



*Media release*

## **FMOH and WHO sign agreement to strengthen health systems in Sudan through GAVI/HSS funds**

20 July 2008/Khartoum. Sudan's Federal Ministry of Health (FMOH) signed an agreement with the World Health Organization (WHO) for the implementation of health financing component of the systems strengthening project in Sudan. The project which costs US\$734,737 is funded by the Global Alliance for Vaccine Preventable Disease Initiative/Health System Strengthening (GAVI/HSS).

In a simple ceremony held in the conference room of WHO's country office, the agreement was signed on 17 July 2008 by WHO Representative Dr Mohammad AbdurRab and GAVI HSS Project Coordinator Dr Sarah Hassan Mustafa. Several officials from WHO and FMOH witnessed the ceremony.

"Providing health care services to the people of Sudan is a priority for WHO and FMOH and with health systems strengthening project, the efforts of the FMOH's to improve its capacities and knowledge base, enabling it to develop equitable and sustainable health financing policies will be pushed farther," WHO Representative Dr AbdurRab highlighted at the occasion of signing the agreement on Thursday.

Under this project, which will be undertaken in Northern states, a household expenditure and health services utilization will be conducted. In addition, two (2) senior staff of the health economic unit in FMOH will be awarded scholarships in health economics/financing. Furthermore, technical assistance will be provided for developing plans for sustainable primary health care services and immunization; and developing pro-poor health financing policy. The GAVI/HSS funded project will also undertake an operational research for alleviating financial barriers to accessing primary health care, and a related activity for conducting a Knowledge Attitude and Practice (KAP) study in the 4 northern states (Sinnar, Gedaref, White Nile and North Kordofan).