

## JOINT PRESS RELEASE

### Italy, UNOPS Donate Vehicles to Doctors With Africa CUAMM

JUBA, MAY 18, 2016 -- The Italian Development Cooperation (IDC) in collaboration with the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) announced a donation of two vehicles to Doctors with Africa CUAMM, an international NGO that is supporting health systems strengthening in South Sudan to improve the delivery of basic and emergency healthcare services.



Dr. Dario Mariani, an IDC representative, attended the handover event in the presence of UNOPS Head of Programme, Richard Martin Schroeder, and CUAMM Deputy Country Manager, Paolo Ferrari.

Maternal mortality rate in South Sudan is high at 2, 243 per 100,000 live births. A child born in South Sudan has a 25 percent chance of dying before age five. Pregnant women often experience considerable time delays when trying to reach a health facility. They travel long distances by foot in search of health services, as many villages do not have roads and families do not have access to vehicles or public transportation. Many die from treatable complications.

IDC has supported the strengthening of basic health services in South Sudan for several years, with a focus on improvement of maternal health and reduction of child mortality. IDC engaged UNOPS to renovate, maintain and equip selected health facilities and train medical personnel.

In a statement, Mr. Ferrari said: “This valuable donation of vehicles will allow CUAMM to effectively maintain and further enhance its intervention in support of health services delivery in different regions of South Sudan. CUAMM confirms its commitment in strengthening local health system to make it responsive to the needs of the most vulnerable.”

Doctors with Africa CUAMM has been in South Sudan since 2007, and works closely with local government authorities to identify and meet the needs of communities, intervening at hospital, primary health care facilities and community level. CUAMM is currently supporting three hospitals, 81 primary health care facilities, and a midwifery school. The NGO focuses on local health system strengthening with the final aim of ensuring people access to basic and emergency health services. Particular attention is given to mothers and children and to vulnerable groups.

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