

Executive members from the national and state level Nurses and Midwives Association of South Sudan (NNAMASS) gather in Juba to plan and work towards strengthening nursing and midwifery services in the New Republic

27 OCTOBER 2012/JUBA – Over 25 nurses and midwives from all ten states of South Sudan will meet this week in Juba to discuss and develop a plan of action to contribute to the improvement of nursing and midwifery services in the new country. These nurses and midwives are part of the Executive Board of the National Nurses and Midwives Association of South Sudan which was launched in 2011 and now has branches in all ten states of South Sudan. The meeting will also include the President and Secretary of the state level associations. The Ministry of Health of South Sudan and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) with funding from the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) continue to support the work of the national and state level nurses and midwives associations.

Professional nurses and midwives associations play key roles in advancing the nursing and midwifery professions and optimizing the value of these key health workers, allowing them to be appropriately positioned in the health care system to make a greater impact on the quality of health care including the reduction of maternal death and disability. Nursing and midwifery associations have been at the forefront working in countries for acceleration of progress for achieving Millennium Development Goals especially MDGs 4, 5 and 6. It is expected that the Nurses and Midwives Association of South Sudan will play a key role in improving the health services and contribute greatly to saving the lives of women, children and the community as a whole.

A Governance and Management Workshop will precede an Executive Board Meeting of the association from 2 to 4 October 2012 at the Juba Regency Hotel. This workshop will build the skills of nurses and midwives to lead and manage the association so as to ensure the national and state level association support efforts and initiatives to improve health service delivery for all the people of South Sudan. Additionally, the workshop will provide an enabling environment and a professional platform for enriching the knowledge and skills of nurses and midwives. Pertinent issues around the role of professional associations, governance and management, ethics, advocacy and communication including leadership will be discussed. A panel of experts from Ministry of Health and UN Agencies will be addressing the role of the association in working with partners for improving health. It is envisaged that at the end of the workshop, participants from the various state will be empowered with key messages to share with colleagues in the areas of work.

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