



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From **27/07/23** Period start date To **26/07/24**
Period end date

Charity name: Sierra Foundation for Life Skills

Charity registration number: 1157293

Objectives and Activities

	SORP reference	
Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document	Para 1.17	Advancement of education and training in Sierra Leone, particularly females facing social exclusion and economic disadvantage. Relief of poverty in Sierra Leone. Advancement of the Christian faith in Sierra Leone.
Summary of the main activities in relation to those purposes for the public benefit, in particular, the activities, projects or services identified in the accounts.	Para 1.17 and 1.19	1. SFFLS has paid salaries for tutors and support staff at the Vocational Centre for young women. 2. Rice has been supplied to widows and other families facing hunger and destitution on a regular basis. 3. A palava hut for the use of students and staff at the vocational centre has been completed and is in regular use. 4. A classroom block at the school in Deep Eye Water has been underpinned and classrooms are now used for community activities.
Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit	Para 1.18	Due note has been taken on issues regarding public benefit by the charity.

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

	SORP reference	
Policy on grant making	Para 1.38	
Policy on social investment including program related	Para 1.38	

investment		
Contribution made by volunteers	Para 1.38	
Other		

Achievements and Performance

	SORP reference	
Summary of the main achievements of the charity, identifying the difference the charity's work has made to the circumstances of its beneficiaries and any wider benefits to society as a whole.	Para 1.20	<p>SFFLS works in partnership with Family Homes Movement in Freetown. It is through this charity that projects are established and completed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A new cohort of young women have enrolled on catering and tailoring courses which will enable them to gain employment in local hospitality venues and as self employed tailors. The previous cohort have graduated successfully. ● Bags of rice have been funded every month for the hungry and destitute as distributed by Family Homes Movement. ● A classroom block at the school in Deep Eye Water has been successfully underpinned and is now in use as a community room. ● A Palava Hut at the vocational centre was officially opened by two of the trustees on their visit to Sierra Leone and is regularly used by the students and staff.

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Achievements against objectives set	Para 1.41	All objectives are either in progress or completed as set out by the trustees. Two trustees had a 3 week visit to Sierra Leone in February 2024 to support the work of Family Homes Movement and see progress made on projects funded by SFFLS.
Performance of fundraising activities against objectives set	Para 1.41	Fundraising has successfully supported all projects that have been agreed with Family Homes Movement.

Investment performance against objectives	Para 1.41	Not applicable.
Other		

Financial Review

Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period	Para 1.21	The charity is in credit with financial assets as seen in attached accounts, with all commitments having been met.
Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held	Para 1.22	Reserves of £500 are maintained in the SFFLS account.
Amount of reserves held	Para 1.22	£500.00
Reasons for holding zero reserves	Para 1.22	
Details of fund materially in deficit	Para 1.24	None
Explanation of any uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern	Para 1.23	

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

The charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising)	Para 1.47	Individual donations from supporters, largely through regular giving and gift aid where applicable. Fund raising events include summer garden parties in July 2023 and 2024. A sponsored walk on 27th April to commemorate Independence Day for Sierra Leone and in conjunction with the Sierra Leone steam train event at Welshpool was done by one of the trustees.
Investment policy and objectives including any social investment policy adopted	Para 1.46	None..
A description of the principal risks facing the charity	Para 1.46	The trustees operate a low risk position regarding the use of funds for distribution.
Other		

Structure, Governance and Management

Description of charity's trusts:		
Type of governing document (trust deed, royal charter)	Para 1.25	Constitution
How is the charity constituted? (e.g unincorporated association, CIO)	Para 1.25	Charitable Incorporated organisation
Trustee selection methods including details of any constitutional provisions e.g. election to post or name of any person or body entitled to appoint one or more trustees	Para 1.25	Appointed by existing trustees.

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees	Para 1.51	Recommendations for attendance of relevant webinars delivered by the Charity Commission.
The charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works	Para 1.51	Family Homes Movement in Freetown is our local partner in Sierra Leone.
Relationship with any related parties	Para 1.51	
Other		

Reference and Administrative details

Charity name	Sierra Foundation for Life Skills
Other name the charity uses	SFFLS
Registered charity number	1157293
Charity's principal address	37, Fairview Drive, Bayston Hill Shrewsbury SY3 0LD

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Verity Lowe	Chair		
2	Sarah Wolton	Secretary		
3	Sandra Lloyd	Treasurer		
4	Caroline Monro	Trustee		
5	Rev Clive Devonish	Trustee		
6	Jeremy Nuttall	Trustee		
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Corporate trustees – names of the directors at the date the report was approved

[illegible]

Name of trustees holding title to property belonging to the charity

[illegible]

Funds held as custodian trustees on behalf of others

Description of the assets held in this capacity	None
Name and objects of the charity on whose behalf the assets are held and how this falls within the custodian charity's objects	
Details of arrangements for safe custody and segregation of such assets from the charity's own assets	

Additional information (optional)

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address

Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

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Exemptions from disclosure

Reason for non-disclosure of key personnel details

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Other optional information

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Declarations

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)	Verity Lowe	
Full name(s)	Verity Janet Lowe	
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Chair	
Date	29.03.25	

**SIERRA FOUNDATION FOR LIFE SKILLS
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNTS
FOR THE PERIOD 27/7/2023 - 26/7/2024**

RECEIPTS	2024		2023	
	Restricted	Unrestricted	Restricted	Unrestricted
DONATIONS		16032.51		12761.00
DONATION TOWARDS FLIGHTS		0		1000.00
FUNDRAISING		4597.58		2925.40
GIFT AID		5414.42		1329.11
PCC		423.00		275.73
STEWARDSHIP		350.00		0
TOTAL RECEIPTS		26817.51		18291.24
PAYMENTS				
FUNDRAISING COSTS		40.00		0
SIERRA LEONE PROJECT COSTS		14935.00		19637.99
INSURANCE		549.88		538.16
PRINTING & POSTAGE		36.17		49.49
FLIGHTS & TRAVEL COSTS		3030.00		3569.73
ACCOUNTANTS FEES		300.00		300.00
WEBSITE / I.T		533.99		497.99
BANK CHARGES & FEES		40.00		83.00
OTHER		0		50.00
TOTAL PAYMENTS		19465.04		24726.36
NET INCOMING/ (OUTGOING) RESOURCES FOR THE YEAR		7352.47		(6435.12)

SIERRA FOUNDATION FOR LIFE SKILLS
STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES
FOR THE PERIOD 27/7/2023 - 26/7/2024

	2024	2023
CASH FUNDS		
BANK CURRENT ACCOUNT	9961.33	2608.86
TOTAL CASH FUNDS	9961.33	2608.86
FUNDS		
OPENING BALANCE	2608.86	9043.98
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR	7352.47	(6435.12)
TOTAL FUNDS CLOSING BALANCE	9961.33	2608.86

I have audited the books and financial statements of the Sierra Foundation for Life Skills for the 12 month period ended 26/7/2024. In my view the above accounts are a true and fair record of the Foundations financial affairs during that period.

Signed R. Harper, Auditor

Date 20th February 2025

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