



## **SUDAN, WHO AND JAPAN TOGETHER FOR STRONGER DECENTRALIZED HEALTH SYSTEMS REACHING THE MOST IN NEED.**

Recent assessments of Sudan's health system revealed that strengthening decentralized health system is a key to achieve Universal Health Coverage (UHC) with access to all people to health services they need at a cost they can afford including the most vulnerable, internally displaced, refugees from neighboring countries beside South Sudanese, pastoralists and returnees. There are known significant barriers to achieve UHC as a result of fragmented and patchwork nature of Sudan's administrative health structure beside increase public health threats such as outbreaks of diseases like Acute Watery Diarrhea. Hence, the need to build strong, resilient communities and governed sub-national health systems is pressing.

To address this need, the World Health Organization in Sudan, in partnership with Sudan's Federal Ministry of Health and with the generous support of the Japanese Government, is jointly launching a project to strengthen the decentralized health system in 5 of Sudan's 18 states (Sennar, North Kordofan, West Kordofan, West Darfur and Central Darfur). Forty six localities and administration units will strengthen UHC system through enhancing capacities of the decentralized health system linked to development under Health in All Policies.

The one-year project will focus on three key issues based on evidence; first, organization and management of sub-national health systems; second, capacity building; and third, innovative community engagement. Mr Bahar Idris Abu Garda, Federal Minister of Health expressed the sincere gratitude and appreciation to people and government of Japan for the continued support to Sudan to advance progress towards Universal Health Coverage through different projects that have been provided by Japan to people of Sudan. This support will contribute to achieve Sustainable Development in Sudan. WHO's Representative in Sudan, Dr. Naeema Al Gasseer, said: "As WHO we are committed to bring solutions in support of Sudan's Health Ministry and sector to strengthen the sub-national health systems through updated Decentralized Health System Policy, revisiting capacity building program, and support locality health management teams in partnership with all partners. This would be ensured through addressing health system bottlenecks and strengthen the resilience of the sub-national systems to halt and respond to any future outbreaks." H.E. Mr. Shinji Urabayashi, Ambassador of Japan in Sudan, said "Sudan is one of our priority countries in promoting UHC. The outbreak of Acute Watery Diarrhea in 2016 and 2017 is still fresh in our memory. There is, thus, an urgent need for strengthening the health system available for all, including vulnerable people, and building preparedness for another pandemic and to achieve UHC in this country."

Sudan's National Health Policy 2017 – 2030 provides overall guidance for health system reform in the country, to re-orient Sudan's health system towards contributing to Sustainable Development Goals and promote Universal Health Coverage (UHC) through promotion of health, disease prevention and ensuring healthy lives and wellbeing for all at all ages while "Leaving No One Behind".

The project is aligned with the directives of His Excellency the Sudan Federal Minister of Health, Mr. Bahar Idriss Abu Garda on the approach of Humanitarian Development Peace Nexus



(HDPN) and for Health Sector with “One Plan, One Budget, One Report” and “delivering as one”.

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*Note for editors*

Sudan joined the International Health Partnership (IHP+) in 2011 and endorsed Universal Health Coverage Partnership for UHC 2030. WHO has continued to support the advancement of the country towards UHC as the closest partner to the government of Sudan. The National Health Sector Strategy 2017-20 places universal health coverage and primary health care high on its agenda within the framework of a decentralized local health system.

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