

Let's Celebrate Our Diverse Heritage

Join Us as We Spotlight & Explore Our Countries of Origin



The [Diversity Equality and Inclusion \(DEI\) committee](#) is honored to learn about and explore some of the various cultures of Goodwin Living. With your participation, we've taken brief, yet compelling looks into Ethiopia, the Land of 13 Months of Sunshine and Ghana, the Land of Gold. Many team members proudly call these beautiful countries home. We hope these spotlights have helped the entire Goodwin Living family feel closer to them and with each other.

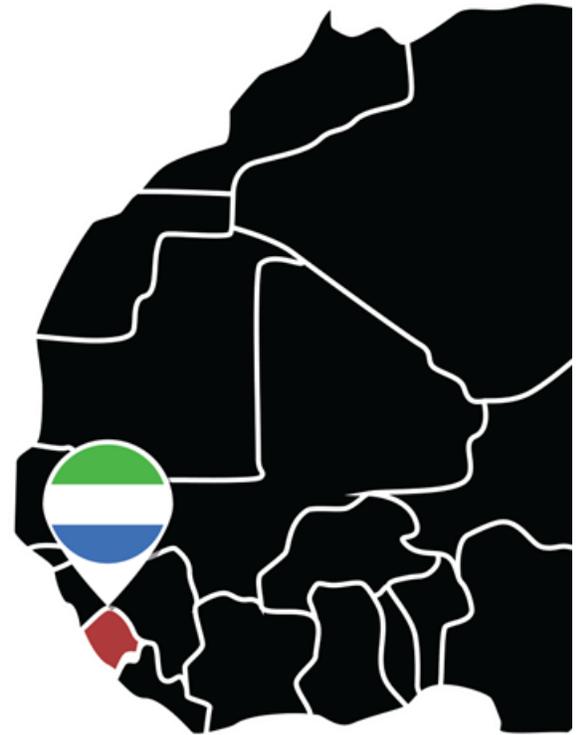
Though we are on our final scheduled spotlight, we think all of you will appreciate this one as much as the others. For this spotlight, journey into West Africa to learn more about the [Republic of Sierra Leone](#).



Intro to Sierra Leone

Sierra Leone is a tropical, constitutional republic in West Africa known by many names. Before gaining independence in 1961, this coastal country was first named Sera Lyoa [Lion Mountain] after the Portuguese explorer who first mapped its capital, Freetown. This capital, and the land and borders we now know as Sierra Leone were founded in the 18th century as a refuge for freed slaves. Today, many people of Sierra Leone commonly refer to their home country as 'Salone'.

The modern flag, adopted in 1961, includes three horizontal stripes. **The Green stripe** represents the agricultural resources of Sierra Leone. **The White stripe** represents a universal aspiration for peace on earth. **The Blue stripe** is an homage to the naturally forming harbor at Freetown.



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Sierra Leone & Goodwin Living

We surveyed **164** Goodwin Living team members, residents and members about Sierra Leone.

How familiar is Goodwin Living with Sierra Leone?

63% not at all familiar

27% somewhat familiar

8% very familiar

11% of the respondents have lived in or visited Sierra Leone

10% of the respondents have lived in Sierra Leone

8% of the respondents recognize Sierra Leone as their country of origin

100% of them still have family in Sierra Leone

46% of them speak a language or dialect other than Krio

54% came to Goodwin Living because they were referred by friends or family. Amazing!

9 Quick Facts About Sierra Leone | Scratching the Surface

Population: 8,328,070

Primary Language(s): Though the “official language” of Sierra Leone is **English**, more than 90% of the people speak **Krio** as well.

Currency: **Leone**

Religion: Nearly 80% of the population is **Muslim**, and nearly 20% is **Christian**.

Blood Diamonds: Rich in various mineral that fuel the mining economy, Sierra Leone is especially world renown for its **mass export of Blood Diamonds**.

Holidays: **Eid Al-Adha** and other Muslim and Christian holidays. Sierra Leonean **Independence Day** is on April 27.

National Animal: **Chimpanzee**

Extra fun facts: Sierra Leone is home to the 100-acre Tacugama Chimpanzee Sanctuary. Also, a giant “Ghana Snail” routinely roams the country’s coast.

Ancient Cotton Tree: A centuries-old, giant cotton tree resides in Freetown. It is believed to be the **world’s oldest tree**, and the north star for the first ex-slaves that settled in Sierra Leone in 1792.

Cuisine: Most of the calories in many Sierra Leonean meals come from **rice**. Many locals also use like to use **cassava root**, palm tree oil and groundnuts in their dishes.



The Talent of Sierra Leone

It's great to know about landmarks and cuisine, but the people of Sierra Leone are where the magic really comes from. We'd like to dive deeper into Sierra Leonean culture and history, though we could never do all of it justice in our humble spotlights.

All the same, here are just a couple legendary examples of the amazing talent home to Sierra Leone!



The Arts

S.E. Rogie | 1926—1994

Born Sooliman Rogers, S.E. Rogie was an electrifying singer and palm wine guitarist (dancehall, reggae, R&B, etc.) who performed in four different languages.

He and his band "The Morningstars" have world renown hits, including "Go Easy with Me" and "My Lovely Elizabeth".

Photo Credit: Weeklytales.com



Advocacy

Dr. Aisha Fofana Ibrahim

Dr. Ibrahim is one of Sierra Leone's foremost activists, feminist scholars and researchers.

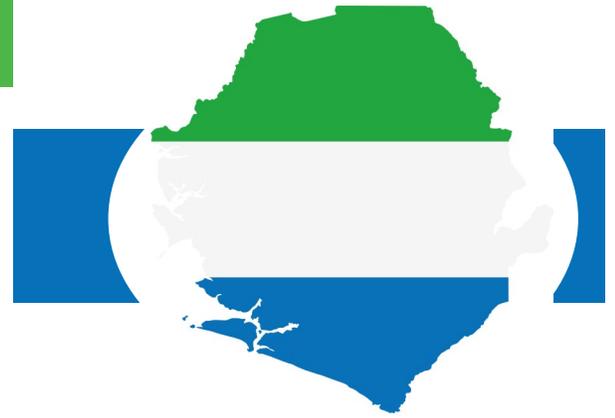
She was the Ebola and Constitutional Review Commission President and a member of 50/50 Group of Sierra Leone, a prominent organization in Sierra Leone that advocates for the health equity, equal rights, gender equality and representation.

Photo Credit: ResearchGate.Net

Sierra Leonean Team Member Spotlight

Each Country of Origin Spotlight survey invited team members from GHA, GHBC, GLAH and HCBS to be featured in the spotlight.

This month, say Kushe (koo-sheh) [the krio “hello”] to Amadu and Hamed!



Amadu Kamara

Department: GHA Environmental Services / Facilities Management | **Joined Goodwin Living in 2004**

What should Goodwin Living know about Sierra Leone?

They are very friendly to strangers, with beautiful natural beaches. We are welcoming to everyone.

What do you want your family to know about the U.S.?

It's very generous and diverse. There's a lot of opportunity, but you have to work hard to get the American dream.

What Sierra Leonean languages do you speak?

Themne and Krio.

What is your favorite Sierra Leonean food?

Cassava Leaves and Rice.



Hamed Manseray

Department: GHBC Environmental Services / Facilities Management | **Joined Goodwin Living in 2018**

What should Goodwin Living know about Sierra Leone?

The people are lovely. It's truly a great country!

What do you want your family to know about the U.S.?

I feel very welcome in the United States.

What Sierra Leonean languages do you speak?

Madigo and Krio.

What is your favorite Sierra Leonean food?

Foo Foo and Ogusi Soup, Casava Leaves and Fried Fish.



Sierra Leone | The Last Spotlight?

You Decide!

We can't say enough how grateful we are to have the opportunity to spotlight the home countries of our fellow team members. Though, we've only scratched the surface of the diversity at Goodwin Living, [DEI only planned to conduct three spotlights](#) to see how well they would be received.

Trust that we noticed a pattern in these spotlights: all of them feature African countries! It just so happens that Ghana, Ethiopia and Sierra Leone are where most of our team members identified as their home. Should the spotlights continue, we'll be sure to cover more of the globe. After all, Goodwin Living is full of team members that represent more than 60 different countries!

If you want more spotlights to continue, send us your feedback at DEI@GoodwinLiving.org

Thanks again to everyone who participated in all the spotlights so far. You have played an instrumental role in the DEI mission: to educate, embrace and empower the entire Goodwin Living family!



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