



UNMIS Photo Release

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UNMIS supports sanitation improvement in Mayo area of Khartoum

The lives of some 120 people affected by leprosy and other disease living in Mayo area in the outskirts of Khartoum are improved by the construction of 10 pit latrines that aim to provide much needed health and hygiene access.

Earlier today, UNMIS and partners from the Leprosy Mission of Sudan and the State Ministry of Health inaugurated the sanitation project, the first one of its kind, since the affected population moved first to the area.

The new latrines of \$23,000 cost, were funded by UNMIS through its Civil Military Cooperation (CIMIC) unit, and were constructed in little over a month's time.

"Over the years things have substantially improved for those living in the area. Homes were built, a water pump was put in and now with the help of UNMIS, 10 toilets have been added to the improvements", UNMIS Military Chief of Staff, Col. Oivind Christensen said during the opening ceremony.

"We have come to know that we are equal with other people", leader of the community, Abakr Abdallah said, thanking the international community and all institutions for the improvement of their living conditions over the years.

Leprosy still carries a stigma in today's society, despite it being an easily treated bacterium, once diagnosed. The Leprosy Mission in Sudan has been providing support and treatment for affected families, while the Government of Sudan provided them with a number of plots of land in Mayo to build homes and a better life.



Leader of the community Abakr Abdallah, inspecting the newly constructed toilets



Dr. Salah Mohammed Al Tahir, Director of National Leprosy Control Programme accompanied by UNMIS Mil. Chief of Staff, Col. Oivind Christensen walking around Mayo to have a view on the project

Photos: Cpl. Jean-Marie Harelimana/UNMIS

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