



## **Press Release**

# **WHO and its partners sign an agreement to produce a National Health Account to improve the health of women and children in Sudan**

Khartoum, January 5, 2009

The Center Bureau of Statistics, Federal Ministry of Health (FMOH) and the World Health Organization (WHO) in Sudan, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to conduct a Household Survey in order to produce National Health Account (NHA) in 15 Northern States. The NHA will provide policy-makers with the evidence to make better and informed decisions on allocation of resources and make sure that spending on health is equitable between all regions and different types of services. .

During the signing ceremony in WHO's office in Khartoum, WHO Representative Dr. Mohammad ABDURRAB stressed on the added value of the MoU, "Since it includes elements of community knowledge, attitude and practice the results will be used to improve the health of the Women and Children". In addition, he noted the survey will enable the partners to understand the perception of the Sudanese people towards Primary Health Care services, so that access and availability to these services is improved. "NHA is important as it will help us understand if the money spent on health is going to the right direction", he added.

The Director General of Central Bureau of Statistics, Dr. Yasin Elgag Abdin, at this occasion, emphasized the value of the exercise and assured that the Center will make sure that: "The people assigned to do the field work are trained and able to deliver the survey's objectives". He promised to: "To provide all the necessary support to make this project a success story".

The Director of Health Economics in the FMOH, Dr. Khalid Habbani thanked WHO for: "The tremendous efforts that were put in designing the survey". "The team comprising professionals both from Health Economics Unit and Central Bureau of Statistics are ready to provide valid and quality data", he confirmed.

The Household Survey aims at providing information on the type and frequency of health services used in a community in order to identify the factors that influence the use and expenditure on health care. Studying Health Service Utilization and communities' Knowledge, Attitude and Practice aims at identifying the knowledge, beliefs, attitudes and practices prevalent in communities towards primary health care services. In this manner, the results of this study will feed into designing health messages and a comprehensive plan for primary health care on both, Federal and State level.

*For more information:*

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