



UNITED NATIONS

NATIONS UNIES

UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SIERRA LEONE  
(UNAMSIL)

PRESS RELEASE

22 April 2002

**UN DISARMAMENT ASSESSMENT MISSION VISITS**  
**MOYAMBA DISTRICT**

*Freetown* - A United Nations assessment team currently visiting Sierra Leone to evaluate the effectiveness of the recently completed disarmament and demobilization programme yesterday traveled to the southern town of Moyamba.

The team led by Lt. Gen. Mansfeld Eisele, a former Assistant Secretary-General in the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations, was briefed by Maj. Pavlo Razumnyi, deputy team leader of the UN Military Observers in Moyamba District.

According Maj. Razumnyi, a total number of 3,772 combatants, including 314 children registered for the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme from 18 April to 10 November 2001 in the formerly Civil Defense Force (CDF)-controlled district of Moyamba. These figures, far beyond those initially disclosed, appeared as “a confirmation of the CDF level of confidence and commitment to the DDR programme,” said Maj. Razumnyi.

This unexpected turnout at DDR centres, said Maj. Razumnyi, resulted in “delays” in the disarmament and demobilization process in the district. Moreover, the change of guidelines during the course of the disarmament, particularly the introduction of group disarmament, delayed implementation of the programme. Problems of accessibility to certain areas due to the rainy season were also a major constraint.

The team also visited the Moyamba Training Center where about one 100 ex-combatants are receiving training in various technical skills. The ex-combatants expressed their “disappointment” about delays in the payment of their benefits. Lt. Gen. Eisele explained that minor hiccups would not prevent their payments and emphasized that “their newly acquired skills will never be taken away from them.”

Other members of the team, whose assignment was mandated by the UN Security Council, include Maj. Gen. Henry Anyidoho, a representative of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and a former Deputy Force Commander in Rwanda, Dr. Leonard Kapungu, an independent expert, Mr. Nazir Kamal from the Department of Disarmament Affairs, and Mr. Andreas Sugar from the Department of Peacekeeping Operations. Mr. Kristian Egge from the Permanent Mission of Norway to the UN is also accompanying the assessment team as an observer. The team, which will be in Sierra Leone until 28 April, is currently visiting Guinea and Liberia as part of its mission.

