

Apply today and you could be...

A Financial Manager at the Council of Churches in Freetown, Sierra Leone

What's the context and purpose of the role?

There has been remarkable progress in consolidating peace and rebuilding Sierra Leone's infrastructure since the end of the conflict in 2002. However, the decade-long civil war has caused extensive damage to social sectors and the majority of Sierra Leoneans lack access to basic social services. The Council of Churches Sierra Leone (CCSL) was founded in 1924 and today has a membership of 19 churches, operating a wide range of programmes in education and welfare. The organisation is promoting religious tolerance, participation and commitment to rebuilding the country's civil society. As a volunteer with CCSL you'll ensure the Council's sustainability by establishing sound financial systems across all programmes and its head office.

What does the role involve?

- Advising CCSL on all financial matters and developing effective financial management systems
- Managing project funds
- Training finance staff in the organisation on financial control and management systems
- Working with finance staff to prepare annual financial and accounting reports
- Developing and maintaining appropriate monitoring and evaluation processes

What skills, experience and personal qualities are needed for the role?

You'll need a degree and at least 5 years' experience in setting up financial systems, budget planning and managing project funds. Excellent communication and facilitation skills are also essential, as you'll be working in a team and provide training. Patience and a good sense of humour are important for all VSO placements. You'll need to be flexible, adaptable and happy to travel and stay with council members in rural communities, often with very limited facilities.



And the rest...

Sierra Leone borders Liberia to the southeast, the Republic of Guinea to the north, and the Atlantic Ocean to the West. The people of Sierra Leone are naturally very friendly and accommodating and greeting is part of Sierra Leonean culture. When meeting people you know, it is polite to enquire about their, and their family's well being in great detail! You'll be based in the lively capital Freetown, where you're never far from a beach. Good facilities such as supermarkets, restaurants, internet cafes, a post office and markets are all available. The climate is tropical with a rainy season from May to October and the dry season for the rest of the year. The country has some of the best beaches in the West Africa and you could visit Outamba-Kilimi National Park on a long weekend and spot diverse wildlife such as chimpanzees, colobus monkeys, buffalo, elephants and maybe even lions.