

Field Volunteer: Action Research with ASF-UK, SLURC & DPU in Freetown, Sierra Leone

Project Title: The Role of Action Area Plans for Inclusive City-Making in Freetown

Position: 1 Field Volunteer,
Partners: The Bartlett Development Planning Unit (DPU), UCL
Sierra Leone Urban Research Centre (SLURC)
Contact: ASF-UK Project Coordinator
Dates: 20th of January 2018 - 20th of September 2018
Location: Freetown, Sierra Leone

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF FIELD VOLUNTEER

- Work closely with ASF-UK's designated Project Coordinator, the Sierra Leone Urban Research Centre (SLURC), the Bartlett Development Planning Unit (DPU) and local community-based organisations on all stages of the project including preparation, delivery, documentation and follow-up.
- Drawing on ASF-UK's Change by Design methodology, support the SLURC team in planning and implementing a series of design-based participatory activities (workshops, interviews, focus groups, transect walks etc.) to reveal the diversity of experiences, needs and aspirations of each settlement.
- Support the SLURC team in analysing and consolidating the information generated with the aim of developing 'options for interventions' at local and/or city scale, as well as localised action plans for each settlement.
- Present back findings and 'options for interventions' in dissemination events to neighbourhood representative committee, key urban stakeholders and groups involved.
- Develop a final area action plan for each settlement, and reports of strategic meetings in order to contribute to the final research outputs. Help in processing information and lead the editing and graphic design of final neighbourhood plans.
- Contribute to the dissemination of findings, within each settlement and at a final event.

ABOUT THE PROJECT

This 8-month action-research project led by SLURC and the Bartlett DPU aims to assess the role that 'action area planning' can have in inclusive city-making. ASF-UK's contribution to the research follows on from a previous ASF-UK consultation with SLURC in 2017, and continues to draw on the ASF-UK Change by Design methodology, which approaches participatory planning and design processes in ways that interrogates issues of power relations, social diversity, scale and spatial production. ASF-UK methodology focuses particularly on informal settlement upgrading, drawing on experiences from Brazil, Kenya and Ecuador (for more information on ASF-UK Change by Design methodology and its pedagogical approach, see references in the end of this document).

In the context of Sierra Leone, the methodology will be employed in the context of an action-research process analysing the development of neighbourhood plans for informal settlements in Freetown. The aim of the research project is to assess the role of 'action area planning' in inclusive city-making, by analysing the context within which action-planning takes place, the action-planning process itself, and its potential impact. Through a direct engagement with the process of action area planning, the research will examine the mechanisms to develop action area plans through a participatory process,

actively and ethically involving local residents and community groups as well as in built environment professionals and policy makers. Within this framework, the role of ASF-UK consists in supporting SLURC in the design and implementation of participatory activities in 2 informal settlements in Freetown.

PERSONAL SPECIFICATIONS

Essentials

- Hold a Masters level degree in a relevant subject area (e.g. Architecture, Urban Design, Urban Planning, other built environment disciplines).
- Previous experience of working internationally with low income communities and in informal settlements.
- Previous experience of working in the context of participation, civic engagement, and co-production in architecture/planning.
- Excellent visual design skills and experience in producing graphically engaging reports and material using a range of softwares.
- Excellent communication skills, both written and verbal to explain/present complex information to a range of audiences both in print and in person.
- Effective interpersonal skills to support team working.
- Excellent organisation and time management skills to prioritise own workload and work accurately to tight deadlines.

Desirables

- Previous experience of ASF-UK Change by Design methodology in practice, training, or research.
- Previous experience and demonstrable skills in participatory action research and analysis.
- Previous experience of working in neighbourhood planning processes.
- Demonstrable skills in designing and implementing participatory tools through mapping, drawing and model making.

EXPENSES

This is a volunteer role due to last 8 months. SLURC will cover the expenses below (within a total budget of £7000) :

Travel (1 return flight from country of residence to Freetown)

Accommodation in Freetown for the duration of the project

Visa (1 year multiple entry)

Travel Insurance

Local transport required for the project

Food allowance

To apply please submit an Expression of Interest (500 words maximum) and a CV with relevant work examples 3mb Maximum to changebydesign@asf-uk.org

Closing date for applications: Thursday 14th December 2017

Key Readings on ASF-UK methodology and pedagogical approach:

Frediani, A. A. (2016) "Re-imagining Participatory Design: Reflecting on the ASF-UK Change by Design Methodology". *Design Issues*, vol. 32, n. 3, pp. 98-111.

De Carli BA & Kinnear M (2015) Learning amidst urban practices: reflections on Architecture Sans Frontières. *Charrette*, 2(1), 46-46.

Frediani, A. A., De Carli, B., Nuñez-Ferrera, I. and Shinkins, N. (2014) *Change by Design: New Spatial Imaginations for Los Pinos*. London: Architecture Sans Frontières-UK.

Frediani, A. A., French, M. and Nunez-Ferrera, I. (2012) *Change by Design: Building Communities through Participatory Design*. New Zealand: Urban Culture Press.