

Republic of Sierra Leone

Country Strategy and Programme Evaluation 2003-2019

Independent Office
of Evaluation

IFAD
Investing in rural people



Area: 71,740 km²

Population: over 7.6 million, of which 40% is youth (2018)

Population in agriculture: 62% of labour force

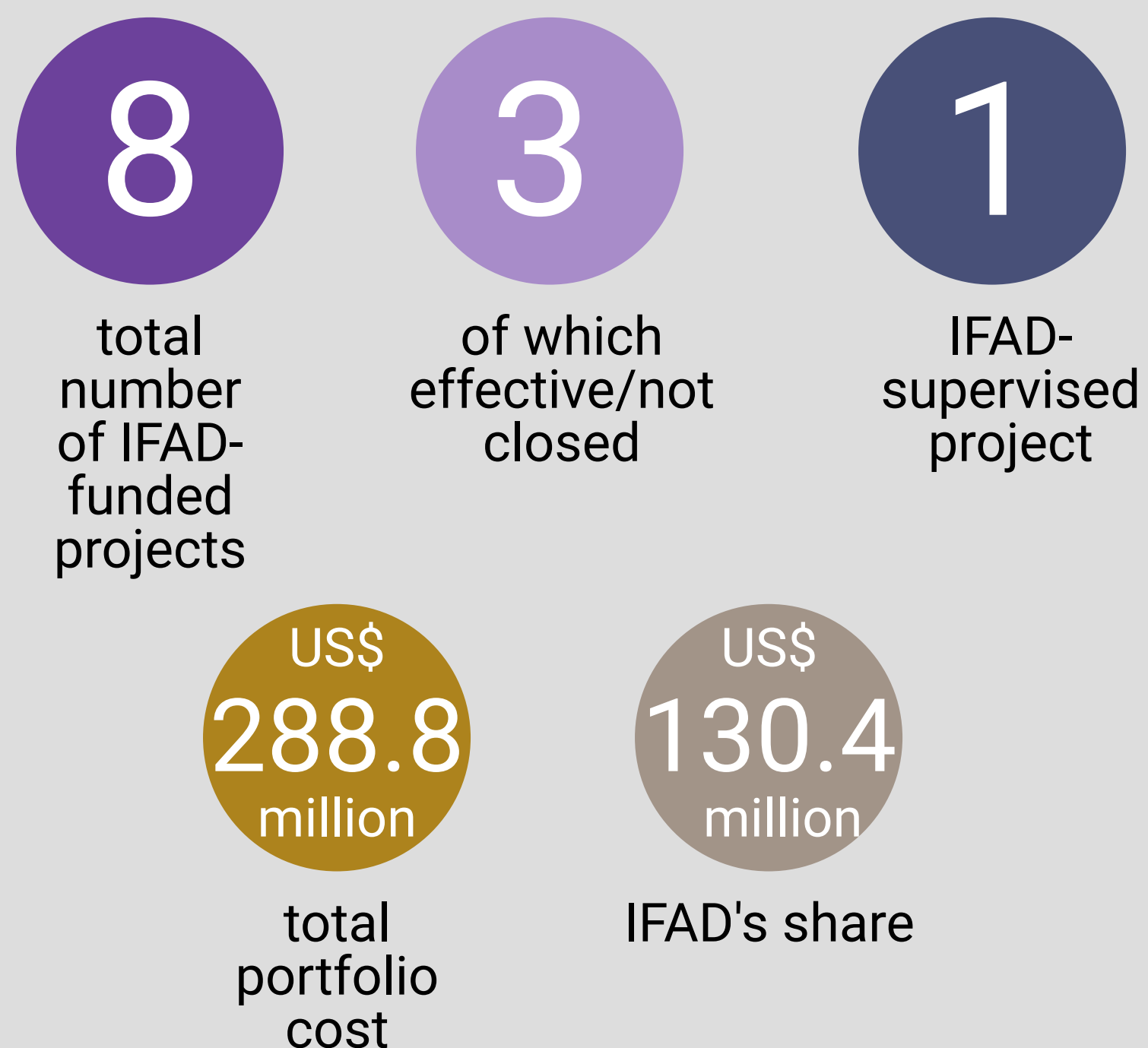
GDP growth: 4.2% (2017)

Poverty: 60% of population lives on less than US\$ 1.25/day

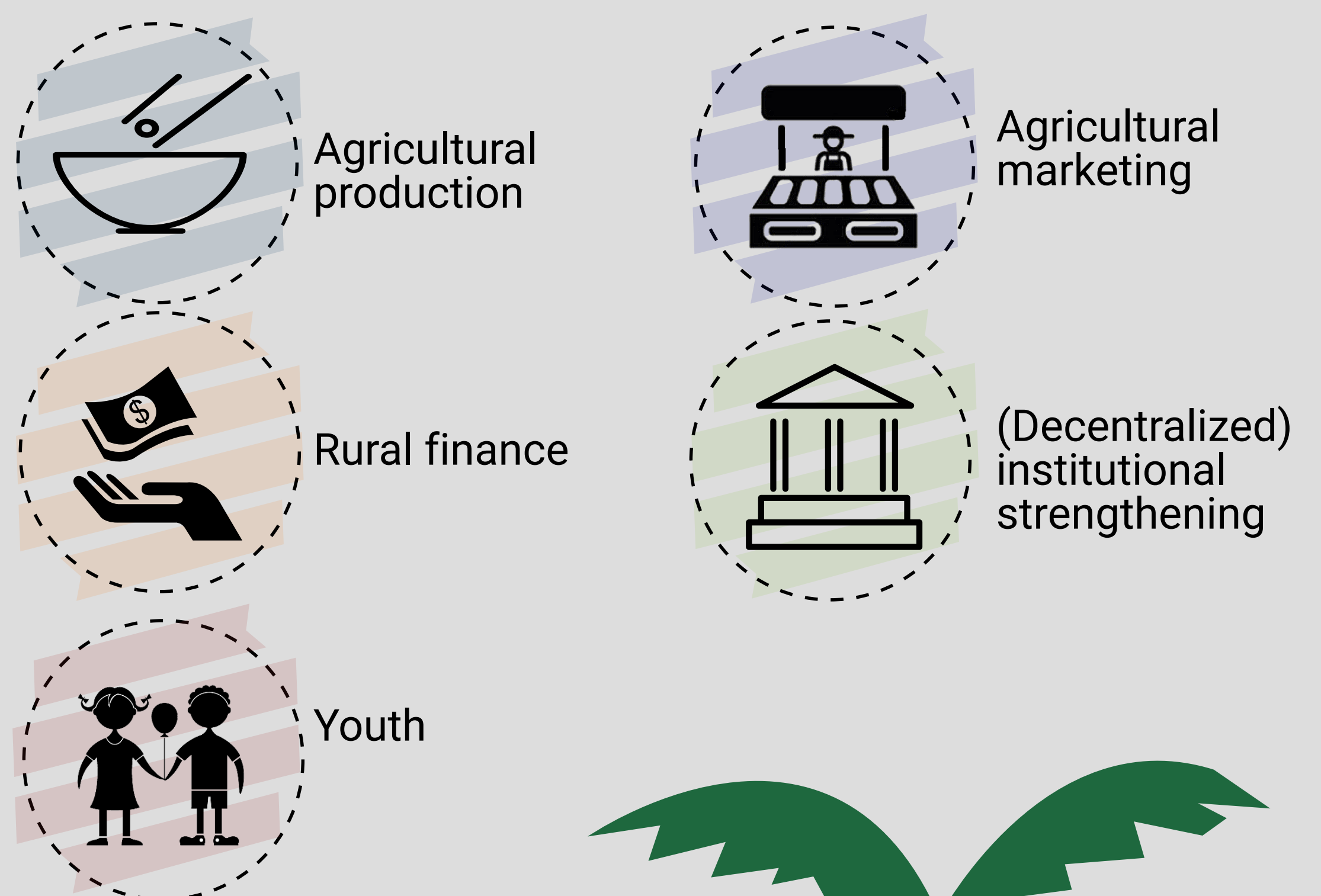
Food insecurity: 59.7% of rural households are food-insecure

Sources: IFAD, World Bank

IFAD operations (since 1979)



Areas covered by projects



Evaluation coverage

Time frame: 17 years

Projects evaluated: 5 (1 ongoing, 1 completed, 2 closed, 1 newly effective)
18 regional and global grants

IFAD financing:
(Evaluation period) US\$98.1 million*

Country strategic opportunities programme – 2003, 2010;
Country Strategy Note 2017-18

*as of July 2019



Main evaluation findings

Areas of strength ↔ Areas for improvement



Strong relevance of the IFAD portfolio maintained by effectively responding to country priorities

285 000 households successfully reached through rural finance projects

Large strides made in increasing agricultural productivity; up to 3 MT/ha for rice per cropping cycle

Over 100% of target of target group reached

Sequential approach to projects successfully built on accomplishments of past projects

Youth included through specific quotas in project activities



Synergies between and within projects should have been improved

Market linkages were not successfully attained

Agricultural loans formed less than one fifth of Rural Financial Institutions' loan portfolio

Agricultural diversification and nutrition deserved more attention

Infrastructure and institutions should have been built on a clear exit strategy

Partnerships, policy engagement and knowledge management needed to be prioritized



Recommendations

#1

Deepen the developmental impact of agricultural growth through sharper focus on strengthening linkages along value chain.

#2

Pursue diversification more vigorously as a strategy to improve nutrition and build economic resilience.

#3

Elevate the engagement in rural finance by building on the existing structures and increased awareness of rural finance in the country.

#4

Re-balance the focus from an almost exclusive focus on development and oversight of individual projects to management of the country programme.

#5

Strengthen the targeting focus by mainstreaming youth in the country portfolio through a country-specific youth strategy.