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**Sudan MRE Statement
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Co chairs, Excellencies, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen

Sudan continues to exert comprehensive efforts in the field of mine risk education. Extensive mine risk education (MRE) has been carried out during 2008, with a total of (747,181) individuals receiving MRE during the reporting period. In addition, over 400,000 copies of various MRE materials (posters, leaflets, fact sheets) which UNICEF had produced were distributed and disseminated among various at risk groups and communities.

The MRE activities for 2008 involved enhanced and broadened coordination and collaboration between the UN, government institutions and civil society organizations at national and local levels. Concerned governmental authorities and a number of international and national NGOs, continued their efforts in the coordination and technical support of MRE activities. In this regard, UNICEF supported planning, implementation and management of MRE activities at the national and regional levels through MRE coordination and advisory groups it has established. During the reporting period, a number of local and international NGOs conducted MRE activities in various locations across the country, focusing on several different at risk groups, including IDPs, returnees and local populations.

As part of its contribution, UNDP funded 2 MRE teams managed by Danish Demining Group (DDG) who conducted MRE activities in the areas of Magwi and Loa in Southern Sudan. Danish Church Aid (DCA) continued its implementation of MRE activities in both the northern and southern areas of Nuba Mountains. DCA partnered with and supported two local NGOs (JASMAR and OSIL) to carry out MRE activities with mobile teams. The DCA MRE teams were attached to two Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) teams to respond to reports that were received by the team from the communities. Mine Advisory Group (MAG) continued implementing MRE and community liaison activities in affected states of southern Sudan, as well as in Blue Nile state. The MRE teams focused mainly on working with IDPs and returning refugees by carrying out activities in way-stations and IDP camps. MAG also worked closely with its clearance/EOD teams, providing an integrated response to the problem of mines/UXO in the targeted areas.

Handicap International is commencing MRE activities in Bor for IDPs and are reviewing to continue MRE activities in Malakal, Upper Nile State. Italian NGO AVSI has been conducting MRE activities from 2007 in Eastern Equatoria.

UNICEF supported two local NGOs (JASMAR and FPDO) to conduct MRE for IDPs in Khartoum who are returning to areas in the center and southern parts of the country. The projects started in late September 2005; the two NGOs operated in Khartoum with 2 MRE teams for each NGO. Targeting IDP camps and squatter areas in Khartoum State, two MRE teams of JASMAR were deployed to work with returnees in Kosti, which is the main transit town for IDPs going from north to south.

Two MRE teams from FPDO were deployed to Kassala state to work with refugees and other at risk groups in war affected areas such as Hamishkorieb in that state and one team deployed in Elfasher /northern darfur in IDPs camps . Other two teams of JASMAR continued to operate in South Darfur, Eddaïen and western Darfur Elgeniena .

UNICEF and UNMAO, in close cooperation with the NMAC and the Ministries of Education (MOE) has started the work towards integrating MRE into the school system in the affected areas by supporting the training of 200 school teachers in MRE and providing materials to them to be distributed to the students. These activities took place in the Nuba Mountains, Western and Southern Darfur, and southern Sudan. To mainstream MRE into national mine action priorities, the NMAC contributed the implementation of Teacher training project which trained 1.100 teachers in South Kordofan , 742 teachers in Kassala State and 320 teachers in Blue Nile. In the same time, 327 teachers were trained in the south and more trainings are set to be held. A monitoring system has been set-up in each state to ensure sustainability and follow-up of the projects.

A significant step was made in the south where local NGOs did not operate at all and through funding from European Commission, three local organisations were supported to run MRE activities, some of them through partnership with international organizations and some of them working independently. NMAC with support from UNMAO and UNICEF will continue to build MRE capacities of the mentioned organisations and will also do the best to identify more community based organizations to conduct MRE in their respective areas.

In Sudan, to keep people informed and aware of the problem of mines and explosive remnants of war, we are celebrating International Mine Awareness Day on regular basis and in all places where it is feasible to organize. In 2008, this celebration was successfully organized in Khartoum, Kadugli and Juba.

Thank you for your attention.