

SUDAN LAUNCHES ITS FIRST INTERIM MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS REPORT

Khartoum, 5 September 2005 -- “ Sudan has gone very far in achieving the millennium goals. Following the signing the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, the Government has began implementing effectively all development and reconstruction programmes”, said President Omar-Al-Bashir at the launching ceremony of the First Interim Millennium Development Goals Report 2004. First Vice-President, Mr. Silva Kiir, Vice-President, Mr. Osman Taha, the Minister of international cooperation, Mr. Yousif Takanah, the Minister of foreign affairs, Mr Mustapha Osman Ismail, and other Sudanese senior officials participated in a ceremony organized yesterday in Khartoum in cooperation with the United Nations Country Team (UNCT).

“The present interim MDG report is another example on how the UN has been working in partnership with Sudanese authorities, SPLM, Civil society and other partners to support intellectual leadership on development. By providing practical data and analysis, the report provides important resources that can be used to translate ideas into reality” said Mr. Manual Aranda Da Silalva speaking on behalf of the UNCT. “As the country will be shifting its priorities from war to peace, the UN is strongly convinced that now more than ever development stands a real chance. We will be helping bring the country and the international community together to take these efforts forward”, Mr Da Silva added.

Sudan's Interim MDGs Report was produced as a unified document before the CPA was officially signed. It is composed of two separate sections: the section A covers the entire country except the then SPLM-controlled areas while the section B focuses exclusively on the South Sudan SPLM controlled areas. Due to the political and security situation and the quality and availability of data and statistics, the report takes the form of an interim document to be updated as soon as more statistics and data are available for the country as a whole.

While some progress has been made in key areas such as the eradication of poverty and hunger, the provision of primary education and the reduction of child and infant mortality, malaria and HIV/Aids remain a major problem. Sickness due to malaria are in the range of 7.5 million per year resulting in about 35,000 deaths, but the disease prevalence is almost stable at around 120-125 cases per 1,000 persons. The lack of information on the status of HIV/Aids is mainly due to the weakness of surveillance system to monitor the disease. However, the report asserts that the epidemic in South Sudan is believed to have moved into the generalised phase (overall adult prevalence > 1%) where infection has gone beyond high-risk groups into general population.

The Report contains statistical indicator trends for MDG goals and targets, and on the basis of the statistical analysis, presents assessment of key issues. Some of these statistics are among the first to be published.

The Report is the outcome of an intensive collaboration and partnership between the Sudanese authorities, the SPLM, Southern Sudan Centre for Statistics and Evaluation, UN Agencies, civil society, World Bank and partners agencies, facilitate by the UNDP Office in Sudan.

The 2005 World Summit, to be held from 14 to 16 September at United Nations Headquarters in New York, is expected to bring together more than 170 Heads of State and Government. The largest gathering of world leaders in history will take stock of the success and failures of implementing the MDGs.

All 191 UN Member States, including Sudan, have adopted the Millennium declaration in September 2000. Out of this Declaration, a set of eight goals were established to be achieved by 2015 and covering the areas of poverty, education, gender equality, child mortality, maternal health, HIV/AIDS and other diseases, environmental sustainability and global partnerships for development.

Speaking on the occasion, the Minister of International cooperation, Mr Yousif Takanah said the Government, committed to the millennium declaration, will incorporate the Millennium Development Goals in its strategies. The MDGs have been recently incorporated in Sudan's interim Constitution.

The first Interim and unified MDG Report is available through the following website:
www.mdgsudan.org

For further information, please contact Aicha Elbasri, Communications Officer, UNDP Sudan :
+249 (0) – 183 773 121. Ext. 382; aicha.elbasri@undp.org