



PRESS RELEASE

Ref No UNAMSIL/PIO/PR/204/2004

Date: 03 December 2004

UN VOLUNTEERS IN SIERRA LEONE OBSERVE INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTEERS DAY

Freetown, Sierra Leone – On Sunday 5 December, United Nations Volunteers (UNVs) in Sierra Leone will join with colleagues around the world to mark International Volunteer Day (IVD).

It will be the culmination of five days of activities during which they have renovated a Nursery School in the northern provincial town of Makeni, a polio victims camp in the eastern provincial headquarters of Kenema and the marking of zebra crossings in the southern provincial headquarters on Bo.

On Saturday 4 December, the Volunteers will partially refurbish the Approved School at Wellington in the east of Freetown by painting a dormitory and installing a soap-making workshop.

On the Day itself, there will be drawing, essay and debate competitions at Fourah Bay College, University of Sierra Leone in Freetown. The drawing will have special prizes for children's art, while the topic for debate will be "How Volunteerism can reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases". Participants are expected to come from all regions of the country.

Since the Day was proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly in 1985, the UNV programme and its partners in civil society have used it to draw global attention to the work of volunteers worldwide.

According to the UNVs in Sierra Leone, it is hoped that this year's observance will have durable impact on children and youths of school-going age throughout the country.

MEDIA CONTACT: Kemal SAIKI, Chief Public Information, Spokesman

☎ +232-22-295-583 ☎ Mobile +232-076-692-801 Email: saiki@un.org

MEDIA CONTACT: Sharon McPHERSON, Head Media Relations Unit

☎ +232-22-295-136 ☎ Mobile +232-076-757-802 Email: mcpherson1@un.org