



UNMIS

## Office of the Spokesperson

### ***Press Release No. 31/06***

## UN Doctors Provide Free Medical Services in Sudan

Khartoum on 19 July 2006 – A team of doctors from the United Nations Mission in Sudan (UNMIS) has this week conducted eye examinations and provided medical advice and medicines free of charge for more than 250 patients in Ed Damazine, capital of the southern Blue Nile State.

Two eye specialists and one general surgeon from UNMIS's Pakistani Hospital in Ed Damazine have set up a medical camp for the public at Al-Da'wa El-Islamia School as part of a continuing program of community services there.

This was the fourth in a series of Eye Camps conducted by UNMIS in the Ed Damazine Sector during which 10 major eye surgeries were also performed without charge by the doctors from the Pakistani contingent in the 10,000-strong UNMIS military force mostly deployed in Southern Sudan.

"As much as we are proud of performing our mandated tasks and functions in monitoring and helping the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, we are also delighted to be able to engage in such community service projects and programs that bring to people some direct dividends of peace," said Lt. General Jasbir Lidder, the UNMIS Force Commander.

Lidder explained that each one of the seven UNMIS contingents has been carrying out different outreach programs within their sectors that are designed to have immediate impact on the society and to benefit the neediest segments of the population.

These projects include the renovation of an orphanage and opening emergency clinics in Juba and Malakal, Southern Sudan, after those areas were plagued by a cholera epidemic. They also include providing basic

amenities like mattresses and beds for civilian hospitals and primary health centers and refurbishing those facilities. UNMIS military contingents also have leveled local fields for sports and helped a tribal community to open a beekeeping farm in the Eastern Equatoria town of Torit.

In May, the Veterinary Detachment of the Indian Battalion set up a veterinary hospital in Malakal, where breeding livestock is the core of the local economic life. The community has expressed considerable appreciation for this hospital since the region had suffered outbreaks of serious diseases like Rinderpest and the Foot and Mouth Disease that seriously affected the fragile local economy.

On a daily basis, 25 to 30 animals are being treated in that hospital. In June, 635 animals were treated there, compared to 412 in May. The hospital is also conducting a training program for community animal health workers and veterinary assistants in collaboration with the Upper Nile University's Veterinary College and other organizations.

For further information please contact Ms. Radhia Achouri, Spokesperson, UNMIS.  
Tel. (+249) 187 086 029 (249+) 912 392 27 0, e-mail: [achouri@un.org](mailto:achouri@un.org)