

IYV 2001 ACCOMPLISHMENTS
THE GAMBIA

LAUNCH OF IYV 2001 PROGRAMME.

The IYV 2001 programme was launched in December 2000 by Her Excellency Aji Isatou Njie Saidy , who acknowledged that there was an emerging demand for increased volunteer efforts at the national level in response to issues of poverty, environmental degradation, and the rapid growth of HIV \ AIDS infection which have impacted on our domestic economy and the lives of our people. She took the initiative to challenge civil society and private sector to seize the opportunity in volunteerism to contribute and participate in the development of the Gambia.

The UN Resident Co-ordinator challenged the bilateral and multilateral national agencies operating in the Gambia to review the involvement of volunteers in there upstream and downstream activities during the year and consider what special activity the agency might undertake during the year to mark the year in ways designed to enhance the involvement of volunteers.

PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION OF IVY 2001 CALENDAR.

1000 calendars were produced and distributed to our partners and the general public. The calendar carried pictures and actions of IV Day 2000 celebrations and the work of Volunteer Sending Agencies in the Gambia and Gambian UN volunteers serving abroad.

NEWSPAPER COLUMN ON VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES IN LOCAL PRESS.

Several articles on voluntary activities by volunteers have made headlines in the observer and other local newspapers. the editorial of the main news paper The Observer focused on Volunteerism on IV DAY on 5th December 2001. We will continue to ensure that voluntary activities are future in the press regularly.

NEWSLETTER IYV 2001 EDITION.

The first volume of the newsletter was scheduled to be published by December, 2001,The final draft is in progress and will hopefully be in circulation by the end of February. It is hoped that this will continue on a quarterly basis with the support of the national community and all volunteer sending agencies.

HARVESTING 450 UNITS OF BLOOD.

The blood donation campaign has been the most successful programme in the National Committees activities. The active involvement of key partners such as National Blood Transfusion Service, Gambia Red Cross Society, President Awards Scheme and the United Nations Volunteer Programme has resulted in raising 450 units of blood.

The RVH , Bansang , and Farrafenneh hospitals have also been key partners in the campaign counseling sessions held prior to blood donation exercise. Bansang hospital programme schedule to commence in the third quarter did not take off the ground due to logistic difficulties which prevented the implementation.

POSTER AND POEM COMPETITION;

A Senior Secondary Schools Poster and Poem Competition was conducted and Miss Aurelia Prom and Mosses Manserray both of Methodist Academy and Bamba Khan of Nusurat Senior Secondary were awarded prizes as winners of the competition. APSO, VSO, Challarams, Discovery Tours and Bungalow Beach Hotel donated the prizes.

PRODUCTION OF 2 SONGS ON VOLUNTEERISM

Two songs were produced on Volunteerism entitled "Its our time" and "Join hands together". Both songs were included in the world album of songs on volunteerism produced by UNV headquarters..

RADIO AND T.V PROGRAMMES.

As part of the committees awareness programme a T.V. programme was aired on World Aids Day, talking about the work of the committee in this area highlighting both constraints and progress made. Since it was a live programme a number of people called to congratulate the committee and members of the panel for their efforts. The panel comprised of Roseclaire Charles UNV, Alhaji Colley NACP, Mam Buba Jallow Red Cross , Pa Jaye NBTS and the programme co-ordinator Ida Jobe of GRTS. Another radio programme was held on 5th December 2001 in commemoration of IV Day 2001 celebration. The two hour programme was a live phone in broadcast on City Limit Radio and the topic was on " Voluntary work" attended by representatives from Red Cross Mam Bubba Jallow, Mr. Njie BAFRO Youth Group , Sainabou Jallow Peace Corps , Solade Nickol Presidents Awards Scheme, Sheikh Tejan Nyang IYV 2001 National Coordinator and Mr Cham General Manager City Limited Radio.

VOLUNTEERISM SYMPOSIUM

The National Committee organized a National Symposium on December 5th 2001, which brought together all volunteer organizations in the country, who made a display of the work done by volunteers across the country during the year. The Vice President and UN Resident Coordinator made presentations. The National Committee also took the opportunity to make the presentations to the winners of the Poster and Poem Competition.

IYV 2001 Programme Coordinator
Banjul