**Press release** **For immediate release**

# Government, IFAD and UNOPS join forces to improve rural connectivity in Eastern Equatoria

***South Sudan, Magwi, Eastern Equatoria State, 21 November 2026.—*** The High-Level Committee led by the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security, national and State Government Officials, IFAD, and UNOPS jointly assessed the progress on the rehabilitation of the 44-kilometer Magwi–Palotaka Feeder Road, an investment expected to improve farmers' access to markets, boost agricultural production and strengthen rural livelihoods.

Financed by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the Government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, with implementation support from the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), the road rehabilitation commenced in October 2026 and is expected to be completed in December 2026.

The event took place during Government and Donor visit to witness progress under the South Sudan Livelihoods Resilience Program (SSLRP). Speaking at the event, Hon. **Anthony Majak Achuoth, Undersecretary for Cooperatives and Rural Development at the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security**, reaffirmed the Government's commitment to investing in rural infrastructure to drive agricultural transformation.

*"Our priority is to strengthen agricultural production and ensure farming communities can access markets and benefit from their hard work. The Magwi–Palotaka Road is an important investment towards achieving this ambition. We appreciate our development partners for financing this initiative and UNOPS for helping translate our development priorities into tangible results for our people,"* he said.

**IFAD Country Director, Ms Caroline Mwongera**, highlighted the importance of rural infrastructure in connecting farmers to economic opportunities and strengthening community resilience.

*"Investing in rural roads is investing in farmers, food security and stronger rural economies. Improved connectivity will help farming communities move their produce to markets more efficiently, access essential services and expand their livelihood opportunities. IFAD is pleased to support the Government's efforts to build more resilient rural communities in South Sudan,"* she said.

**UNOPS Country Manager, Ms Petronella Kasaka Halwiindi**, expressed appreciation to the Government, IFAD, the Government of the Netherlands and GAFSP for their continued trust and confidence in UNOPS as an implementing partner.

*"We are grateful and privileged to be recognized as a partner of choice in implementing this important program. This tripartite partnership reflects our shared commitment to translating development priorities into tangible results that improve people's lives,"* she said.

The Magwi Palataka Feeder Road is one of the strategic investments under the **SSLRP**, a Government-led program implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security in partnership with UNOPS. The program targets **61,808 vulnerable households (approximately 370,848 people) across eight counties** through investments in agriculture, cash-for-work, and climate-resilient community infrastructure, with a focus on women, youth, returnees, and vulnerable communities.

The Government, IFAD and UNOPS encourage communities to take ownership of the road and support its protection and maintenance to ensure lasting benefits.

**ENDS**

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The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) is the only international financial institution exclusively focused on transforming rural economies. IFAD invests in rural people and their communities, strengthening agrifood value chains and building food security, shared prosperity, and stability. Today, IFAD and its partners have nearly US$26 billion invested in ongoing projects that are transforming rural economies.
A wide range of photographs and broadcast-quality video content of IFAD's work in rural communities is available for download from our **Digi Hub**.