

Go to Bo! Join a Helping Children Worldwide UMVIM Team and experience the ministries for yourself. Travel to Sierra Leone, West Africa, to meet and work with staff on the ground to bring help and hope to the children of Sierra Leone.

Why should I go?

Traveling with a mission team is an excellent opportunity to see how God's Kingdom is advancing in Sierra Leone, and to use your gifts to be a part of it. Our hope is that missionaries come with a desire to learn more about our programs and to assist where they are able and that they leave as advocates for children, families, and communities in Sierra Leone.

What kinds of projects will the team do?

Projects are assigned based on the gifts and interests of the individual missionaries as well as the needs of the programs. Previous HCW UMVIM teams have worked on projects at Mercy Hospital and the Child Reintegration Center regarding medical missions, social work, staff training and development, IT and community empowerment initiatives. Teams also typically attend a Sierra Leonean church service, visit families in the program, and participate in a medical outreach event.

What is Sierra Leone like?

Sierra Leone is a very poor country, but it is also a beautiful place with friendly, gracious people. The cities and villages are a sensory overload of sights, sounds, and smells. The weather is warm year-round, with an average temperature of 86 degrees. Many people speak English in addition to 23 other local languages.

Is it safe? Do I need shots?

Safety is our first priority. Your team will be led by trained team leaders who have been to Sierra Leone before and will guide you with confidence and knowledge. During travel, stay with the group and follow the directions of your team leader. The program and accommodation sites employ security guards for the safety of the staff, children, and visitors. Additional information regarding precautions and required immunizations will be provided at the UMVIM Team training meetings prior to your departure.

Where do I stay while I am there?

While in Freetown, teams stay at a hotel that is clean and safe. While in Bo, teams stay at the Missionary Training Centre (MTC), a hostel-style facility located on the UMC Campus with Mercy Hospital and the CRC. The MTC is hosted by Sierra Leonean staff. There is filtered water, dorm-style bedrooms, and shared bathrooms. The food prepared by the MTC staff is fresh and delicious.

How much does it cost?

To go on a UMVIM Team, team members are required to raise a minimum of \$3,500* for Helping Children Worldwide. Once your fundraising goal is reached, HCW will cover the cost of all expenses including airfare (the bulk of the cost), Visa, insurance (covering injury, evacuation, trip interruption), transportation in-country, meals, and lodging. Pre-travel immunizations, personal prescriptions, personal equipment, in-country souvenirs, and personal spending en route are not covered. The Helping Children Worldwide staff and your team leaders will provide you with resources to help you fundraise, including sample templates, creative fundraising ideas, social media strategies, and support. All contributions to HCW are tax-deductible. More information on how to raise the minimum amount will be provided at the UMVIM Team meetings.

How do I sign up?

Contact the Missions Project Specialist Yasmine Vaughan at mission@helpingchildrenworldwide.org or visit our website, www.helpingchildrenworldwide.org/mission-trips for a link to the application. Helping Children Worldwide staff will contact you once your application is received and notify you when team training begins.

How do I learn more?

Contact Yasmine Vaughan at mission@helpingchildrenworldwide.org for more information on team schedules, requirements, deadlines, and how you can partner with us to transform lives in Sierra Leone.

*Missioners not originating from the Washington, DC area may have additional expenses. Please contact us for details.