



South Sudan Annual Field Report

October 2015 to September 2016

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Foreword

This report focuses on Sign of Hope's activities in South Sudan within the current reporting year of October 2015 to



September 2016. It will specifically report on core activities that largely define Sign of Hope's projects in South Sudan. These activities are Primary Health Care Centres (PHCC), Nutrition, WASH, emergency aid (food and non-food items distribution), support to mentally ill patients in Rumbek prison, logistics and sourcing of items which are essential for the running of facilities and offices in Rumbek and Nyal. Other projects that demonstrably changed the lives of local people in South Sudan are also highlighted in this report.

This reporting year has not been easy for the people of South Sudan but Sign of Hope, as an organization which is solidly faith based, and with most of its principles and goals inspired by biblical scriptures, continues to play the role of being a friend to the people of South Sudan who have been struggling to bear with the brunt of violent conflict, economic turmoil, hunger and inadequate medical care.

Roads in South Sudan are seasonal and this always posts a serious logistical setback for Sign of Hope during rainy season. Supplies to Nyal, for example, are transported with the UNHAS helicopter,

which further drives up the cost of taking medical and non-medical supplies to run our facility in Nyal. During the rainy season, roads are flooded and Rumbek is cut off from Juba which is connected to the neighbouring countries of Uganda and Kenya where most of our medical and non-medical supplies are sourced. This adds to the already mounting challenge of having to transport supplies to Nyal which is remote and isolated from Rumbek and Juba all year round. This is possible, thanks to the World Food Program (WFP) logistics cluster that provides free of charge transportation of our medical and other supplies to Nyal by air.

Continuing economic hardship has rendered most households incapable of paying for health care services. This puts a lot of pressure on the available Sign of Hope health care facilities. Sign of Hope's clinic in Rumbek is constantly full; some come as early as 3am so as to find a front spot on the long waiting lines. Waiting bays are filled to brim as those unable to find space on the waiting bays lay on the verandas, others stand against the pillars of the verandas. Consumption of drugs is consequently more than initially anticipated as beneficiaries don't just come from the catchment population but also from as far as Maper which is 120km north of Rumbek town. Others come from Cueibet, Pacong and Ulu which are also several kilometres away from Rumbek.

Recurrent outbreak of violence and confrontation between local communities as well as between government and rebel forces has been making the country largely insecure forcing Sign of Hope to



not only continue to keep the project running only with local staffs but also limiting the movement of some of the national staffs that come from antagonised ethnicities as they could be targeted and their safety threatened elsewhere in the country.

Dr. Lucia Sorrentino

Africa Programmes Director

Who we are and our values

Hoffnungszeichen| Sign of Hope e.V. is an international, interdenominational human rights and relief organization with its head office in Konstanz, Germany. With a background in Christian faith as a shared set of values and basic motivating factors, Sign of Hope is guided by the core values of sympathy, charity and solidarity, being inspired by the quote from the gospel of Matthew chapter 25, verse 40: Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of my brothers, you did it to me.

Where we work

Beside Rumbek and Nyal in South Sudan, we also have our presence in other African countries including the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Rwanda, South Sudan, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe. The scope of this report will however be limited to activities and projects that are implemented in South Sudan. In all the countries of intervention, Sign of Hope is helping to positively change the lives of needy and vulnerable people.

What we do

The main focus of Sign of Hope is in South Sudan where the organization has been supporting and managing several projects for the past 22 years. Sign of Hope implements humanitarian aid, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), human right as well as health programmes in Lakes and Unity States.

Our partners in South Sudan

Sign of Hope also wants to acknowledge the cooperation of institutions that acted as crucial partners in the implementation of projects that Sign of Hope implemented in the year 2015–2016. These institutions are:

- South Sudan Ministry of Health
- South Sudan Relief and Rehabilitation Commission
- Diocese of Rumbek (DOR)
- Sisters of Charity

Sign of Hope annual achievement at a glance

Despite all the above challenges, Sign of Hope made significant achievements as highlighted below in the table.

Programme	Figures
Rumbek	
People treated at OPD	21,936
Cases tested at the Lab	8,038
ANC attendance	2,823
Children immunized	2,015
Women immunized against tetanus	414
Malnourished children treated	454
WASH beneficiaries in Cueibet	9,183
Loreto food relief beneficiaries (kids)	688



Mentally ill treated in Rumbek	11
Total assorted logistics supplies (in kg)	58,998
Nyal	
People treated at IPD & OPD	39,129
Malnourished children treated	397
Laboratory tests	16,289
Antenatal and postnatal records	1,689
Minor surgeries	82
Children immunized	4,413
Women immunized against tetanus	822
Live births in the facility	200
Malakal relief food beneficiaries	6,413

Table 1: Sign of Hope annual achievement

Rumbek Primary Health Care Centre (PHCC)



A typical day at the Sign of Hope health centre in Rumbek

Introduction

Sign of Hope is running a Primary Health Care Centre in Rumbek Central County, Matangaipayam. This clinic is providing health facilities to a catchment population which, according to Rumbek County Health Department (CHD) 2016, is at 212,948 people (2016 CHD-Rumbek). Due to inadequacy of health facilities in the state, other counties and payams which

are far from Rumbek also benefit from the clinic by accessing free primary healthcare services. This raises the catchment area of the clinic above the estimated figures provided by the CHD. As previously mentioned, some of our patients in the nutrition program are from as far as Maper which is 120km north of Rumbek, Cueibet which is about 50km west and Pacong which is around 30km east of Rumbek. These people travel from those far villages and towns because either they don't have health centres at all or services they get from Sign of Hope are not accessed there, or both. Rumbek primary health centre provides a number of health services to the needy people of Western Lakes State and beyond as explained below:

Out-patient Department (OPD)



Adult waiting bay in Rumbek Sign of Hope PHCC

Throughout the financial year of October 2015 to September 2016, Sign of Hope has been providing free medical services where patients do come for consultation, diagnosis and treatment during the day time but do not receive medical services overnight. In this financial year, a total number of 21,936 patients were treated with various diseases.



Common Diseases Treated at the Out-Patient Department



James Majok, Sign of Hope clinical officer treating a patient in Rumbek PHCC

There are a number of diseases treated at the out-patient department in Rumbek PHCC in the reporting year October 2015 to September 2016. Some of the diseases such as respiratory tract infections and malaria are largely seasonal while others such as sexually transmitted diseases occur equally throughout the year. Theoretically, Malaria cases are thought to be at their peak during wet season when there is ample breeding ground for the parasite carriers such as the anopheles mosquito. The table below shows the diseases treated in this financial year.

Disease	Total	%Total
Malaria	10,420	47.50
RTI*	6,879	31.40
Diarrhoea	2,400	10.90
Typhoid fever	1,899	8.70
Brucellosis	336	1.50
Tuberculosis	2	0.01
Total treated	21,936	100.00

Table 2: Total number of patients treated with various diseases at the Rumbek OPD. (RTI =Respiratory Tract Infection)*

Antenatal Clinic (ANC)



Monica Achen, a nurse, examines a pregnant mother at the ANC in Rumbek Sign of Hope'sPHCC

In South Sudan, it is estimated that there are about 2,054 maternal deaths per 100,000 births (International Medical Corps).

Sign of Hope as a friend of people of South Sudan has been providing free antenatal care where pregnant mothers come for check-up as well as receiving advice from the nurses in the health facility. Within the financial year of October 2015 to September 2016, a total number of 2,823 pregnant women visited the facility and were attended to by the Sign of Hope midwives. In addition to that, two babies were successfully delivered in the Rumbek facility.



Expanded Program on Immunization (EPI)



Inside the paediatric waiting bay in Rumbek Sign of Hope PHCC

Sign of Hope has been running an EPI program in Rumbek centre county, western Lakes State. This is aimed at preventing the outbreak of dangerous diseases such as the polio, measles, diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus and tuberculosis. Other communicable diseases were also prevented using other methods such as providing vitamin A. In the financial year October 2015 to September 2016, a total number of 2,015 children were immunized. In addition to that, 414 pregnant mothers were also immunized against tetanus.

Table below shows the total number of children immunized during the financial year.

Disease	Total	% Total
Polio	623	30.90
Tuberculosis	279	13.90
Tetanus	397	19.70
Diphtheria	542	26.90
Measles	93	4.60
Hepatitis B	9	0.40
Vitamin A recipients	72	3.60
Total immunized	2,015	100.00

Table 3: Common diseases children were immunized against in this financial year

Nutrition program



A mother with her malnourished child in the Rumbek PHCC

Throughout the reporting year as well as in the previous years, Sign of Hope has been running a nutrition program where children from within Rumbek Centre County and beyond have been treated with malnutrition. Sign of Hope has been admitting severely malnourished children in the Sisters of Charity compound. The compound is supported by Sign of Hope and children admitted there are supplied with nutritious materials such as plumpynut, milk, high energy biscuit, cooking oil and sugar.

They are also supplied with hygienic materials such as soap so that children admitted are washed by their mothers or caregiver. However, in the case of moderate malnutrition, children are treated at out-patient mode. Within the reporting year, a total of 426 children were admitted in the facility. Out of which 107 were cured and discharged and three died.

Most parents don't bring their children in time for treatment but would come when it is too late and that could explain this mortality rate. Some parents live very far like Maper in Rumbek North County which



is 120 km north of Rumbek and it is therefore difficult for them to bring their children for treatment on time. Many families have to walk all the way as roads are blocked by floods or they do not have means for paying the fare altogether. Others consult traditional doctors instead of immediately bringing their children for treatment.

Children admitted at the Sisters of Charity compound supported by Sign of Hope taking a bath in the compound, Rumbek

Laboratory Services



Lab technician, Paul Nyata, doing serology in Rumbek Sign of Hope Lab

These services are provided to malnourished children, other patients and pregnant mothers attending the ANC. In the reporting year, a total number of 8,038 patients were tested at the laboratory.

The table below shows diseases tested in the reporting year.

Disease	Total	% Total
Malaria	4,509	56.10
Typhoid	1,365	17.00
Brucellosis	702	8.70
Urine analysis	526	6.50
Pregnancy test	393	4.90
HIV test	183	2.30

Hepatitis	151	1.90
Stool analysis	138	1.70
ESR	33	0.40
Haemoglobin level	24	0.30
Random blood sugar test	14	0.20
Total cases tested	8,038	100.00

Table 4: Most tested diseases in the financial year 2015–2016

Achievements



Lab technician, John Akol, taking a blood sample from a child

Despite all challenges associated with the lack of reliable alternative health facilities and conflict that has displaced many people from their villages into Rumbek town, Sign of Hope has been able to guarantee a constant supply of medical services to a growing population of needy people in South Sudan.

Challenges

- A growing number of potential beneficiaries is putting a constraint on the budgeted quantities of medical supplies, capacity of facility and labour force in the PHCC. This, at times, results in outage of supplies and manpower gap in the running of the facility.
- Road connectivity is generally not reliable as roads linking Rumbek and



Juba are seasonal. This results in items which are not sourced in Rumbek not being able to reach Rumbek, at affordable cost.

- Lack of a maternity ward for delivery for expectant mothers who attend antenatal services in the clinic.
- Lack of means to carry out a community outreach programme. Staffs have no means of transport, coupled with rampant insecurity that limits the movement of staffs around.

Minor Surgeries and Procedures

In the Rumbek PHCC, minor operations such as disarticulations (amputation in the joints), debridemas and removal of foreign bodies are done. In the referred financial year of October 2015 to September 2016, a total of 42 minor surgeries and procedures were carried out in the Rumbek PHCC.

Nyal Primary Health Care Centre (PHCC)



Patients at Nyal Primary Health Care Centre

Introduction

Sign of Hope is running a Primary Health Care Centre in Nyal in Panyijar County, Unity State. This health facility is helping a population of about 69,863 people. This includes Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) from a series of conflicts raging on in South Sudan where Unity State is one of the highly affected areas. With Nyal being strategically placed, the Sign of Hope supported clinic acts as an access point for not just the catchment population but also to the surrounding villages and beyond. Some of the areas served by this clinic are Nyandong, Kol, Marial, Macharand and Kueryieka. Some, especially the IDPs, come from as far as Leer County which is about 70km from Nyal. In the Nyal PHCC, a range of health care services are accessible to the population free of charge. These services are both preventive (e.g. vaccination and immunization of children and women) and curative treatments such as treatment of Malaria, sexually transmitted diseases, tuberculosis, etc.

In-patient Department (IPD)



A child admitted at Nyal in-patient department

Sign of Hope is running an in-patient health facility in Nyal PHCC. This facility



admits and administers health services to the catchment population and those from beyond and surrounding villages. The IPD has a total of 30 beds with mattresses. In the reporting year of October 2015 to September 2016 a total number of 2,586 in-patients have been treated in the facility.

Out-patient Department (OPD)



A mother with her sick child at the Nyal PHCC consultation room

Sign of Hope is operating an out-patient department in Nyal. This facility treats a wide range of health conditions from snake bites, to tuberculosis. In the facility, patients from within Nyal and beyond including those displaced from their villages do receive health services here. The mode of treatment in this facility is patients consultation, prescription based on assessment of their condition and laboratory testing and the actual dispensation of the drug and treatment. Children are also vaccinated against dangerous diseases such as the measles. In this reporting year, a total number of 41,412 patients consulted the OPD in the Sign of Hope operated Nyal health facility.

Common diseases treated at the OPD in Nyal

Nyal OPD is handling a wide range of health issues from treatment of diseases to prevention of dangerous diseases such as polio, tuberculosis, measles, etc. However, most diseases treated at the centre are: Malaria, pneumonia, diarrhoea or typhoid. In some cases, there are other minor and less frequent cases such as snake bites, burns, minor and major injuries from conflict.

Below is the table showing diseases handled in the financial year October 2015 to September 2016.

Disease	Total	% Total
Respiratory disease	9,993	25.50
Malaria	9,027	23.10
Diarrhoea	6,613	16.90
Urinary Tract Infection	2,911	7.40
Typhoid	2,549	6.50
Skin disease	2,148	5.50
Bilharzia	1,783	4.60
Eye disease	1,685	4.30
Gastritis	1,297	3.30
Brucellosis	707	1.80
Tuberculosis (TB)	267	0.70
TB suspected cases	149	0.40
Total cases treated	39,129	100.00

Table 5: Common diseases treated at the Sign of Hope Nyal IPD and OPD.

Surgical Procedures

Sign of Hope is operating surgical medical services to the population of Nyal, Panyijar County in Unity State. Surgical procedure offered include; tooth extraction, eye and ear irritation, minor surgery, debridement as well as removal of foreign elements in the body. A total



number of 82 minor surgeries and procedures were handled at the Sign of Hope surgical facility in Nyal in this reporting year.

Antenatal Clinic (ANC)

With an alarming maternal mortality rate (at 2%) in South Sudan, Sign of Hope is taking a step towards avoiding more cases of women dying while or shortly after giving birth. This is done by Sign of Hope trained staffs who offer check-up to pregnant mothers as well as giving advice at the antenatal and postnatal stages. Mothers that are giving birth are attended to within the Sign of Hope delivery ward. Other services such as vaccination against tetanus are given to pregnant mothers at the facility.

Within the reporting year, there were 1,579 and 92 patients that visited the facility at the antenatal and postnatal service stage, respectively. In addition to that, there were 200 live births, ten still births 101 miscarriages and zero maternal deaths in the facility.

Nutrition Programme



A mother with her malnourished child in Nyal

Sign of Hope is operating a nutrition programme in Nyal. This program helps children who are severely and moderately

malnourished to get treatment in the Sign of Hope stabilization facility. Children who are admitted in Sign of Hope nutrition facility are given nutritious products such as plumpynut, high energy biscuits and milk.

Sign of Hope staffs also offer advice to the mothers on how to feed children with a balanced diet to avoid more children being malnourished. This is also done so that overall child malnutrition is avoided. In the given financial year of October 2015 to September 2016, Sign of Hope admitted and treated a total number of 397 malnourished children. Out of that only three died and 148 didn't come back for regular assessment.

EPI Programme

This program is aimed at protecting children from dangerous and infectious diseases such as polio and measles. Within the reporting year, Sign of Hope vaccinated a total of 4,413 children under the EPI programme.

The table below shows diseases that children were vaccinated and immunized against in the reporting year.

Disease	Total	% Total
Tetanus	1,044	23.70
Diphtheria	959	21.70
Tuberculosis	927	21.00
Measles	798	18.10
Polio	647	14.70
Vitamin A recipients	38	0.90
Total	4,413	100.00

Table 6: Common diseases that children were immunized against in Nyal facility



Laboratory Services



Sign of Hope staff member, Simon Lei, taking a sample from a patient in the laboratory in Nyal

Sign of Hope is running a laboratory service in Nyal. This lab is important because doctors are able to make an appropriate prescription based on the lab results and analysis.

Below is the table showing the most tested diseases at the laboratory in Nyal.

Disease	Total	% Total
Malaria	7,744	47.50
Typhoid	4,421	27.10
Brucellosis	2,350	14.40
Urine analysis	638	3.90
Stool analysis	349	2.10
Pregnancy test	279	1.70
Tuberculosis	233	1.40
Hepatitis	147	0.90
Haemoglobin level	70	0.40
RBST	28	0.20
Kalaazar	22	0.10
ESR	5	0.03
Rheumatoid factor test	3	0.02
Total cases	16,289	100.00

Table 7: Common diseases tested in the Nyal laboratory

Achievements

- Despite persistent insecurity in the country, Sign of Hope continued to provide a free medical facility to the

poor people who would otherwise not have an opportunity to receive treatment.

- Sign of Hope continued to supply medical and non-medical items to the population in Nyal who are the direct beneficiaries of the PHCC run by Sign of Hope, even with the current poor transport connectivity.
- Sign of Hope continued to maintain a good relationship with national and state ministries of health in Juba and Rumbek, and international NGOs such as the UNICEF and WHO.

Despite a national crisis that resulted in the pulling out of international staffs, Sign of Hope is being well run by national staffs that were trained by international staffs.

Challenges

- Lack of road connectivity between Nyal and Rumbek is a serious challenge faced in the supply of medical and non-medical items to Nyal.
- Lack of other reliable medical service in the area and increased conflict related medical and social cases puts a lot of pressure on the facilities provided by Sign of Hope. This always results in unexpected outage of items such as drugs, reagents and vaccines.
- Persistent insecurity due to border clashes with communities in Lakes State and local conflict always put a lot of constraint on the facility due to cases of displacement or related casualties.



Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)



Minor repairing in Citcok Borehole, Cueibet County

Introduction

Sign of Hope is running a WASH program in South Sudan. This program is aimed at providing clean water and awareness on hygiene to the local population. However, in the year of October 2015 to September 2016, Sign of Hope was not able to continue implementing the WASH projects in some parts of the country e.g. in Unity State due to national crisis brought about by violent conflict. However, Sign of Hope was still implementing it in some parts of the country such as in Cueibet, Lakes State where the following were carried out.

Rehabilitation of Boreholes and Training of Water Management Committee (WMC) in Cueibet

Sign of Hope has repaired and chlorinated 20 boreholes in Cueibet, Lakes State. Boreholes that were broken were

repaired and handed over to the community. Additionally WMCs (consisting of ten individuals per borehole), made up of individuals that have been trained on how to manage the water source, were selected to manage and teach the community on proper use of water resources. It was done in collaboration with the local government and community leaders, who are considered as stake holders in the project of delivering clean water to the community.

Under this program, communities of Cueibet and IDPs from Sudan, now resettled around Cueibet, received a total of 2,000 collapsible jerry-cans with a capacity of 20 litres each. Also, a total of 2,000 bars of soap and 460 hygiene promotion t-shirts were distributed to the communities of Cueibet, Lakes State. A total of 9,361 individuals have benefited of the boreholes rehabilitation work done.



Logistics



Offloading truck in Rumbek

Introduction

Sign of Hope is running a number of projects in South Sudan. Logistics is critical for the success of our projects in South Sudan because items and inputs need to be sourced and procured in order for the projects to run. Like many other years, Sign of Hope had to purchase a wide range of items that are critical for the running of the projects and administration of Sign of Hope in various parts of South Sudan and in Nairobi. Some of the items that can be found in the local market at a convenient price and in sufficient quantity are sourced locally in the markets of Rumbek or Juba while some of the items that cannot be locally accessed are procured in Nairobi. Within the reporting year of October 2015 to September 2016, Sign of Hope procured and transported total of assorted items of 58,998 kg, a bulk of these items (57,797 kg) were transported by road while just 2% of the total items transported within the financial year were by air. These items are in the category of medical, non-medical and other consumables such as the nutrition products. Sign of Hope

undertook a number of logistical activities as explained below:

Medical Supplies to Rumbek

Sign of Hope is not deterred from helping the needy people of South Sudan despite the ongoing conflict. It continues to deliver them with medical supplies needed to run the facility in Rumbek. The current conflict and lack of reliable medical services in the area puts a lot of pressure on the available services. In the reporting year, Sign of Hope spent a total of 41,876.27 USD on medicines and medical materials for Rumbek PHCC. The drugs and medical consumables, together with non-medical items, are purchased in Nairobi, by the regional logistics office of Sign of Hope, on an annual basis. Then, both by truck and by plane, the cargo is delivered to Rumbek, passing by Juba; after that from Rumbek to Nyal via the logistics cluster, as already mentioned.

Non-medical Supplies to Rumbek

There has also been a need to supply non-medical items. These items include construction materials, stationaries, furniture, spares and fuel, among other items, needed for the running of office in Rumbek.



Nutrition supplies for Rumbek and Nyal

Medical Supplies to Nyal

Sign of Hope is running a medical facility in Nyal. There has been a need to constantly deliver the medical items, due to the neediness of the people and constant increment of the beneficiaries as conflict continues in the country and people are displaced from their homes.

Non-medical and Logistics Supplies to Nyal

In the same year, Sign of Hope also supplied a variety of assorted non-medical items to Nyal in a general form of stationaries, power system, spares, furniture that are essential for the support and running of the facility in Nyal.

Items for Nutrition in Rumbek and Nyal

Sign of Hope is running a nutrition program in Rumbek and Nyal. This facility is helping both severely and mildly malnourished children. In the reporting year of October 2015 to September 2016, Sign of Hope spent a total of 68,088.32 USD. A total 18,488.79 was spent for

Rumbek while 49,599.53 was spent for Nyal nutrition program.

Achievements

Despite difficulties in transport connectivity, Sign of Hope continued to guarantee the constant supply of essential medical and non-medical items to Rumbek and Nyal within the reporting year.

Challenges

Roads in South Sudan are seasonal and more specifically, poor road connectivity between Rumbek and Nyal posts a daunting challenge in taking essential supplies to Nyal. Sign of Hope is, at times, forced to charter a flight to transport some items to Nyal otherwise most of the transport is done by the UN Logistics clusters.

Humanitarian Aid

Introduction

Within this reporting year, Sign of Hope has been implementing a number of projects that are aimed at improving, saving and developing the lives of the needy people in South Sudan. The central theme in these projects is the response to humanitarian situations in the field of education, food security and medical assistance. These projects are as explained in the following:



Rumbek Prison Project for the Mentally Ill patients



Sign of Hope psychiatrist, Moses Sokiri, in the middle of mentally ill patients (behind in white is Sign of Hope Paul Mangeth standing with Rumbek prison officials)

There is a high rate of mental illness in South Sudan. This situation is thought to have been brought by conflict in the country that has traumatized the population. Rare or even lack of economic opportunities have also made people, especially the youth who are largely unemployed, to become frustrated and depressed. These conditions in the country are largely to blame for the number of people that have developed mental illnesses. Mentally ill people are then kept in the main prison in Rumbek because the state has no specialized medical facility. Sign of Hope created the project aimed at helping mentally ill patients who are kept in Rumbek central prison with drugs, food and training of medical staffs with skills needed to handle mental illness.

This project is expected to run from February 2016 to January 2017. The modalities in implementing this project are that Sign of Hope trains the prison's staff on the identification, treatment and management of mental illness. Several

trainings have already been done by Sign of Hope. Moreover, Sign of Hope supplies food and drugs to the patients; the role of the prison authority is to take care of the actual treatment and dispensing of food to the mentally ill patients. Also a total of 21 cases were admitted where eleven have been treated in prison, eight patients were treated and discharged from the medical facility while three were treated from their homes. Specialized drugs were also delivered to prison for the treatment of these patients.



Food for the mentally ill being carried to prison store in Rumbek

Achievements

- Sign of Hope has successfully treated eleven patients. These patients were sick when they came to the facility. Some were outright mad and violent while others were not conscious of their dignity.
- Sign of Hope has changed the lives of these people and that of their relatives who were traumatized and emotionally affected by the sickness of the member of their family. Some of the victims are from single mother families who have no means of affording a specialized treatment for their children.



Challenges

- Lack of personnel with specialized knowledge in the medical field as most of the prison staffs are soldiers with insufficient or no medical training and experience to handle mental illness cases in prison.

Relief Food Distribution in Malakal



Beneficiaries distributing relief food donated by Sign of Hope in Pakwar village in Panyikang County, Upper Nile State

According to international agencies, including the UN agencies such as the WFP, Upper Nile region is highly affected by the current conflict in the country. There is a dire humanitarian need. People go without food and there is rampant insecurity in the area. In December 2015, St. Joseph Cathedral of Diocese of Malakal proposed a project called, Food Relief Appeal for Civilians affected by War in Upper Nile – Panyikang County. Citing a dire situation of food insecurity in this particular county (Panyikang), St. Joseph's Parish appealed to Sign of Hope and other donors for funds to be used to buy food (sorghum) from the neighbouring country of Sudan. Sign of Hope became the largest donor in this project. St. Joseph's Parish,

who was the implementer of this project, then used the money to buy 1,000 bags of sorghum. The food was then transported to the target population of four villages of Panyikang County. As the result, 6,413 vulnerable people within Panyikang County, Upper Nile State, were reached and assisted with this food.



Vulnerable people receiving relief food donated by Sign of Hope in Panyikang County, Upper Nile State

Achievements

Sign of Hope has been able to reach a total of 6,413 people including people affected by the current conflict who are living as Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Panyikang County.

Challenges

- Challenges as expressed by the implementer of the project are that there was a logistical challenge due to bad roads which ultimately led to an increased cost of transport.
- Currency exchange rates fluctuation was also a challenge as unstable South Sudanese Pounds made it difficult to carry out any reliable accounting



procedure on the donated money using a local currency.

Emergency Food Supply and Construction of Classrooms for Loreto School Community



Loreto Primary School children having lunch provided by Sign of Hope in their school compound

Sign of Hope made a donation to the project aimed at providing food to Loreto primary school. There is widespread hunger in the area due to conflict that has destroyed the economy and destabilized the sources of incomes and livelihood of many families in Lakes State. The local market is also lacking basic food supplies and there is runaway inflation in the economy; most families can't even buy enough food.

This situation resulted in a low attendance in school because if children are hungry

at home and they also can't get anything in school, they will not be coming to school.

Sign of Hope intervened with funding a project with a donation of 10,000 EUR that gives these children a chance to receive breakfast and lunch from school. The school used the money to buy food stuffs that were given to children as cooked food which they take as breakfast and lunch.

While the Loreto school compound includes classrooms for secondary education, primary school classes previously had to be taught under the trees. In cooperation with the Federal Ministry of Economic Co-Operation (BMZ), Sign of Hope funded the construction of eight classrooms, one staff room, one office and one storage room for class levels 5 to 8, serving approximately 400 children. The project represents the second phase of supplying the school with primary class rooms. By now, a total of 16 classrooms for 730 children have been built, supplying all levels of primary education with proper working spaces and equipment.



Financial Statements

Consolidated expenditure for Sign of Hope Africa Projects for the financial year October 2015 to September 2016

Description	Amount(USD)
Health	738,020.78
Education	390,066.65
Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)	111,846.76
Emergency Humanitarian Relief	85,413.61
Psychological Support Prison	56,308.36
Donation in Kind-Transport and Distribution	400,745.53
Nairobi and Rumbek Logistics Office	477,565.34
Total expenditure	2,259,967.03

Table 8: Sign of Hope consolidated expenditures

Sign of Hope Primary Health Care Centres (Rumbek and Nyal) expenditures for the financial year October 2015 to September 2016.

Description	Amount (USD)	
	Rumbek	Nyal
Salaries and Travelling	144,277.56	236,719.99
Medicines & Medical Materials	41,876.27	60,211.22
Nutrition Foods	18,488.79	49,599.53
Transport	9,231.37	60,128.08
Security	984.08	524.71
Maintenance& Repair of Buildings	4,200.10	14,993.20
Car Maintenance	0.00	9,016.36
Camp Running Costs	4,868.26	6,349.16
Consultancies and Assessments	7,798.40	8,128.59
Training and Workshop	914.26	3,959.70
Others	13,210.04	42,541.11
Total expenditure	245,849.14	492,171.64

Table 9: Sign of Hope annual expenditures for Rumbek and Nyal PHCCs



“Truly I say to you, as you did to one of the
least of my brother, you did it to me”
Mathew 25:40

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