



INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

Originally dubbed the “Province of Freedom,” **Sierra Leone** is a West African country located between Guinea and Liberia



The country has suffered from severe poverty, civil war and rampant disease, with some of the world’s highest mortality rates among infants, children and mothers.

The NGO **WorldFish** focuses on the implementation of **small-scale fisheries** and **aquaculture** in order to address malnutrition and to strengthen livelihoods.



Field training. Photo credit: WorldFish

METHODS

Research methods employed for this project included focus groups, informal surveys, data analysis, and observation.



My colleague and friend, John Samura. Photo credit, Joe Stewart

RESULTS

While short in duration, the project was successful in terms of providing many of the fish farming participants with a modest **economic boost**, including:

- **Increased collaboration** among the fish farm clusters.
- Creation of a money ‘**lock box**’ in fish farming clusters to save capital for future projects and for proper maintenance of fish ponds.
- Successful implementation of a **microloan system**, that enabled farmers to **increase production**
- For most study participants, it was their first time farming fish. WorldFish was able to introduce this practice and empower farmers to plan more effectively.

DISCUSSION AND LIMITATIONS

- While there were many positives, not all of the original WorldFish research plan was realized, primarily due to time and financial restraints and to logistical challenges.
- The program was constructed to target the most vulnerable communities, but ultimately it was the communities that were more established that benefited most by the project.



Field Work. Photo credit: Joe Stewart

RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Increased access and partnership** between farmers and banks offering **microloans** could help address the population that needs it most.
- More **educational opportunities** geared toward improving **health** and **self sufficiency** are imperative in order for long-term success.

REFERENCES

- WorldFish | *Harnessing research that makes a difference.* (2018). Retrieved 1 April 2018, from <https://www.worldfishcenter.org>

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