



PRESS RELEASE

UN-Habitat to provide housing to war veterans as part of peace building efforts in South Sudan

50 houses to be constructed in the first stage

Juba, 25 September 2017 – UN-Habitat in cooperation with the South Sudan Ministry of Defence and Veterans' Affairs and the South Sudan Ministry of Land, Housing and Urban Development, with support from the Government of Japan, is launching a project to provide war veterans with shelter and livelihood options as a key element of re-integrating them and achieving peace.

In order to anchor the current peace effort and deepen its benefits, it is critical that the returning SPLM/A-IO soldiers are expeditiously accommodated, re-settled and re-integrated. It is also critical that former SPLA homeless soldiers currently residing with the civilian population around regional military camps are accommodated in decent shelter and given livelihood opportunities.

In recognition of this need, on 26 September, 2017, a pilot first stage of the project will be officially launched in Alel Chok, Wau. The pilot will see 50 houses constructed by and for veterans in the State, as well as training in construction skills that will provide livelihood opportunities after completion of the houses. The project will be co-managed with the Jur River Development Community.

The **"Housing for Veterans for Sustainable Peace and Development Programme"** aims to provide war veterans with decent shelter and livelihoods as a key strategy for reducing the likelihood of them returning to armed conflict. Veterans will be assisted in the construction of their own houses and trained in technical construction skills.

UN-Habitat uses a 'people's process' in which beneficiaries contribute to decision making. Technical assistance will be provided along with a subsidy to purchase crucial inputs such as roofing sheets and cement.

General Kuol Manyang, Minister of Defence and Veterans' Affairs, stated, "There are 200,000 veterans on allowance from the Ministry, but in fact all displaced persons should be considered war veterans, regardless of whether or not they carried arms".

The project will also undertake needs assessments for similar veteran's housing initiatives to be implemented later in Juba and Malakal, as part of scaling up the housing process across the country.

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