

PRESS STATEMENT

**UNDER-SECRETARY-GENERAL FOR HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS
AND EMERGENCY RELIEF COORDINATOR VALERIE AMOS
ON THE HUMANITARIAN SITUATION IN SUDAN**

Khartoum, Republic of the Sudan, 4 January, 2012

I want to thank the Minister for Social Welfare, Mrs. Amira Al Fadil, for welcoming me in Sudan and taking the opportunity to discuss the situation in South Kordofan and Blue Nile states with the Government.

Reports from people fleeing South Kordofan and Blue Nile to South Sudan and Ethiopia indicate food insecurity and rising levels of malnutrition in some areas of the two states. These reports constitute the background of my visit.

My discussions with Mrs. Amira Al Fadil focused on ways the United Nations can support the Government of Sudan's own efforts to meet the needs of people in Government controlled areas and also how we access those people in Sudan People's Liberation Movement - North (SPLM-N) held areas, where some humanitarian indicators are particularly alarming.

I am pleased to announce that: firstly, we have agreed with the Government of Sudan to share information and data pertaining to the humanitarian situation in the two states in order to ensure that we meet the needs of the people. The Government of Sudan has given me its report on the situation. We will be looking at that report in light of data that we have.

Secondly, we will establish a mechanism to ensure continuous dialogue between the Government and the UN to resolve any misunderstanding or differences with respect to the data and information on the situation.

Thirdly, the Government of Sudan recognizes the need to ensure that the UN's capacity is made up of a mix of national and international staff to ensure the appropriate skill sets to provide necessary support.

Fourthly, we will continue to discuss ways to reach those people in SPLM-N held areas who are currently not able to access any help or support.

Finally, the Government of Sudan and the UN share the view that a long term political solution which delivers peace to the people of South Kordofan and Blue Nile states is needed.

For further information, please call:

*OCHA-New York **Amanda Pitt**, + 1 212 963 4129, mobile +1 917 442 1810, pitta@un.org
OCHA-New York **Mark Turner**, +1 917 367 5707, mobile +1 917 951 3047, turner5@un.org*

OCHA press releases are available at www.unocha.org or www.reliefweb.int