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(UNAMSIL)

**PRESS RELEASE**

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**DEPUTY SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE TOURS RESETTLEMENT CAMPS  
IN THE EASTERN REGION**

*Freetown* – The Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Governance and Stabilization in Sierra Leone, Mr. Alan Doss, yesterday went on an inspection tour of camps for refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) in the eastern towns of Kenema, Buedu, Kailahun and Daru.

Upon arrival at the Lebanese Camp in Kenema, a transit point for IDP repatriation, Mr. Doss, who was accompanied by representatives from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), the International Organization for Migration and the National Commission for Social Action, was briefed on procedures for processing IDPs before they are transported to their places of origin.

According to Mr. Odd Einar Olsen, OCHA Regional Coordinator for the Eastern Region, the camp processes an average of about 500 to 600 IDPs per day, most of whom are destined for Daru in Kailahun District. The UN Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL) is providing 25 trucks to move the IDPs. The Lebanese Camp, which has a capacity of about 16,000 people, currently hosts an estimated 12,000 IDPs.

From Kenema, Mr. Doss, who is also the UN Development Programme (UNDP) Resident Representative, flew to the town of Buedu in Kailahun District, a few kilometers from the border with Liberia, to witness the spontaneous return of Sierra Leoneans and the influx of Liberian refugees. During a briefing by Pakistani peacekeepers deployed in the area, the Deputy Special Representative learned that there was a steady stream of returnees from Guinea and Liberian refugees in the town who are fleeing fighting in their country. Most of the refugees are settling in Kissi Tongi Chiefdom, with whom they share the same culture, tradition and language.

Later, the Deputy Special Representative visited the town of Kailahun where staff from UNHCR and non-governmental organizations briefed him on their preparations to resettle IDPs and returnees from Guinea and Liberia. In Daru, Mr. Doss observed the arrival of IDPs at the local food distribution centre from Kenema's Lebanese Camp.

THE CHIEF OF UNAMSIL'S CIVIL AFFAIRS SECTION, MR. ISHMAEL DIAHO, and other senior UNAMSIL officials accompanied Mr. Doss during his tour.