assistance to Sierra Leone, in accordance with the Cotonou Partnership Agreement between the European Union (EU) and the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) States, and to ensure its effectiveness and alignment with the new Medium Term National Development Plan and strategies.

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