



### **JOINT PRESS RELEASE**

## **UNIDO's project to promote small-scale business development in Juba officially launched with support of Japan**

**18 September 2017, JUBA:** United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and the Government of Japan project on “*Increased resilience and self-help capacities for reconstruction of livelihoods and sustained nutritional food security in South Sudan*” was officially launched at Kator Project Site in Juba on 18<sup>th</sup> September 2017.

High level representatives of the project partners, namely Hon. Rose Paulino, Minister of Agriculture, Animal Resources and Fishery, Jubek State, Hon. Johnson Swaka Nilsak, Chief Executive Director, Juba City Council and Hon. Timon Wani Marcelino, Director at Kator Block, Juba City Council were present and also addressed the participants at the launch event. The high-level government officials called upon the target beneficiaries to ensure cooperation and to commit to their graduation to small-scale food producers by benefitting from skills training on entrepreneurship and food processing, and providing advice to establish agribusinesses in stabilized communities.

Speaking at the launch event held at the Kasaba - Kator Development Organization in Juba, H.E. Mr. Kiya Masahiko, Ambassador of Japan to South Sudan, commended the Government's and people's continued efforts to pursue the transition from emergency to sustainable development and expressed the continued support from the Government of Japan. Ambassador Kiya explained that his tenure as Ambassador would end the next day and expressed good wishes to the international and national partners and to the peoples of South Sudan so that this project will strengthen resilience of the most vulnerable South Sudanese people.

The launch event will be followed by training for the beneficiaries in communities hosting Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and small business producers engaged in agricultural production for subsistence, as well as food processing and marketing chain with linkages to IDP host communities.

UNIDO's Chief Technical Advisor Mr. Ram Kishore Prasad Singh informed participants at the launch event that project main objective is to support integration of women and youths in productive and income generating activities such as food processing, business management and entrepreneurship skills. Mr. Singh informed participants that selection of more than 200 project beneficiaries and implementing partners at community level had already taken place through a consultative process involving the counterparts and initial training of 50 participants on food processing and business management will start soon.

Addressing participants at the launch event and trainees, the UNIDO CTA underlined the strategic importance of supporting private sector development in South Sudan to facilitate quicker recovery from a long time of conflict and for the reconstruction of livelihoods, particularly linked to the needs of internally displaced persons. He also informed that the project that was launched on the day integrates a sustainable capacity building approach guided by UNIDO experts and taking into consideration the opportunities for women and youth empowerment.

Project implementation, including the planned trainings, is facilitated through the Government of Japan to support small-scale businesses development for reconstruction of livelihoods and sustained food markets.

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