

<http://www.ccslweb.org/>

## Who We Are

The Council of Churches in Sierra Leone (CCSL) is an umbrella organisation of seventeen member churches and ten affiliates. Speaking with a united voice, it promotes peace, justice and development. Its strength is being deeply rooted in the communities it serves. It operates at all levels of society to mitigate hunger, poverty and disease. It is aware of gender inequalities and addresses them in programs and actions. It also cooperates with national decision-makers to ensure that the poor and marginalised can improve their lives and have a say in decisions that affect them.

The Council of Churches in Sierra Leone exists to empower its members and to work with them towards a Sierra Leone where peace is lasting, human rights are recognised and every citizen can participate in the country's prosperity. As a Christian organisation, CCSL is guided by love and compassion:


- ✚ Religious Tolerance: CCSL respects people of other denominations and religions and cooperates with them in areas of shared values.
- ✚ Commitment: CCSL is willing to contribute its resources: time, energy, expertise and finance to achieve its mission and vision.
- ✚ Integrity: CCSL acts according to the principles of the Council and is prepared to defend them.
- ✚ Partnership: CCSL believes true partnership has to be based on honesty and respect.

## What We Do

CCSL works with and through its members implementing programs. Members facilitate and coordinate projects at community level and play a crucial role in implementing the Council's initiatives. CCSL focuses its efforts on these areas:

- ✚ We cooperate with our members in communities on long-term programs to mitigate poverty and bring about community empowerment.
- ✚ We support farmers and small scale entrepreneurs to increase their productivity. We also cooperate with decision-makers on food security.
- ✚ We advocate for human rights, justice, equality, good governance and a peaceful country.
- ✚ We sensitise and educate traditional leaders and community-based organisations on child protection and social welfare.
- ✚ We raise public awareness within our members and communities on HIV and AIDS.
- ✚ We implement and support programs to empower girls and support projects for women and young people.

## Profile: Sierra Leone

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✚ <b>Full name:</b> Republic of Sierra Leone</li> <li>✚ <b>Population:</b> 6 million (UN, 2011)</li> <li>✚ <b>Capital:</b> Freetown</li> <li>✚ <b>Area:</b> 71,740 sq km (27,699 sq miles)</li> <li>✚ <b>Major languages:</b> English, Krio (Creole language derived from English) and a range of African languages</li> <li>✚ <b>Major religions:</b> Islam, Christianity</li> <li>✚ <b>Life expectancy:</b> 48 years (men), 49 years (women) (UN)</li> <li>✚ <b>Monetary unit:</b> Leone</li> <li>✚ <b>Main exports:</b> Diamonds, rutile, cocoa, coffee, fish</li> <li>✚ <b>GNI per capita:</b> US \$340 (World Bank, 2010)</li> </ul>	
<p>Sierra Leone, in West Africa, emerged from a decade of civil war in 2002, with the help of Britain, the former colonial power, and a large United Nations peacekeeping mission. More than 17,000 foreign troops disarmed tens of thousands of rebels and militia fighters. Several years on, the country still faces the challenge of reconstruction.</p>	<div style="background-color: green; width: 100px; height: 20px; margin-bottom: 10px;"></div> <div style="background-color: blue; width: 100px; height: 20px;"></div>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A lasting feature of the civil war, in which tens of thousands died, was the atrocities committed by the rebels, whose trademark was to hack off the hands or feet of their victims. A UN-backed war crimes court was set up to try those, from both sides, who bear the greatest responsibility for the brutalities. It completed its work at the end of 2009.</li> <li>• Sierra Leone has experienced substantial economic growth in recent years, although poverty and unemployment remain major challenges. The country remains bottom of the UN's league for human development.</li> <li>• Sierra Leone is rich in diamonds and other minerals. The trade in illicit gems, known as "blood diamonds" for their role in funding conflicts, perpetuated the civil war. The government has attempted to crack down on cross-border diamond trafficking.</li> <li>• Sierra Leone has a special significance in the history of the transatlantic slave trade. It was the departure point for thousands of West African captives. The capital, Freetown, was founded as a home for repatriated former slaves in 1787.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Media freedom</b> in Sierra Leone is limited. Media rights monitors say high-level corruption is a taboo topic, with officials using libel laws to target errant journalists. Challenges facing broadcasters include unreliable power supplies, poor funding and low advertising revenues. A national public broadcaster, the Sierra Leone Broadcasting Corporation (SLBC), was formed in April 2010 by a merger of the former state-run broadcaster and a UN radio network. Dozens of newspapers are published in Freetown, despite low literacy levels. Most of them are privately-run and are often critical of the government. By June 2009 there were 13,900 internet users, comprising less than 0.5% of the population (Internetworldstats).</p>	