

PRESS RELEASE



United Nations Development Programme

Southern Sudan AIDS Commission mobilizes community leaders to help stop the spread of HIV/AIDs among vulnerable groups

(09 October 2009, Juba) The Southern Sudan AIDS Commission has teamed up with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Southern Sudan Network of People Living with HIV (SSNeP+) to help stop the spread of HIV/AIDs among vulnerable groups.

A 10 day workshop, set to begin on **Monday 12 October** and targeted at religious and NGO leaders, will provide training on how to establish and run effective HIV/AIDs programmes. Special emphasis will be placed on how to target high-risk groups.

“We are pleased and proud to support such an important initiative.” said Ms. Mandisa Mashologu, Head of UNDP Southern Sudan’s new Poverty and MDGs Unit. “Community leaders in Southern Sudan have a long history of providing guidance on a variety of topics, including health issues, so it is important to give them the skills they need to curb unsafe behavior in their communities.”

The event, which will take place at the **Nile Comfort Inn in Juba**, is set to be attended by almost 50 community leaders from across Southern Sudan, who will be supported in the production of HIV/AIDs programme proposals, and guided with regards to possible funding opportunities for their projects. Participants will also be briefed on the theoretical basis and practical application of behavior change techniques. It is hoped that the workshop will provide an opportunity for relationship-building and networking among community groups as well.

The event focuses on the attainment of the sixth Millennium Development Goal, which aims to halt and reverse the spread of HIV/AIDs by 2015.

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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.