The WHO office of South Sudan officially launches the construction of the maternity wing at Bor hospital, hands over a car.

06th December 2011 - South Sudan. It was all applause and joy for the people of Bor, Jonglei state, when the World Health Organization in collaboration with the Ministry of Health Republic of South Sudan with funds from CIDA launched the construction of the maternity block at Bor hospital.

During the Launch, WHO also handed over a brand new Toyota pick-up car to the management of Bor hospital as her contribution and support towards Strengthening Emergency Obstetrics Care in Hospitals in South Sudan. The Launch and handover took place on November 24th and was attended by minister of health Republic of South Sudan Dr Michael Milly Hussein, the Undersecretary ministry of health Republic of South Sudan, Dr Makur Matur Kariom, the representatives from the embassy of Canada and CIDA, Mr Adrian Norfolk and Ms Caroline Delaney; and the WHO staff led by the Head of WHO South Sudan office, Dr Abdi Aden Mohammed. From the state level, the launch was attended by the Governor of Jonglei state, H.E. Kuol Manyang Juuk, the Bor Commissioner H.E. Maker Lual Kuol, the Acting State Minister of Health H.E. Stephen Par, Speaker of the JSLA Hon. Peter Chol Wal, , and representative from the National Legislative Assembly.

While receiving the site from the state government of Jonglei state for the construction of the maternity block, Dr Abdi Mohammed, Head of the WHO South Sudan Office, highlighted additional support to the hospital which included providing the hospital with an Obstetrician, an Anesthesiologist, and a nurse-midwife, who are currently supporting the manpower capacity of the hospital, by providing on-the-job training for the medical staff of the hospital on CEmONC. “These specialists will be based at the hospital for one full year, WHO is also donating a pick-up car to the SMoH for use of the hospital” said Dr. Abdi.

The governor of Jonglei state H.E. Kuol Manyang Juuk, challenged the staff of the hospital to work hard to make the health of the mothers in Jonglei state good. “WHO is here only to support us, but we must work hard for the better health of mothers in this state”, said the governor. The state government of Jonglei state took full ownership of the project and launch making it a very successful event.

Mr Adrian Norfolk a representative from the embassy of Canada expressed gratitude for being part of the event and for the great
preparation of the launch by WHO in collaboration with the state did. He applauded the partnership opportunity between the WHO and the MoH on this project. Mr. Norfolk congratulated Jonglei state for being selected as the pilot site for the maternal project and stressed that Bor hospital would guide how the project would be replicated in seven other hospitals. Mr. Norfolk further appreciated the commitment of the Governor of Jonglei state H.E. Kuol Manyang Juuk, the SMoH, the hospital staff, as well as the communities in making this project launch a successful endeavor.

The construction of the maternity unit is one of the components of the project that is being implemented by the World Health Organization together with the Ministry of Health to ensure the delivery and utilization of quality comprehensive emergency obstetrics and newborn care services in South Sudan hospitals. This is a vital intervention towards accelerating maternal mortality reduction in the country. The maternity wing to be constructed is an 820sq.m facility that would contain an emergency unit, consultation rooms, 4-bed labor rooms, 4-bed delivery rooms, 2-bed post-abortion rooms, 2 operating/CS theaters, and 40-bed ward, among others. The target date of completion for the construction of the maternity unit is on May 2012. Funded by the Canadian International Development Agency, this project would support 8 main hospitals in South Sudan over a 5-year period; Bor State Hospital is the pilot site.