



Celebrating Our Fallen Heroes

A message from Simon Nyabwengi

Country Program Director

July 2013 will forever be etched in the minds of all of us in World Vision Sudan as a very dark month. It is during this month, that we lost two of our colleagues, *Ali Ibrahim, fondly known to his friends as 'Khrumjee' and Sabil Mansour.*

At around noon on that fateful day, crossfire between two armed groups regrettably hit the premises of our South Darfur operations at the Nyala headquarters. It was during this unfortunate incident that Ali Ibrahim lost his life, while Sabil Mansour was seriously wounded and would later succumb to his injuries. Three other staff members suffered minor injuries and have fully recovered.

There has been an outpouring of support for the families of Ali and Sabil. The two were dedicated staff, always concerned about the welfare of the communities they served. Ali one day single-handedly supervised a food distribution exercise when other staff could not make it to the distribution point. He took it upon himself to do this rather than keep the community members waiting. Sabil used to go beyond the call of duty, reporting to work at 7.00 am and coordinating the transportation of staff to the various work locations. His discipline is manifestly clear in his children who have excelled in engineering studies at the university. To these two who died while helping improve the lives of children and their families in Darfur, we salute you and pray that your souls rest in peace. For us who are left behind, now more than ever before, we have to continue with the work that Ali and Sabil died doing.

We remain committed to meeting the needs of children in Sudan and indeed within a week of the incident, we were able to resume food distribution and essential services to the people of Darfur. I would be remiss if I did not applaud the heroism of our Sudanese colleagues who risked their lives to assist in the evacuation of staff that were injured. The Nyala Crisis Management Team did an excellent job. *To Yasir, Omda, Essam and other members of the team, I say thank you very much.*

I also want to thank *Giddo, Niemat, Manal and Omer* for providing counselling to our staff in Nyala.

This newsletter is a celebration of the commitment our staff and the positive impact that our programs are having in the communities where we work!

Our Main Feature

Darfur receives outpouring support in social media

By Elizabeth Hendley and Sevil Omer, magazine editors - WVUS



The fallen heroes, Sabil Mansour and Ali Ibrahim

There was an outpouring of online support for two World Vision staff who were killed in a crossfire in South Darfur, Sudan the worst single incident of violence against World Vision staff since 2010, when eight died during an attack in Pakistan.

Since news broke of the deaths of Ali Ibrahim and Sabil Mansour, World Vision supporters worldwide took to social media sites, including Facebook and Twitter, to express love for the families affected, share their grief and pray for healing and protection.

“They were heroes to me ... God bless them and their families,” posted Mila Zaballero-Abesamis on WVUS’s Facebook page.

“My thoughts are with all of you, your team and family. Sorry to read this from you today,” said Candace Alper on WV Canada’s Twitter page.

Daniel Oliva tweeted in Spanish: “Oremos por las familias de las víctimas!” (translation: pray for the families of the victims).

“Pray that the violence ends and World Vision is able to resume,” posted Lisa Skinner on WVUS’s magazine Facebook page.

On WVUS’s Facebook page, a steady stream of prayers flowed in from supporters: “God, only You can know the why of such events and sorrow,” wrote La Ryeness. “I pray for the families — that You will bring them peace.

Dave Toyce, president and chief executive officer of WV Canada, said: “This is a tragic reminder that we work in places where there is daily risk to humanitarian aid workers. It’s a great loss that speaks to the unwavering commitment of World Vision employees who strive to make children’s lives better, in spite of danger. Our thoughts and prayers are with the mourning families, and our injured colleagues.”

“Our prayers are with the families of these courageous staff who gave of themselves every day in humble service so that others might live. In the end they gave the ultimate gift—their very lives. Such sacrifice is an inspiration for all God’s people, and certainly for the World Vision family as we continue to serve children and families in some of the world’s most difficult and dangerous places,” said Rich Stearns, president –WVUS.

WVI President Kevin Jenkins wrote to the widows of the two staff who died in the attack, to express condolences and support on his own and on World Vision’s behalf.

Mrs Eiman Basheer Aboh, widow of Sabil Mansour, is left with nine children, Siham, Karima, Rasha, Mohamed, Elham, Hind, Gamar, Moiser and Samar. At the time of his demise, Ali Ibrahim’s widow, Mrs Hawa Ahmed Hamad Mohammed, had a three-month old baby, Mo-hand Ali.

World Vision has resumed operations in South Darfur, Sudan.

Our Work

What's in a name? A Celebration of Hope and Good Health

By Brenda Asiko



Sadia and her daughter, Afra in Otash Camp Nutrition Centre. World Vision has been working in OtashCamp for the past 8 years. World Vision provides life saving food aid, health and nutrition services,

Sadia lives in Centre 4 in Otash camp. There are a total of 10 centers in Otash camp. Sadia's daughter, Afra, has malnutrition. At eight months, **she weighs 7kgs**; her weight is not normal and is part of World Vision's nutrition program. She has been part of the program for **5 months** now and in this period her weight has improved drastically. When she started the program **she was three months old and weighed 3kgs**.

Sadia has been living in Otash camp for the past eight years. Before that she lived with her family in Adwa village, which is about 45kms from Otash. She moved because of insecurity and came to Otash to seek refuge.

"Some of my family members were killed, others just got lost, and I never got to see them again. We had to move to a safe place so my children could be secure".

Sadia is a casual worker and everyday goes out to look for work to help support her family. Her husband did not come along with her when the fighting escalated; he remained behind so he could bring home the family donkeys their only source of income. She does not make enough money to support her family and is therefore not able to give them a balanced meal. Her youngest child, baby Afra, whose name means celebration, has greatly benefitted from World Vision's nutrition program.

World Vision has been working in Otash Camp for the past 8 years. Otash camp is one of the largest in Nyala locality with a **population of approximately 71,000**. The population of the IDPs has grown as people from conflict zones seek refuge in the city. In the last two months alone, there have been 10,622 new arrivals in Otash camp, with new arrivals streaming in everyday, fleeing the conflict.

World Vision provides life saving food aid, health and nutrition services, reaching **about 56,000 beneficiaries**. The nutrition center is accessible to everyone in the camp. At the nutrition center, World Vision has various activities including general food distribution, weighing children to monitor their growth as well as demonstration to caregivers on how to cook for their young ones.

"My little girl Afra has been depending on the food World Vision provides for her health and growth. If this program was not there, Afra will not be able to grow as normal. This program has really helped my Afra and I am really grateful for all the work World Vision is doing here".

WV Australia, WFP, UNICEF and WV Canada support services available at the nutrition center.

Our Work

Shielding Future Generations From Poor Health

By Brenda Asiko



A mother and her child at the medical centre in Otash. World Vision provides life saving food aid, health and nutrition services, reaching about 56,000 beneficiaries. Picture by Brenda Asiko.

The vaccination unit in the Otash medical clinic has different kinds of vaccinations available including Rotavirus, Polio, Penta, Tetanus, BCG, Measles, Chicken Pox and Yellow Fever. Everyday, the clinic tends to **between 30 and 35 people**, mostly mothers bringing their children.

When mothers come for antenatal check-ups, they are educated about the different kinds of vaccinations available and when to come for them.

“The biggest challenge we have as clinical officers is the attitude of the women towards vaccinations. Most of them just don’t care because they have no knowledge of the implications. So when pregnant women come, we start them on the sensitization program” says Swaleh, the vaccination specialist at Otash Clinic.

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The other challenge, Swaleh says, is the misconceptions that go round about vaccinations. People believe the side effects are fatal. The clinic staff and outreach officers dispel their fears, and they then explain to them the possible side effects and in turn they are more open to it.

“Vaccinations are very important because some of the diseases are not treatable. Polio for instance causes paralysis. Before we started giving vaccinations, up to 80% of newborns used to die from diseases that they could have been vaccinated against. There were also many cases of polio. Now this has drastically reduced and children enjoy good health. A whole year has passed without any new cases of polio,” adds Swaleh.

Vaccination for adults is also important. Last year there was a breakout of yellow fever in the area that affected over **800 people with 117 fatalities**. As a result there have been aggressive vaccination campaigns with last month only **10,819** people being vaccinated against polio, most of who were children under-five years.

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The programs in Otash camp are supported by WV Germany, OFDA and CHF.

Our Teecap Culture

Excellence in Execution

Celebrating Yasir Khatir's

Commitment



Yasir Khatir the exceptional student

During the World Vision Management Training, which began in November 2012, and ended in June 2013, the facilitators singled out Yasir Khatir as an exceptional student. The facilitators were greatly impressed by the commitment and hard work that he displayed throughout the course.

Yasir is the Area Coordinator for Central Area, in Nyala, South Darfur. The Central operational area has an estimated **population of 332,278** people and has some of the largest camps. The area covers Kass, Belil, Al Salam and Unity localities, each with its unique population, characteristics and trends.

Yasir joined World Vision in **2004** as a Hygiene Promotion Coordinator in Nyala and was later promoted to the WASH Sector Coordinator, based in Central. With time, Yasir's star continued to rise and he was appointed to the position of Area Coordinator for Central in **2010**.

In his current position, Yasir handles more than **12 projects** and he has to ensure he mitigates risks of over and under spending. He also has to manage staff and thus the Management Training was a great opportunity for him to grow his skills.

"The training helped me both at a professional and personal level," Yasir says.

He was part of the team that began the training in November 2012. The management training has four stages, which he attended in December 2012, January, March and June 2013. The training modules include

management, planning and mitigating risks.

Training Structure

The course is very interactive and includes use of videos, which are tailor-made around management and planning. Those who take part in the training are required to develop action plans, following which the facilitators keep in touch to ensure the participants realize their goals.

Exceptional student

Yasir admits it was not easy at all but says that is the reality of everything else in life.

"It is very easy to climb to the top but remaining at the top is the challenge. I concentrated during the learning process because I believe what I learned is key towards helping me to remain at the top. These skills will contribute to World Vision's work in the community and also benefit the people we work with'.

Advice for Managers

Yasir says management entails proper delegation, follow-up and getting feedback.

'My style is democracy and giving room to staff to make mistakes and learn from them. You need to learn from your staff, as well as concentrate and plan. If you do not have a plan you cannot succeed. This includes a plan for your life and a plan for your work,' he concludes.

Pictorial

Management Training Graduation



The proud graduates display their certificates



Cynthia Labi, the Regional P&C Director presents Yasir with an award for being an exceptional student



Management Representatives including Simon Nyabwengi, the Country Program Director at the graduation ceremony



Guests at the event



Participants and guests following proceedings at the event