



PRESS RELEASE

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CIVPOL OFFICERS RECEIVE HIV/AIDS PEER TRAINING

Freetown, Sierra Leone – More than 30 civilian police (CIVPOL) of the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL) on Friday ended a two-day HIV/AIDS exercise for peer trainers at the Mission's Mammy Yoko Headquarters in Freetown. The event was a joint undertaking by UNAMSIL, UN Population Fund (UNFPA), UN Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), UNAIDS and the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO).

Under a theme, "HIV/AIDS prevention, gender awareness and human rights security among UNAMSIL Peacekeepers in post-conflict Sierra Leone", topics discussed included epidemiology of HIV; prevention methods and strategies; voluntary counselling and testing; UN testing policies; and gender and human rights issues. Participants also received instruction on peer education skills and communications techniques.

Closing the workshop, CIVPOL Commissioner, Hudson Benzu, encouraged the officers to carry the UN flag with dignity by demonstrating proper conduct and attitudes. Meanwhile, UNAMSIL HIV/AIDS adviser, Hirut Befecadu, urged that they should now ensure that the message was transmitted to people with whom they would rub shoulders.

At the end of the workshop, participants were required to develop and present a work plan.
