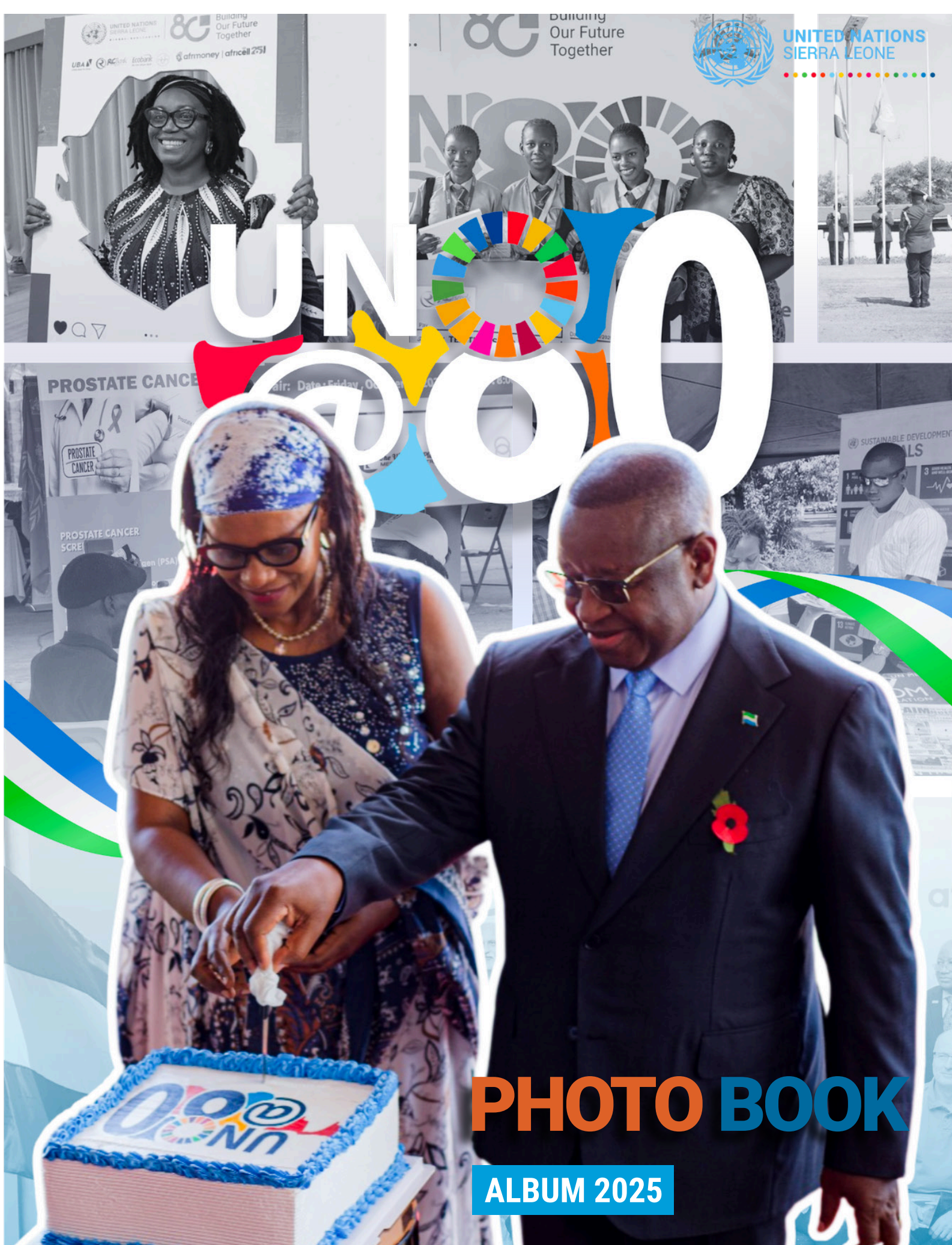






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UN@80 PRESS CONFERENCE

17 October 2025

The UN Country Team hosted a UN@80 press briefing to highlight the UNSDCF 2025–2030, jointly signed with the Government of Sierra Leone. The event emphasised collaboration with bloggers, influencers, and the private sector to amplify the UN's work, promote civic engagement, and support national development priorities under the MTNDP 2024–2030. The UN thanks the Government of Sierra Leone, Ministry of Information and Civic Education, private sector partners, development partners, and digital media influencers for their continued support and collaboration.



UN Resident Coordinator, Ms. Seraphine Wakana, and WHO Country Representative, Dr. George Ameh, engage with a journalist during the UN@80 Press Briefing.



UNCT Heads of Agencies on the Panel at the UN@80 Press Briefing



Journalists Engage Heads of Agencies at the UN@80 Press Briefing



The UN@80 Initiative presentation projected during the briefing.





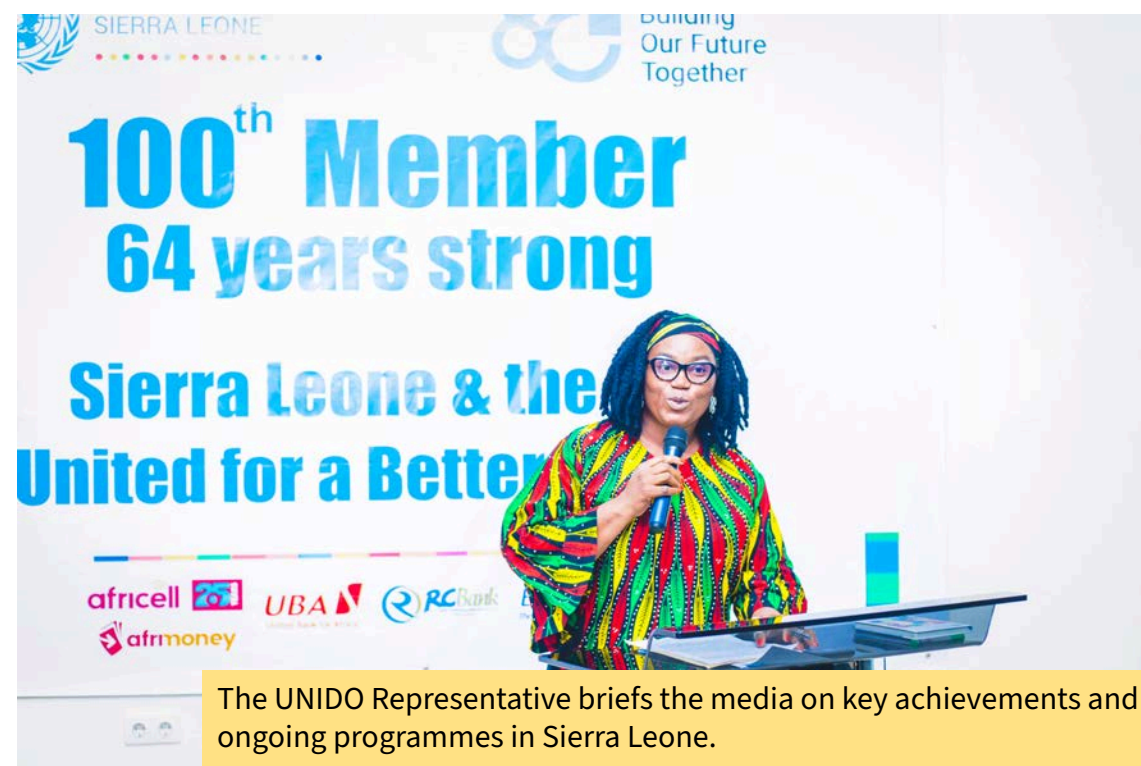
UNCG team and journalists taking photos and notes during the panel.



UN@80 anniversary banner on display at the press briefing.



UNIDO rep celebrates UN@80 with the anniversary frame.





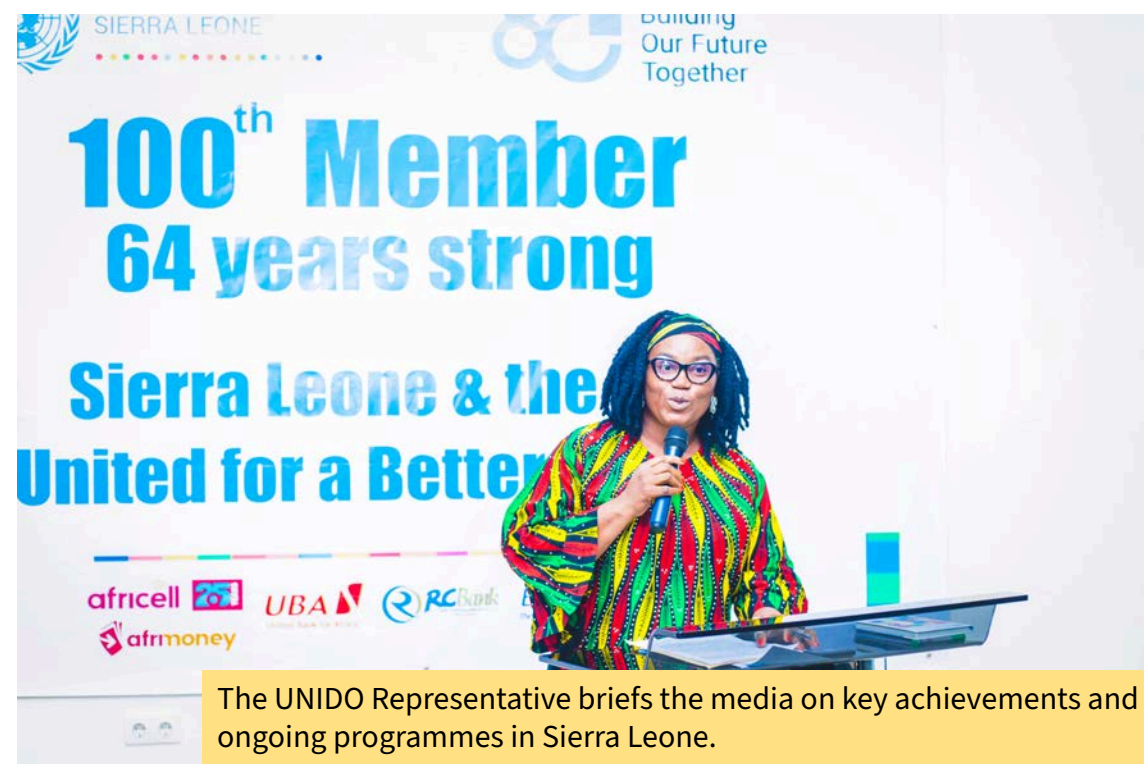
Africell partners celebrates UN@80 with the anniversary frame.



A candid group shot of Heads of Agencies enjoying a shared laugh.



The Resident Coordinator with CEOs and representatives from Rokel Bank, UBA, Africell, and Ecobank.





FLAG RAISING AND WREATH LAYING CEREMONY

24th October 2025



The UN@80 celebrations began with a Flag Raising and Wreath Laying Ceremony at the Julius Maada Bio Parade Grounds, honoring eight decades of the UN's commitment to peace and human dignity. President Julius Maada Bio led the ceremony, remembering UNAMSIL personnel and the 42 Sierra Leoneans who perished under the UN flag.

Wreaths were laid by key figures, including the President, First Lady Fatima Bio, and the UN Resident Coordinator, in heartfelt tribute to their sacrifice. The gathering, featuring Heads of UN Agencies, Government Ministers, Ambassadors, development partners, security officials, and youth groups, celebrated the crucial contributions of private sector partners like Africell, Ecobank, UBA, and Rokel Commercial Bank.

The event wrapped up with the raising of the UN and national flags and the cutting of an anniversary cake, embodying unity and a renewed commitment to a peaceful, prosperous Sierra Leone.

H.E Brig (Rtd.) Julius Maada Bio, President of the Republic of Sierra Leone and UN Resident Coordinator Sierra Leone Ms. Seraphine Wakana cutting the UN@80 cake.



RSLAF officers during the ceremony.



H.E President Bio conducting an inspection of the guard of honor.



UN Resident Coordinator receiving the wreath to lay on the stand.



China's Amb. Wang Qing, UN RC Ms. Seraphine Wakana on the left and President Bio and First Lady Fatima Bio on the right.



UN@80 Anniversary Cake



UN RC conducting her remarks and SG's speech at the UN@80 ceremony.



H.E Maada Bio laying the wreath on the stand.



First Lady Fatima Bio laying the wreath on the stand.



UNDP Res. Rep Frederick Ampiah greeting RSLAF Lieutenant General and SLP Inspector General.



China's Amb. Wang Qing handed over the wreath.



Inspector General, SLP William Fayia Sellu receiving the wreath.



H.E. President Bio conducting his keynote speech



Lieutenant General RSLAF Amara Idara Bangura placing wreath on stand.



Ms. Mariama Kanneh sings a rendition of 'I Look to You' by Whitney Houston.



H.E. President Bio stands in honor during the national flag raising and wreath laying ceremony.



Raising of the UN and SL flag.



High Commissioner of India to Sierra Leone
B.C Pradhan's arrival.



FAO Country Rep. Saeed A. Bancie's arrival.



UNDP Sierra Leone Resident Rep. Frederick
Ampiah's arrival.



Mayor of Freetown Yvonne Aki Sawyer's arrival.



JICA Resident Rep. of Sierra Leone Norihito
Yonebayashi's arrival.



UN Women Sierra Leone Head of Office Ms. Setcheme Mongbo's arrival.



UNICEF Sierra Leone Country Representative Mr. Rudolf Schwenk and WHO Sierra Leone Country Director Dr. George Ameh's arrival.



CEO Africell Sierra Leone Mr. Shadi Gerjawi arrival.



Minister of Internal Affairs Rtd. AIG Morie Lengor's arrival.



UNFPA Country Representative Mr. Kunle Adeniyi's arrival.

National Quiz and Debates Competition Finale 24th October 2025

The UN@80 Quiz & Debate Competition brought together secondary schools and universities for a full afternoon of learning, dialogue, and intellectual exchange. The programme opened with balloting and three timed quiz rounds, followed by the introduction of judges and a statement from the Chief Quiz Master. Universities then balloted for speaking positions, received debate rules, and proceeded into a dynamic debate round and plenary discussion led by the Speaker of the House.

This initiative reflects the United Nations' commitment to quality education, meaningful youth engagement, and inclusive participation, creating a platform where young people can demonstrate leadership, critical thinking, and civic awareness. The event concluded with the announcement of results and the presentation of awards to outstanding participants.

The UN Resident Coordinator's Office extends its appreciation to government partners, school administrators, universities, judges, and organisers whose support made this youth empowerment programme possible.





Finalists on stage: Milton Margai, St. Francis, Grammar School, QRC, Alberta Academy.



The MC keeps the audience engaged, guiding the quiz and debates with energy and clarity.



RC delivers a brief message commending students' hard work and achievement.



Milton Margai School for the Blind competes as a finalist in the quiz competition.



A finalist presents their argument during the debate round.



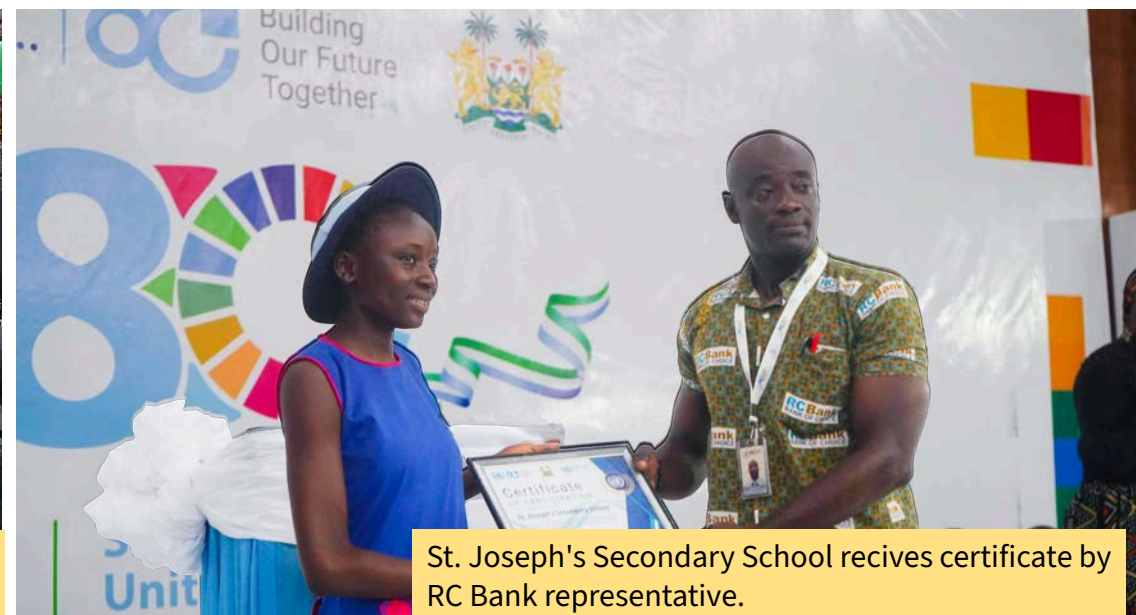
The RC presents the laptop prize to the IPAM team



RC all smiles cutting the UN@80 cake



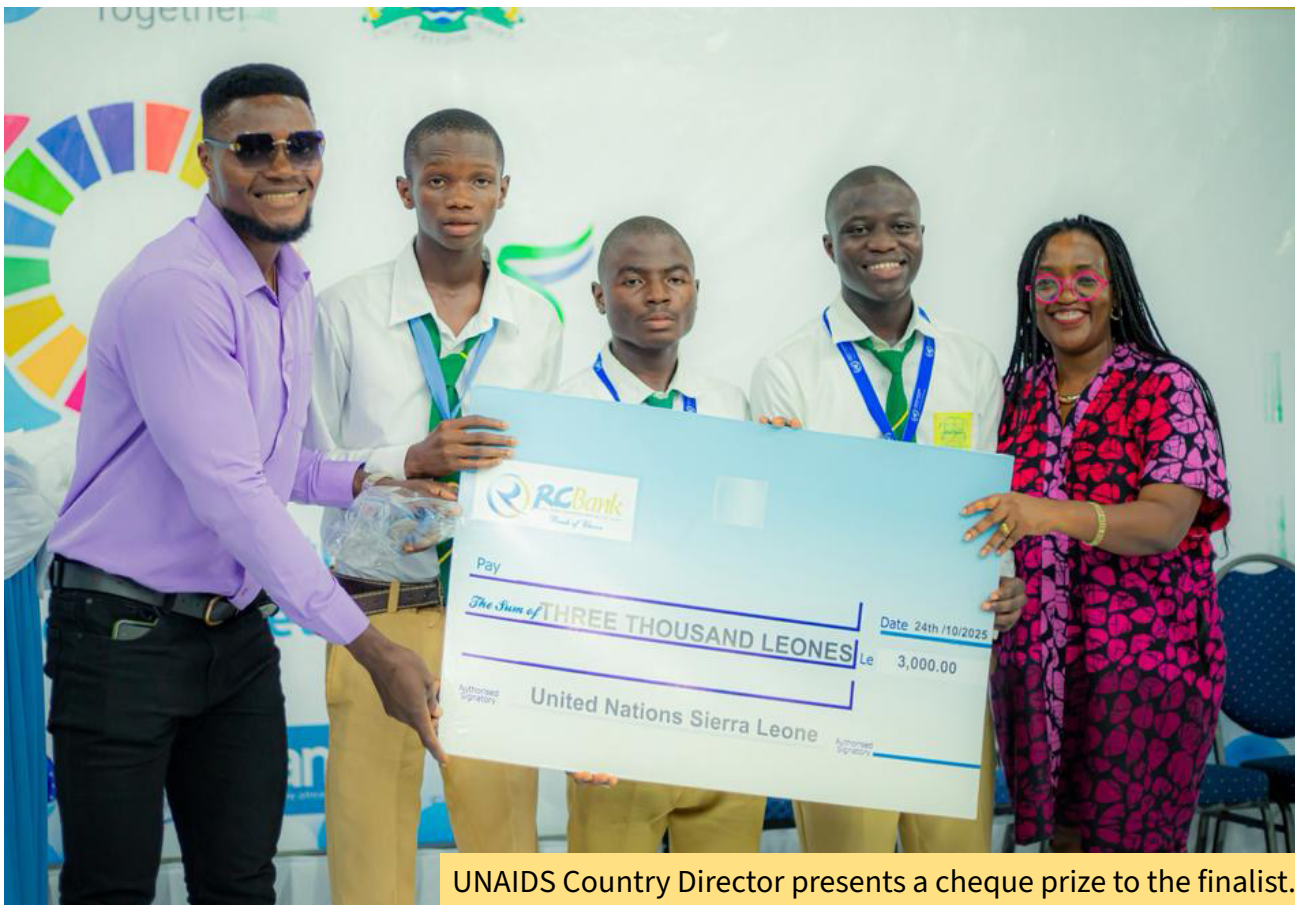
DRR, Country Rep, RC, and RR all smiles, fully engaged in the quiz and debates.



St. Joseph's Secondary School recives certificate by RC Bank representative.



UNDP Programme Specialist strikes a celebratory dance at the winners announcement.



UNAIDS Country Director presents a cheque prize to the finalist.



UNDP Resident Representative awards a medal to a finalist.



UNDP Programme Specialist awards a medal to a finalist.



UNDP Deputy RR and IOM OIC watch the UN@80 debate session.



UNDP RR awards a certificate and shakes hands with the Limkokwing finalist.



High-angle shot capturing the audience and the panel of judges.



The National Quiz and Debate event coordinator delivers MC duties on stage.



QRS students strike a celebratory pose at the UN@80 backdrop,



RC places medals on IPAM contestants and winners.



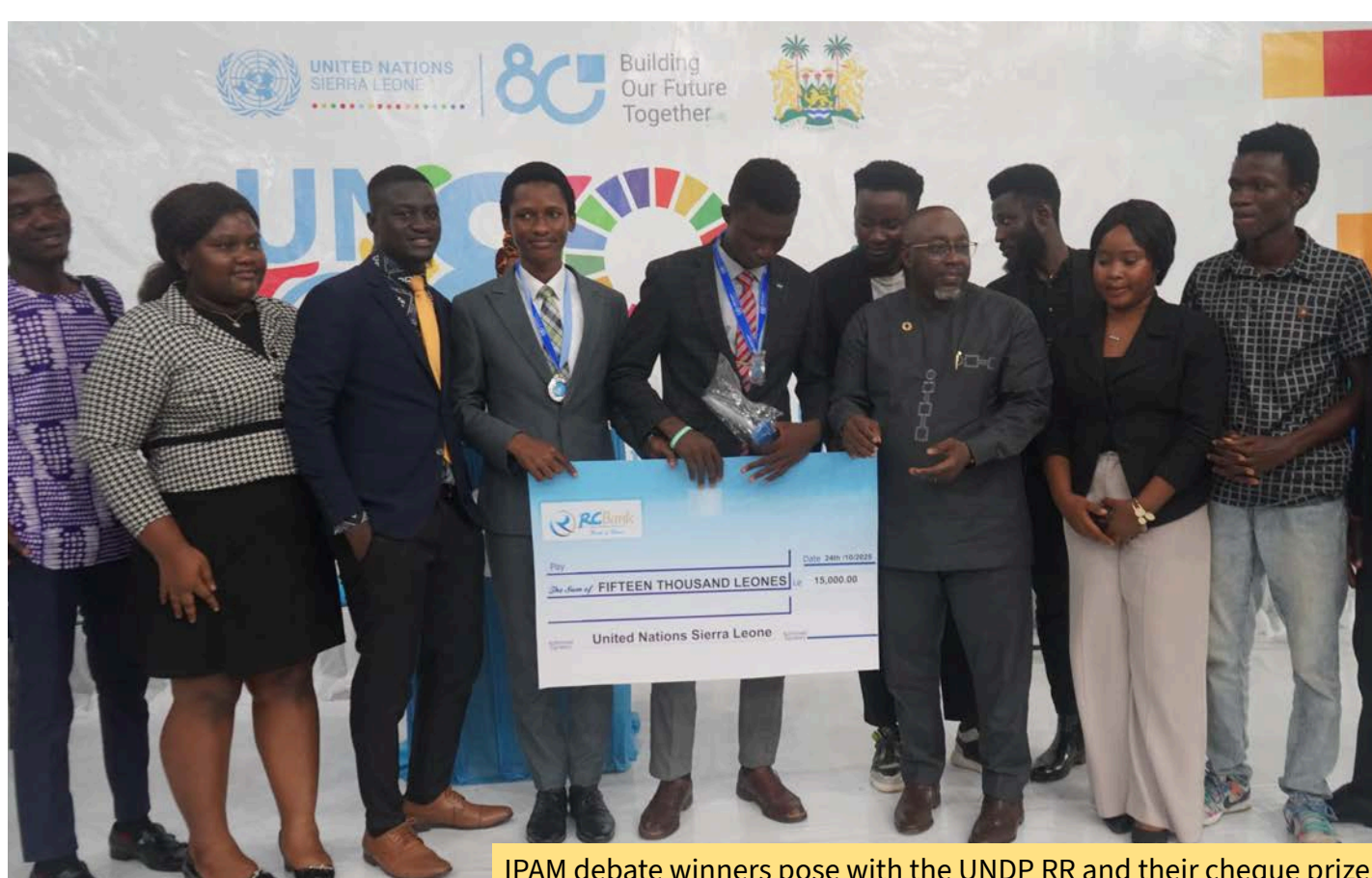
Limkokwing debate finalists ose with the UNDP RR and their certificate.



Annie Walsh Secondary School recives certificate by RC Bank representative.



QRS students strike a celebratory pose at the UN@80 backdrop with their prize and certificates.



IPAM debate winners pose with the UNDP RR and their cheque prize.



Milton Margai debate finalists pose with the UNDP RR and their cheque prize.



All participants gather with the RC and UNDP RR for the cake-cutting moment.

BAAZAR HEALTH CHECK AND TRADE FAIR 23rd - 24th October 2025



To commemorate the 80th anniversary of the United Nations, UNDP Sierra Leone hosted a three-day event titled “UN@80 Bazaar” from October 23–25, 2025 at the Miatta Conference Centre and its adjacent car park. The bazaar celebrated the UN’s enduring partnership with Sierra Leone while engaging the public through dynamic activities. The centerpiece was a Trade Fair, which provided a platform for young Sierra Leonean entrepreneurs to showcase locally made products such as crafts and textiles, alongside UN agency booths that highlighted their initiatives and fostered collaboration. A Health Outreach program offered free health screenings and consultations on October 24, reinforcing the UN’s commitment to community well-being. Additionally, the event featured an Open House for UN Agencies, creating opportunities for direct interaction with the public and promoting transparency and partnership. These activities strengthened local entrepreneurship, improved health awareness, and showcased the UN’s role in driving sustainable development in Sierra Leone.



Happy Baby Mix exhibitors showcase their products at the trade fair.



Sustainable Print clothes showcased sustainable clothing under the UniPod innovation hub.



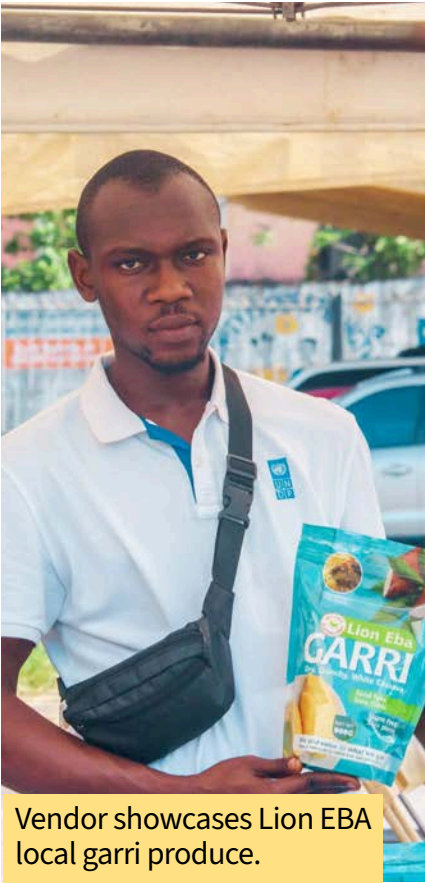
UNDP team leads the trade fair activities.



Local food exhibitor displays chin-chin snacks at the fair.



Trade fair scene at the Miatta Conference Centre car park.



Vendor showcases Lion EBA local garri produce.



Cassava chin-chin on display from a local food vendor



Maabis showcases locally grown okra and scotch bonnets.



UNDP's stand anchors the trade fair, highlighting flagship projects and engaging the public through dynamic promotional displays.



RC Bank, a UN@80 partner, showcases its financial services at the trade fair.



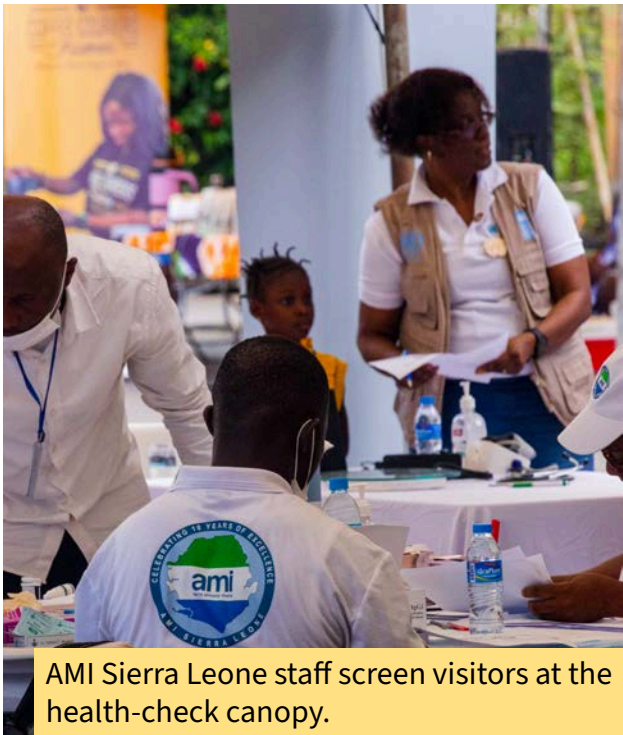
Visitors receive free health screenings at the dedicated health-check canopy.



A health worker engages a visitor, taking details for the screening.



Visitors receive free health screenings at the dedicated health-check canopy.



AMI Sierra Leone staff screen visitors at the health-check canopy.



AMI Sierra Leone staff smiling at the health-check canopy.

Entertainment Baazar

25th October 2025



The UN@80 Celebration, held under the theme “Building our future together,” featured a vibrant five-hour entertainment programme that blended music, culture, and reflection. Led by an engaging MC, the show interwove live band performances, DJ sets, comedy, interactive interludes, and brief statements highlighting the UN’s global legacy and its 64 years of partnership with Sierra Leone at the country level.

Designed as an inclusive and uplifting experience, the evening celebrated 80 years of multilateralism while honouring six decades of collaboration, development progress, and shared aspirations. Through a dynamic mix of performances, the programme showcased Sierra Leonean creativity and reinforced the spirit of unity, partnership, and collective action shaping the future.

Group photo of the UNDP team smiling ahead of the entertainment bazaar.



UNDP RR and DRR socialising at the UN@80 entertainment bazaar.



A lively and light-hearted moment during the festivities.



FAO Country Director sits among guests at the entertainment bazaar



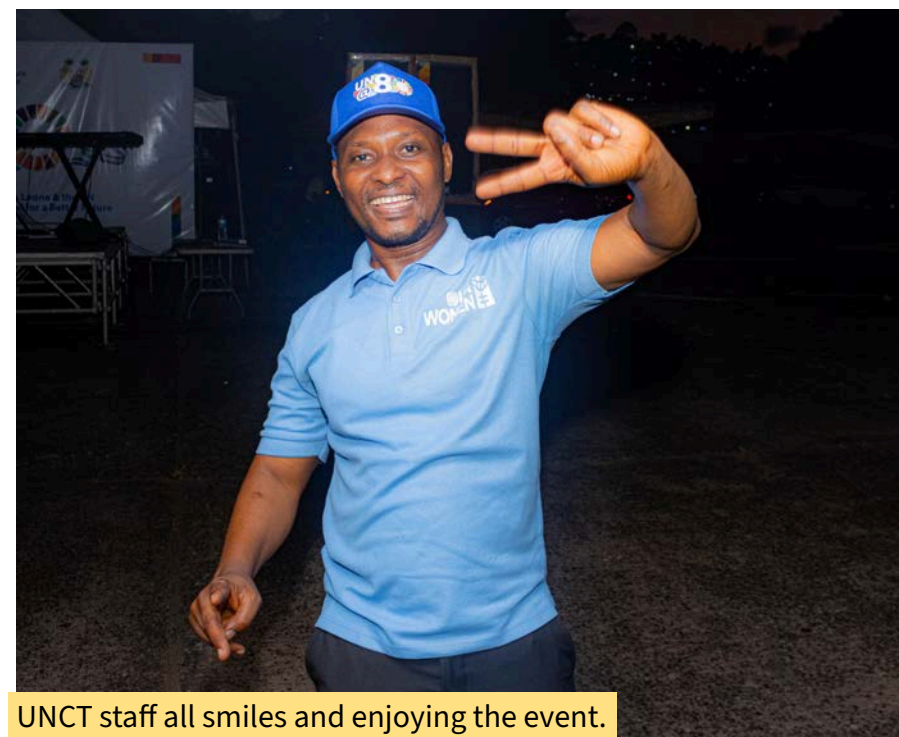
UNCT members join in a lively group dance.



UNCT staff, including the RC, dance and celebrate at the entertainment bazaar.



UNCT staff dancing and enjoying the entertainment bazaar.



UNCT staff all smiles and enjoying the event.



UNDP DRR joins the celebration with a joyful dance moment.



RC all smiles and enjoying the event.



UNRCO and UNDP staff members enjoying the event.



UN staff dance and celebrate at the entertainment bazaar.



UN staff dance and celebrate at the entertainment bazaar.



A candid moment of UNDP RR enjoying the event.



UNDP staff take selfies, enjoying the moment.



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