

PRESS RELEASE



United Nations Development Programme

UNDP Southern Sudan restructures its operations to make poverty reduction one of its key priority

(16 October 2009 - Juba) Tomorrow is the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty – a chance to acknowledge the efforts and struggles of people living in poverty and focus the world’s attention on initiatives to tackle it.

World leaders have pledged to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by 2015, which include the overarching goal of cutting extreme poverty in half. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), using its worldwide network, is coordinating global and national efforts to reach these Goals.

“Following many years of war, which required sustained emergency assistance, Southern Sudan is slowly beginning to shift towards recovery,” said Mr. Joe Feeney, UNDP Southern Sudan’s Head of Office. “In light of this new reality, UNDP is changing the way it does business in the region.”

UNDP has restructured its operations in Southern Sudan to make poverty reduction a key priority. Under the leadership of Ms. Mandisa Mashologu, a new **Poverty Reduction and MDG Unit** will provide support to national and sub-national counterparts to plan, monitor, evaluate, and implement poverty reduction initiatives. The Unit will also focus on consolidating a number of related projects and implementing new ones. Top line initiatives include:

- Producing and disseminating National *Human Development Reports* to inform and influence policy.
- Working with the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning to strengthen aid management and coordination so that the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness can be implemented.
- Implementing policy and regulatory reforms for micro, small, and medium-scale enterprises to improve social and economic opportunities for the poor.
- Improving the delivery and usage of the Global Fund for AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria.

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About UNDP

UNDP is the UN’s global development network, advocating for change and connecting countries to knowledge, experience and resources to help people build a better life. We are on the ground in 166 countries, working with them on their own solutions to global and national development challenges. As they develop local capacity, they draw on the people of UNDP and our wide range of partners.