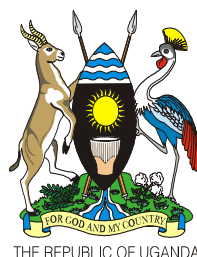


# JOINT COMMEMORATIONS OF INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTEER DAY (IVD) & INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS DAY 2007 IN UGANDA

## Concept Note



Dignity and justice for all of us

## Background

**International Volunteer Day (IVD)** is commemorated annually on **05 December**, a day that was set aside by the UN General Assembly in the year 1985 to celebrate and recognise the deeds of volunteers and volunteerism the world over. It brings together volunteer-involving organizations, UN Agencies, bilateral donors, governments, corporate and the private sector, non-profit making organisations, community groups, individual volunteers and well wishers to embrace the spirit of giving back to the underprivileged and society as a whole. Volunteer programmes promote volunteerism for development in various forms through self-help, philanthropy and service, advocacy and campaigning to support humanitarian and development initiatives in-line with pursuit of Millennium Development Goals achievement.

IVD provides the best opportunity to showcase the contributions of volunteers to society. It is the chance to recognize voluntary action by organizations and individual volunteers. It is the time to consolidate networks of volunteers and corporate organizations to promote humanitarian works and to complete worthwhile projects for the common benefit of the underprivileged.

IVD brings together several interest organizations in celebration to give to the people by participating in a range of activities that contribute to economic and social development at national and community level. The theme for IVD 2007 commemorations is "**Volunteer today for a better tomorrow**" that is guided by the joint activities organised by Office of High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) at Karamoja.

And as Kofi Annan, former UN Secretary General put it, "**International Volunteer Day is an opportunity to remind all who seek selflessly to improve our world that their contributions are recognized**".

**International Human Rights Day** is celebrated annually across the world on **10 December** in honour of the United Nations General Assembly's adoption and proclamation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the first global enunciation of human rights on 10 December 1948. The commemoration of the day was started in 1950, when the UN General Assembly invited all states and interested organizations to celebrate the day as they saw fit.

This day is traditionally marked by high-level political conferences, meetings and cultural events and exhibitions on topical human rights issues and brings together Government departments and Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs) human rights activists.

## Planned activities

OHCHR, UNV, VSO, JOCV/JICA, community members and other interested parties have joined hands in commemoration of the International Volunteer Day (IVD) and International Human Rights Day 2007. Series of events to mark the IVD shall kick-off at Kampala City from 01 to 05 December 2007 and culminate in North-eastern Uganda, Karamoja region, Moroto District where the HR Day shall be observed from 06 to 08 December 2007, largely organised by OHCHR Karamoja. All the activities shall be geared towards advocating and creating awareness on volunteerism and call for observance of human rights.

The activities at Kampala level will be done jointly by UNV, VSO & JOCV/JICA including volunteers from other organisations as well as individual ones that will include:

- Holding of Radio Talk Shows;
- Engage in Television Shows;
- Post a Newspaper Supplement;
- Undertaking of a procession in Kampala City, and;
- Hold a Press Conference

Thereafter, UNV volunteers will join others in Moroto District and participate in two-day events from 07 to 08 December 2007 where the specific activities shall include (but not limited to):

- Holding of Radio talk shows for listeners in the region;
- Undertaking of a procession Moroto town;
- Participating in sporting activities;
- Cultural performances;
- Exhibitions for information and promotional materials;
- Memorial tree-planting session;
- Cleaning, painting and decorating Children's Ward at Moroto District Hospital, and;
- Any other relevant and tangible activity.

## Themes of the day

05 December

**INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTEER DAY**  
"Volunteer Today for a Better Tomorrow"

10 December

**INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS DAY**  
"Dignity and Justice for all of us"

## Participation

Every government, organization, association or company has facets of volunteerism ingrained in its culture and traditions as well as upholding of human rights in the society. It is a tremendous way for people to participate and make a difference. That is why many organizations are actively engaged in corporate social responsibility activities and building volunteer infrastructures as well as establishing the appropriate frameworks to support volunteerism. The power of volunteering for development is in giving back to the communities.

It is our humble request to invite you to participate in the IVD 2007 Celebrations and to contribute generously towards the success of the planned events in Karamoja. Your participation in this event offers you the opportunity to leave your mark and also promote your organizational goals and ideals through community participation.

The proposed detailed activities and budget is attached for your perusal and earmarking of the areas you can support.