

## **Ameerah Haq Statement - 2009 Sudan Work Plan Press Conference**

**Khartoum 11 February 2009**

Thank you for this opportunity to be able to brief the media about the United Nation's and Partners 2009 Work Plan for Sudan. While this was already launched in Geneva on 20 November, it is extremely important that we brief you the local media on what this actually involves.

The Work Plan is valued at \$2.18 billion for 2009 and is a tremendous example of the collaborative effort and partnership by UN and Partners particularly the Government of Sudan.

What the 2009 Work Plan proposes is 910 projects in 10 sectors that capitalize on and accelerate existing programmes. The extent of the plan is testament to the huge amount of expertise and commitment on the ground here in Sudan, and its strength comes from the partnerships embedded within it.

This Work Plan is the result of an intensive planning process involving government, donors, UN agencies and non-governmental organizations. The plan demonstrates a strong commitment to develop the capacity of state institutions and help local communities manage programmes themselves.

This year, 41 national NGOs are directly participating in the Work Plan. Including partnerships with UN and International NGO agencies this represents the most important participation of Sudanese NGO's to date. This is a real commitment to develop engage communities, and increase the confidence of all Sudanese to rebuild their country themselves.

With an eye on the future, the Work Plan focuses more attention on the environment. Sudan's natural resource base has been damaged by decades of conflict, and human upheavals continue to degrade an already fragile environment. It is critical to limit and reverse this damage.

The UN and partners aim to improve natural resource management in Sudan, including their own. If we can achieve more sustainable use of natural resources, it will help to reduce extreme poverty, conflict and further displacement in Sudan's most disadvantaged communities.

Sudan has taken tremendous strides towards peace and recovery in the past few years. In the past four years, the UN and partners have been successful in delivering basic services such as food, water, and shelter in many parts of the country. By mid-year 2008 a strong focus on assisting people move beyond humanitarian need saw:

the building of the first all weather roads in Southern Sudan around Yambio

over 8,000 teachers trained for enhanced education across Sudan

6.5 million children receiving vitamin supplements

over 686 thousand households received food assistance

But there are still enormous challenges. Humanitarian and social indicators in many parts of the country are alarming: in the south, more than half the population does not have access to clean water, and the number of mothers dying in childbirth is one of the highest in the world, and the number of people immunised one of the lowest. In some eastern states malnutrition rates are above the emergency threshold, and in several regions school enrolment rates are among the worst worldwide.

Hostilities continue in Darfur. Almost half of the total requirement, some \$1.05 billion, is for Darfur, where an estimated 4.7 million people continue to be in need of assistance after six years of conflict. Sporadic violence in other regions also creates new emergencies and complicates existing ones.

Four years after the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, this fifth annual Work Plan remains the largest predominantly humanitarian appeal in the world.

As I have said, a huge amount remains to be done. We remain committed to ensure that this happens. For all these reasons, the Work Plan is worthy of everyone's support.

Thankyou!

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