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10 October 2010

Ms. Valerie Amos  
The Under-Secretary General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator  
United Nations

Dear Ms. Amos,

I am pleased to inform you that the Humanitarian Country Team Juba satellite, in consultation with the Sudan Humanitarian Country Team has decided to formalize the cluster approach for southern Sudan.

At the beginning of 2010, humanitarian partners recognised that the humanitarian situation, rather than improving, was continuing to deteriorate and acknowledged the need for improving the coordination structure to ensure better emergency preparedness and response to address the current humanitarian and protection issues in South Sudan.

To be better prepared to face current and future challenges, the Humanitarian Country Team Juba satellite was established in February 2010 with participation from UN, NGOs, IOM, IFRC and Donors. ICRC participates as observer. At the same time, an Inter-Sector Working Group (ISWG), chaired by OCHA, was activated as a technical team in support to the Humanitarian Country Team Juba satellite. The ISWG will continue as the main technical forum for inter-cluster coordination and OCHA will continue to facilitate and support its work.

In April 2010, the Humanitarian Country Team Juba satellite decided to further streamline the humanitarian coordination framework in southern Sudan with two main aims: first, to improve the response to the current humanitarian crisis through a more predictable and accountable structure; and second, to strengthen the humanitarian community's preparedness to respond to the possible deterioration of the humanitarian situation pre- and post-referendum.

On behalf of the Humanitarian Country Team Juba satellite, I am therefore pleased to inform you of the coordination arrangements which have been agreed to, subject to revision as the situation evolves:

Cluster	GoSS Lead	Cluster Leads	Cluster Co-Leads
Food Security	Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry; Southern Sudan Relief and Rehabilitation Commission (SSRRC)	FAO and WFP	DRC, VSF Belgium
Health	Ministry of Health	WHO	Medair
Nutrition	Directorate of Nutrition	UNICEF	ACF-US
Water, Sanitation and Hygiene	Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation	UNICEF	Medair
Protection	Ministry of Gender and Social Welfare; Human Rights Commission; Demining Authority	UNHCR	NRC
Non Food Items	SSRRC	UNJLC (IOM will take over	WVI

		from 1 <sup>st</sup> January 2011)	
Logistics	Ministry of Transport and Roads	WFP	
Education	Ministry of Education	UNICEF	Save The Children

For the time being, the Humanitarian Country Team Juba satellite agrees that the remaining sectors in the 2010 Humanitarian Work Plan, not emergency related in nature, do not require the roll out as clusters although they will continue to be part of the ISWG and will abide to the same coordination principles.

Formalizing the cluster approach will further strengthen cooperation with the Government of Southern Sudan (GoSS) through the alignment of preparedness and response planning, while also ensuring full inclusion of the NGO and civil society community. To this end, each cluster will have a designated NGO co-lead.

The clusters will support and strengthen the Government emergency response capacity while the UN Agencies will continue to work in partnership with the GoSS to ensure synergies with all the ongoing recovery and rehabilitation work done through the Sector Budget Working Groups. The medium to long term planning work done through the Budget Sector Working Groups will continue to have the central role with which the cluster will agree priorities and strategies for the short term/emergency response.

The proposed coordination structure will be reported in the 2011 Humanitarian Work Plan that will include the main elements of the cluster requirements for southern Sudan.

I would be grateful if you could consult the IASC at the global level on these arrangements and very much look forward to hearing from you.

Best regards,



Georg Charpentier  
Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator