

# PRESS RELEASE

United Nations Development Programme



## UNDP Expands Support to Enhance Capacity of Eastern Sudan Localities in Planning and Development

Kassala,e, 29 June 2011.



For the first time, localities of Kassala State have a development strategy with a clear objectives and costs calculated up to 2012. Using the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) as the key tool in identifying the main objectives of the localities, these development plans have been aligned with the State and the National Strategic Plans of Sudan and connected to the State and Nationals goals.

The initiative is a part of the United Nations Development Programme-supported Local Governance Development and Public Expenditure Management (LGDPEM) programme. The initiative, launched in 2009, aims to support the Eastern Sudan Government in strengthening the process of decentralization and helping to establish democratic systems of local governance and public expenditure management.

The process of the formulating the locality development plans comprised a number of stages including collection and validation of the data about the localities; situation analyses of the localities; building a development vision, goals and and strategies, and, enlisting, activities and ideas for addressing the development priority needs of the localities.

To equip the Sectoral Group members as well as locality officials with necessary skills and knowledge in realizing their development goals, UNDP facilitated training workshops that enabled participants to learn about sectoral prioritization, budget-making process, revenue control, basic service delivery and resource mobilization efforts.

Through the workshops participants learned how to carry out the situation analyses, prioritize the key sectors and finding the ways of mobilizing resources. At the end of the workshop the group established a budget based on participatory techniques.

To further support the capacities needed to undertake implementation activities, the village data profiles with the google navigation have been introduced in rural Kassala.

UNDP assisted the locality representatives in the design and development of the local website <http://www.rklsudan.net> to better track the process of development at locality level.

In addition to supporting locality initiatives in preparation and development of the plans, collection of the revenue and budget-making process, the UNDP project will continue to assist localities in the implementation and monitoring of the plans.

The UNDP supported LGDPEM programme has provided guidance and financial contributions to support the establishment of the Planning and Information Unit at locality levels. The Planning and Information Units will undertake the process of monitoring and update on progress implementation.

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