

= Sierra Leone at the 2004 Summer Olympics =

Sierra Leone competed at the 2004 Summer Olympics in Athens , Greece , from 13 to 29 August 2004 . This was the nation 's eighth appearance at the Summer Olympics since its debut in the 1968 Summer Olympics . The Sierra Leone delegation included two track and field athletes ; Lamin Tucker and Hawanatu Bangura , both of whom were sprinters that were selected via winning an event in Freetown , as the nation had no athletes that met the " A " or " B " standards in any event . Bangura was selected as flag bearer for the opening ceremony . Neither of the two athletes progressed beyond the heats .

= = Background = =

Sierra Leone participated in eight Summer Olympic games between its debut in the 1968 Summer Olympics in Mexico City , Mexico and the 2004 Summer Olympics in Athens , with the exception of the 1972 Summer Olympics in Munich , and the 1976 Summer Olympics in Montreal , the latter because of a boycott relating to the New Zealand national rugby union team touring South Africa .

The Sierra Leone National Olympic Committee ( NOC ) selected two athletes via wildcards . Usually , an NOC would be able to enter up to 3 qualified athletes in each individual event as long as each athlete met the " A " standard , or 1 athlete per event if they met the " B " standard . However , since Sierra Leone had no athletes that met either standard , they were allowed to select two athletes , one of each gender , as wildcards . The Sierra Leone NOC decided to host an event in Freetown , where the fastest man and woman in the event would be selected to compete at the Athens Games . The two athletes that won and therefore were selected to compete in the Athens games were Lamin Tucker and Hawanatu Bangura . They competed in the track and field Men 's 100 meters and in the Women 's 100 meters respectively . Bangura was flag bearer for the opening ceremony .

= = Athletics = =

Making his Summer Olympic debut , Lamin Tucker qualified for the Athens Games via winning an event in Freetown . He competed on 21 August in the Men 's 100 meters against eight other athletes in the seventh heat . He finished the race in 10 @.@ 72 seconds , ranking sixth . He ranked ahead of American Samoa 's Kelsey Nakanelua ( 11 @.@ 25 seconds ) and behind Canada 's Pierre Browne ( 10 @.@ 32 seconds ) , in a heat led by Jamaica 's Asafa Powell ( 10 @.@ 06 seconds ) . Overall , Tucker placed 61st out of the 84 athletes that competed and was 0 @.@ 38 seconds slower than the slowest athlete that progressed to the next round . Therefore , that was the end of his competition .

Competing at her first Summer Olympics , Hawanatu Bangura was notable for holding the Sierra Leone flag at the opening ceremony and for becoming the youngest ever competitor to represent Sierra Leone at the Olympics aged 16 , a record that still stands today . She qualified for the Athens Games via winning an event in Freetown . She competed on 20 August in 100 meters in the seventh heat against seven other athletes . She ran a time of 12 @.@ 11 seconds , finishing seventh . Bangura ranked ahead of Iraq 's Alaa Jassim ( 12 @.@ 70 seconds ) and behind Papua New Guinea 's Mae Koime ( 12 @.@ 00 seconds ) , in a heat led by France 's Christine Arron and Ghana 's Vida Anim ( 11 @.@ 14 seconds ) . Overall , Bangura was 0 @.@ 68 seconds behind the slowest athlete that progressed to the quarter @-@ finals and therefore she did not advance .

Key

Note ? Ranks given for track events are within the athlete 's heat only