



## **FROM VULNERABILITY TO DIGNITY:**

**How the South Sudan Joint Response 2 project transformed internally displaced persons' livelihoods in Melut County of South Sudan**

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Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the  
Netherlands

# **FROM VULNERABILITY TO DIGNITY: How the South Sudan Joint Response 2 project transformed Internally Displaced People's livelihoods in Melut County of South Sudan**

## **Background and introduction**

The violent conflict in South Sudan intensified in 2015, resulting in displacements of vulnerable populations in most parts of the Upper Nile State. Most communities' livelihoods were destroyed. The Humanitarian Requirements Document (HRD) mid-term review of 2015 and the draft HRD 2016 identified not only food security and livelihoods (FSL), but also water supply, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) as sectors with the most urgent and highest needs. At that time, about 3.9 million people (34 per cent of the total population) of South Sudan were facing 'crisis' level food insecurity and were unable to meet their food needs. This represented 80 per cent increase compared to the same period the previous year. In South Sudan, the UN estimates that 6.4 million people need water supply, sanitation and hygiene services.<sup>1</sup>

Upper Nile State has an estimated population of 1,214,871. Of these, 951,716 require humanitarian aid<sup>2</sup>. Protracted conflict in the state has disrupted an already weak WASH service delivery system. Multiple displacements of population and temporal relocation of humanitarian agencies due to insecurity in 2015 caused further disruption of WASH services. In many Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) settlements, there were insufficient water points and open defecation was rampant due to shortage of latrines. In addition, women of child-bearing age lacked access to menstrual management supplies.

People in places like Wau Shilluk (21,000 IDPs), Kodok (16,000 IDPs and host communities), Dengtoma 1 and 2 (21,000 IDPs) and Kor Adar (9,000 IDPs)<sup>3</sup> needed better access to safe (drinking) water as well as sanitation and hygiene services and supplies. The second phase of the South Sudan Joint Response (SSJR2) project was implemented in these sites to address these needs.

1 <http://southsudan.iom.int/programmes/wash>, Accessed December 26, 2016.

2 UNOCHA, November 2015

3 WVV/WFP Food Assistance GFD report, Sept 2015





*Dengtoma | IDP Camp.*

## SOUTH SUDAN JOINT RESPONSE 2

South Sudan Joint Response 2 (SSJR2) Project started on January 1, 2016 and has been implemented for the last 16 months. It is a multi-sectoral integrated food security and livelihoods, nutrition, health, child protection, emergency shelter/non-food items and water supply, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) project that targets IDPs and host communities affected by chronic food insecurity and the ongoing conflict. The project operates in four states of South Sudan, namely, Unity, Upper Nile, Jonglei and Warrap.

The project seeks to save lives and alleviate suffering through safe access to services and resources with dignity. It is a consortium of several organisations including World Vision, Save the Children International (SCI)—which is the lead agency, CARE International, Catholic Organisation for Relief and Development Aid (CORDAID), Dorcas, War Child Holland, TEAR, Terre des Hommes (TDH), Interchurch Organisation for Development Cooperation (ICCO) and Kerk in Actie, Oxfam, Plan International, International Rescue Committee (IRC), and ZOA International.

# TARGET GROUP

The SSJR2 Project implemented by World Vision, targets IDPs in camps and conflict-affected host communities in Melut County, Upper Nile State. A total of 30,000 beneficiaries are targeted under food security and livelihoods (FSL) whereas water supply, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) addresses the needs of 24,000 beneficiaries. Beneficiaries include vulnerable people such as pregnant and lactating women (PLW), malnourished children, the elderly and people with disabilities. These are considered vulnerable because they had to leave their homes and livelihoods due to insecurity and, therefore, face severe food insecurity and health-related problems due to lack of access to safe health and WASH services.

Seventy per cent of the target group are IDPs. However, the host community has also been displaced repeatedly due to earlier violence<sup>4</sup> and, therefore, also lacked livelihood opportunities and access to critical services. Like the core target, the host communities are vulnerable, with limited coping mechanisms and in critical need of humanitarian lifesaving support.

The most vulnerable households benefited from livelihood support. They were selected through participative community meetings. Women were especially vulnerable to physical, mental and sexual violence to which they were exposed while looking for food or for fuel<sup>5</sup>. When the food is inadequate, children come first as adults, and especially women, skip meals or forego eating altogether. Due to their higher vulnerability, the emergency response prioritised the needs of women, child-headed households, people living with disability (PLWD) and the elderly.

During distribution of agricultural inputs, vulnerable people were prioritised. Seventy per cent of the beneficiaries were women. This also applied to WASH distributions (such as water containers, soap, female hygiene kits).

Youth are a vulnerable group because they risk forced recruitment, have faced disrupted education and lack livelihood opportunities. Special attention was given to youth groups, which were supported with inputs for vegetable production.



4 HRD, Mid-term review 2015

5 Humanitarian bulletin. UNOCHA. December 2015 & Al Jazeera - women of South Sudan: broken bodies, shattered dreams. 5 December 2015

# FOOD SECURITY AND LIVELIHOODS

The key objective of Food Security and Livelihoods (FSL) activities was to improve access to and availability of nutritious food, strengthen and rehabilitate livelihoods for the most vulnerable households at risk of hunger and malnutrition in Upper Nile. The implementation of FSL activities during SSJR2 enabled target groups to meet their essential food needs through unconditional and conditional cash/voucher transfers and increased food availability for the most

vulnerable communities. Project beneficiaries revived, maintained and diversified key agricultural and aquaculture production systems, strategies and assets.

In total, 256 vulnerable households (92 female headed households and 174 male-headed households) received conditional cash transfer to support their basic food needs. This was achieved through households participating in the cash-for-assets project to rehabilitate and extend Kwom and Belgu irrigation canals.



# EMERGENCY LIVELIHOOD INPUTS

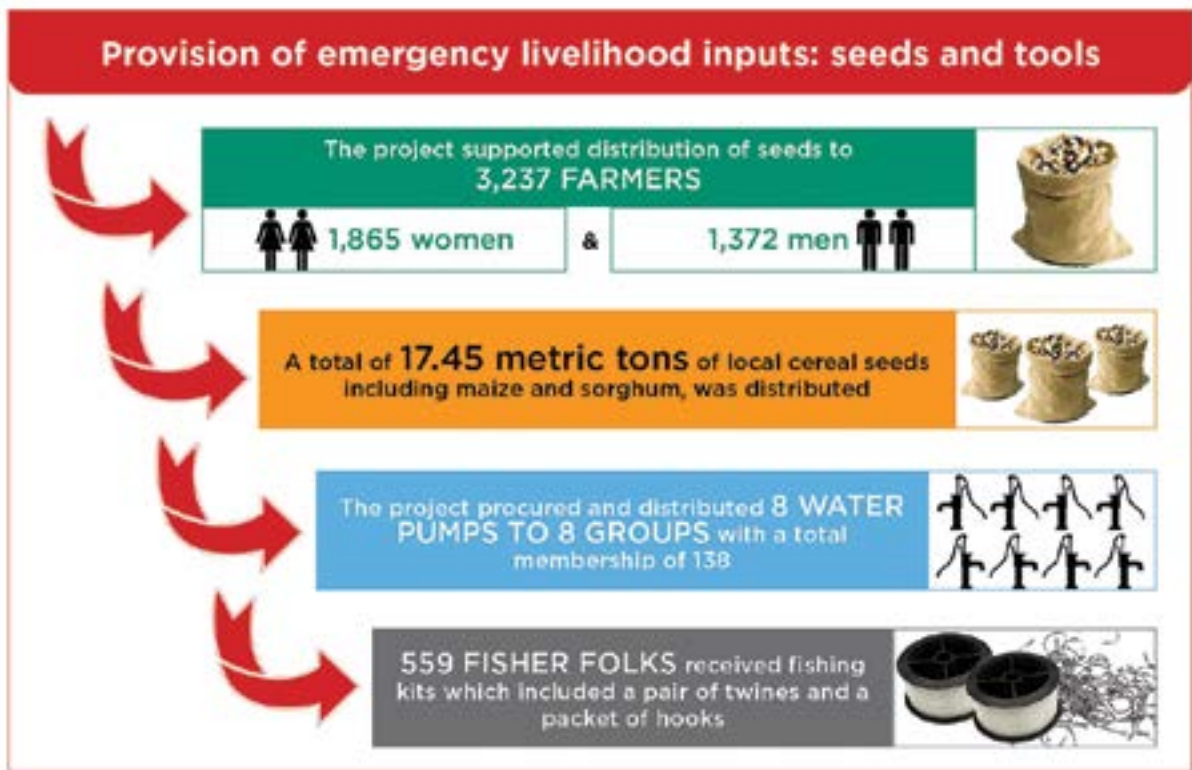
The project provided emergency livelihood inputs in the form of seeds and tools to 3,000 farmers to plant during the 2016 season, ensuring 70 per cent female participation. During the disbursement of seeds, 3,237 farmers (1,865 women and 1,372 men) received 17,45 metric tones of maize and sorghum seeds.

The project also procured and distributed eight water pumps to eight groups with a total membership of 138 (54 women and 84 men).

Pastor Jacob Thon, an IDP at Kor Adar camp, is a member of a group that benefitted from

a water pump. Thanks to the availability of water, the 40-year-old opened up an eight-acre plot in August. The garden is lush with a variety of vegetables including kale, spinach, ladyfinger (okra), eggplant, onions, tomatoes, amaranth, jute mallow, cowpeas and purslane. The main purpose for promoting vegetable production is to improve the nutritional status of IDPs whereas getting an income is an extra benefit.

World Vision South Sudan's Food Security Officer, Titus Makali, says before World Vision staff conducted training and awareness creation on the importance of vegetables,



most IDPs did not eat vegetables, which they associated with the poor, who could not afford meat. “But now, many people consume vegetables. Those who grow them have a ready market within the IDP camps and in Melut town. Most buyers are IDPs and also employees of oil companies as well as members of the humanitarian community,” he says.

The host community and IDPs also patronise Jacob. “I sell the rest at Paloich,” Jacob says. Although the vegetables are still young, Jacob has already made over \$100 in sales and hopes to make more money as the crop matures. He made \$200 in two weeks and expects to continue harvesting for the next seven months.

“This farm is going to transform my economic status,” says Jacob who has been able to buy food for his family, pay medical bills and take his two sons to secondary schools and five to primary schools with the money he got from selling vegetables. The pastor says his family is food-




secure because they feed on vegetables from the garden while he sells the rest to buy sorghum and other foodstuff.



## Food Security and Livelihoods: facts and figures

- 266 vulnerable households (92 women and 174 men) received conditional cash transfer to support their basic food needs.
- 3,237 farmers (1,865 women and 1,372 men) received 17.45 metric tons of maize and sorghum seeds.
- Eight groups with a total membership of 138 (54 women and 84 men) each received a water pump from the project.
- 2,617 individuals (1,104 women, 1,505 men) were trained on agronomic practices, post-harvest management, vegetable production, fish production, processing and preservation.
- Vegetables grown include kale, spinach, ladyfinger (okra), egg-plant, onions, tomatoes, amaranth, cow peas, jute mallow and purslane.
- The area under crop production has increased by 300 per cent during the project's implementation period.
- 401 individuals were trained on nutrition, balanced diet, diseases associated with malnutrition, food processing and preservation.
- 559 fisherfolk received fishing kits.
- Four youth groups with 86 members (all men) from Dengtoma 1 and 2, Tiep and Melut Town were provided with modern fishing canoes.
- 83,330 livestock belonging to 2,339 households were vaccinated and treated.
- 64 individuals (26 women and 38 men) were trained in milk processing, storage, and preparation of yogurt, sour milk, ghee preservation as well as hygiene.
- Thirty-five community animal health workers (including one woman) were trained by World Vision staff in collaboration with the Ministry of Animal Resources and Fisheries.
- 250 women received three hens and a cockerel each under the poultry activity.



A woman with her hair braided, wearing a yellow top and a white dress with purple and yellow patterns, is seen from behind carrying a large bundle of green leafy vegetables. She is standing in a field of similar plants under a bright sky with a large tree in the background.

“World Vision gave our group the pump, the seeds and also supported the digging of the canals through cash-for-work. They also trained me to make farming profitable. I will use the skills I have acquired here on my 100-acre farm in Bailiet when peace returns and I go back home,” Jacob adds.

Every farming area is served by two extension officers and has a champion farmer, who has been trained by World Vision. Meetings are held on the farms of champion farmers, where extension officers demonstrate effective crop production techniques.

“When the project was initiated, IDPs depended solely on NGOs for food. Households have increased their access

to food as a result of diversified crop production.

The area under crop production has increased by 300 per cent during the project period. This has increased income and food diversification for IDPs,” SSJR2 Project Manager, Johnson Kwangware, says. On average, each household got 700kgs of sorghum grain adequate to cater for the families for seven months.

More than 2,000 individuals (1,104 women, 1,505 men) have been trained by World Vision staff in collaboration with staff from County Department of Agriculture on agronomic practices, post-harvest management, vegetable production, fish production, processing and preservation.

Additionally, 401 individuals were trained on nutrition, balanced diet, diseases associated with malnutrition, food processing and preservation.

During project implementation, 559 fisherfolk received fishing kits, which composed of a pair of twine and a packet of hooks. Four (4) youth groups, with a total membership of 86 (all men) from Dengtoma 1 and 2, Tiep and Melut Town, received canoes made of fibre glass to help them increase their fish catch.

Simon Nyok, the Deputy Camp Manager at Dengtoma 1, says that World Vision's interventions have restored confidence in IDPs, who are now involved in income-generating activities, including growing vegetables, sheep and goat keeping and fishing. "There are many fishermen in the camps," he says, as he appeals for more canoes and fishing nets.

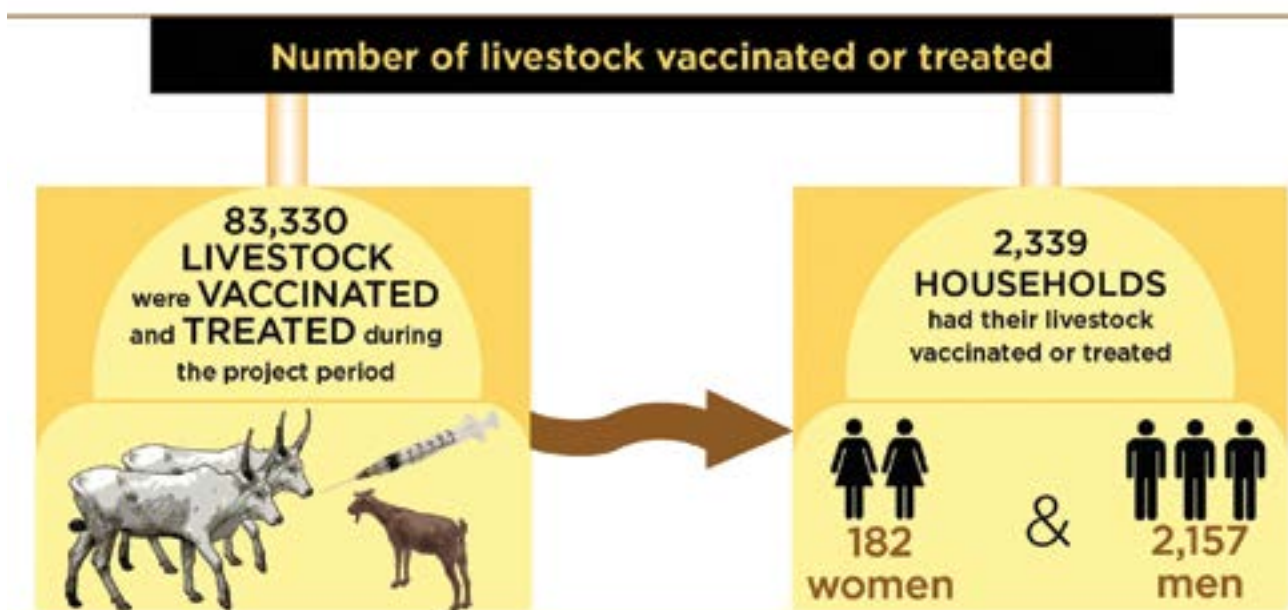
Under emergency animal vaccination and treatment campaigns to preserve productive assets of the IDPs and host community, 83,330 livestock belonging to 2,339 households were vaccinated and treated during the project period. Training in milk processing and storage, preparation of yoghurt, sour milk and ghee and hygiene was also carried out for 26 women and 38 men. Other topics included value

addition of hides and skins.

World Vision staff with counterparts from the Veterinary Department in the Ministry of Animal Resources and Fisheries (MOARF) trained 35 community animal health workers, who included one woman. Those trained provide livestock disease control and management services in IDP camps.

Susan Monywir, 23, is the only woman who was trained as an animal health worker. "My job is very important in ensuring that our livestock do not get infected with diseases. Livestock is very important among the Dinka people and it is critical to keep them healthy," she adds.

The SSJR2 project also promoted the rearing of local poultry among women IDPs and construction of low-cost poultry units. This activity targeted 250 households. Under this activity, 250 women were trained in poultry production, feeding, housing and disease and pest control. The project supported construction of 47 low-cost poultry houses for vulnerable households in Dengtoma 1 and 2 and in Kor Adar IDP camps. A total of 250 women, among them, Teresia Nyanam, 32, received three hens and a cockerel each from the project.





*Susan Monywir, a community animal health worker, vaccinates a cow at the Dengtoma I IDP camp.*

"I now have 27 chickens. They would have been more were it not for a disease outbreak that killed several. Luckily, World Vision sent in veterinarians who contained the outbreak.

My children eat eggs and I will sell chicken and eggs to help me buy food, pay for medication and take my children to school," the mother of six and IDP at Kor Adar, says.



*Teresia Nyancham feeds her chickens.*

# FOOD SECURITY AND LIVELIHOODS

## They have been taught how to be better fishermen

As per the old adage, give a man fish and you feed him for a day; teach a man to fish and you feed him for a lifetime. The faces of four fishermen, beaming as they disembark from a boat donated to them by World Vision suggest that these members of Tiep Group of Fishermen have received lifetime empowerment.

Today's is a big catch of different types of fish including tilapia and mudfish. The 50 members of Tiep Group of Fishermen left their Atar County home due to insecurity. They were fishermen before they came to Melut County. The difference between now and then is that they used to fish using traditional canoes. Today, the group and three others have benefited from modern World Vision canoes.



*A member of the Tiep Group of Fishermen landing after a fishing expedition.*

Before acquiring the modern canoes, fishermen were restricted to the shallow waters of the Nile. Today, they can venture into the expansive river. The catch has increased, enabling the fishermen to provide for their families and sell the surplus. Previously, fisherman did not venture into deep waters and could only catch enough for family consumption (500 grams). With the modern canoes, they now go into deep waters where they are able to catch an average of 20kgs per person, enough for household consumption and selling for income generation.

They sell their fish in Melut Town although fellow IDPs are always on hand to buy some of the fish for their families as the canoe returns from the fishing expedition.

# STORIES OF CHANGE

Host communities also buy fish from the fishermen. Among them is Lina Joseph, 21. The local chief's wife and mother of one, says: "It is easy to get fish because of the canoe donated by World Vision. Fishermen previously brought small fish from the river. Today, they catch big ones. I buy fish most of the days. A big one goes for SSP250 (\$3.8)."

When they used traditional canoes, fishermen usually returned empty-handed. "Since we received the modern canoe, we catch enough fish to feed our families and sell," says Deng Mayo, 52.

Also, the modern canoes are bigger and have the capacity to carry four fishermen unlike the traditional ones that carry one fisherman. Their capacity is 10 times more than the traditional canoes made of reeds. A canoe can make several expeditions in a day, each trip with four different fishermen. This gives each of the



*Lina Joseph buys fish for her family.*



*Tiep Group of Fishermen with their catch.*

50 fishermen a chance to fish. To reduce waiting time, the group is saving to buy another canoe by February 2017. Each user group contributes SSP300 (\$4.6) per trip.

A trip yields about SSP4,000 (\$61.5) on average of which SSP300 is saved with the group. Each of the four fishermen receives SSP925 (\$14.2). “We use this money to augment food rations from relief agencies, take care of medication and school fees, among other needs,” says Tor Nyok, 49. Deng Mayoj is saving for remittances for his children at the Kakuma Refugee Camp in Kenya.

Buying another canoe is urgent and the fisherfolk are asking World Vision to support their efforts to acquire it.

Thonkuei Monyluak, 40, says: “Among our Dinka community, the fisherman takes the biggest fish to his family.” This cultural norm is greatly contributing to the programme’s objective of increasing food availability for the most vulnerable by resuming, maintaining and diversifying key agricultural and aquacultural production systems, strategies and assets.

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## Riak Mabil is in love with the soil

Riak Mabil, 51, pays undivided attention to his vegetable patch. On this particular day, he is tending to a kale crop. Only recently, the farmer did not know kale (*sukuma wiki*)—a widely-grown crop in the eastern Africa region. He has now embraced the vegetable, like the rest of the IDPs.



*Riak and Nyandeng with a cassava harvest.*

Customers seeking to buy vegetables continuously interrupted our interview with Riak and his wife, Nyandeng Diing. The strip he tills is a gift from the host community. The couple lives in Dengtoma I Camp, where they grow jute mallow, locally known as *kudra*, okra, cabbages, cassava and Moringa trees.

"I arrived here in February 2015 empty-handed, having fled the insecurity in Bailiet County," Riak recalls. Farming offered him a means to feed his family. "In July-August 2015, World Vision came to support IDPs willing to grow vegetables. I registered and I was trained by the organisation and later given seeds to plant," he says.

"We have seven children and they are all interested in farming," says Nyandeng, adding, one of their daughters keeps records of their farming activities.

### **Benefits from vegetable gardening**

Riak's family eats a variety of vegetables. But growing vegetables has other spin-offs. Last year, three of his children did their primary education examination to join Form One (high school). Another one joined Form One this year. "I spent SSP14,400 (\$218) on fees for my four children per year in secondary school," says Riak, who has saved SSP50,000 (\$758) to re-invest in farming.

Nyandeng keeps records of the vegetables they sell on-farm and also at Melut and Paloich markets. She considers the nutritional value of vegetables very important for her family, which she describes as "healthy and strong."



*Riak and Nyandeng with a customer*

## Where real food is sorghum

For most inhabitants of South Sudan, sorghum is the staple food. The exception is the northern areas of Nahr al-Nil and northern States where wheat is more common. Sorghum is drought-tolerant and can thrive economically in low-rainfall areas, below 450mm. In order to achieve high yields, however, 100mm rainfall equivalent in irrigation water should be applied per month in cases of insufficient rainfall. In Melut County, World Vision is supporting a group of IDPs to grow sorghum.



*Nanyok Ajang harvesting sorghum at their Kor Adar farm.*

At Kor Adar IDP camp, 30 acres are under the crop. The land belongs to the host community, but the traditional and county leaderships and World Vision have signed an arrangement that allows 12 IDPs to grow crops on the land. Farming started in earnest in July 2016. "This is our first crop. Sorghum is important to us because it is our staple food. We expected a good harvest, but that did not happen because of poor rains. We got seeds from World Vision," says Nanyok Ajang. Three men and nine women provided labour on the farm. Out of the harvest of 10, 800kgs, each of the 12 beneficiary households received 900kgs of sorghum.



*Simon Pul, left, at the group's sorghum farm in Kor Adar.*



“We shall ensure all farmers get an equal share of the harvest,” Ajang says as she harvests the crop.

Simon Pul is one of the 12 farmers. He says the harvest will benefit everybody. “There are very many vulnerable people in the Kor Adar IDP Camp. Some of them are our relatives. We cannot leave them to starve just because they don’t belong to our group,” Pul says. The group might look for a farm in an area with more reliable rainfall to increase future harvest. He asked World Vision to provide the group with plastic sheeting for drying the harvest.

## Helping keep pastoralism alive

Chuol Koriom owes his eight cattle to World Vision, which has been supporting his group with vaccination and treatment over the last two years. “There was an outbreak of lumpy skin disease this year. Our cattle survived because of the interventions of World Vision,” he says.

A previous outbreak claimed dozens of cattle. Chuol lost five animals during the outbreak. That was before World Vision’s intervention. “I have not lost a single animal since World Vision started supporting us,” he says.

But why would IDPs keep cows in congested environments far away from their traditional lands? “Among the Dinka, a cow is food...it provides us with milk and beef. We sell them to buy food and other requirements,” Chuol says. Although they use cows to pay bride price, the cattle have also become a source of livelihood for them. He had 71 cows in Bailiet, his ancestral home, before civil strife made him an IDP. He gave his son 10 cattle to pay bride price in 2015 before they were forced to flee to Melut County.



*Chuol Koriom with his cattle at the Dengtoma I IDP camp.*

# WATER SUPPLY, SANITATION AND HYGIENE

WASH activities under SSJR2 seek to increase timely and stable access to safe water sources, sanitation facilities and improved hygiene behaviour among 22,000 IDPs and vulnerable host populations.

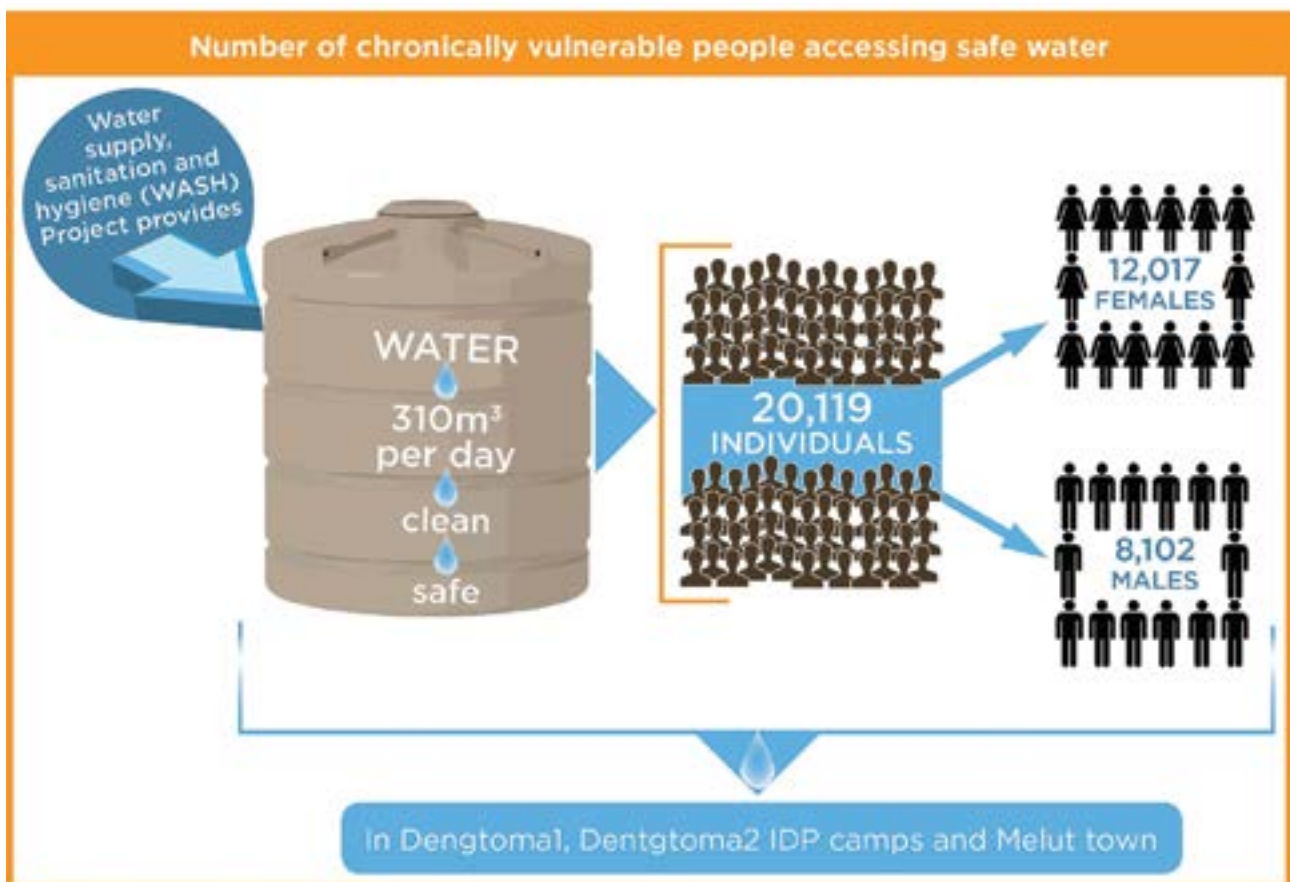
Several activities were undertaken to achieve the WASH objective. One of them was maintenance and operation of a water supply system in the Kor Adar IDP settlement. Here, the project continued to provide an average of 150m<sup>3</sup> per day (22 l/p/d) of clean and safe water to 6,790 individuals, out of whom 4,006 are female. The project also provided 310m<sup>3</sup> of clean and safe water (15 litres per person per day) to 20,119 individuals (12,017 women and 8,102 men) in Dengtoma 1, Dengtoma 2 and Melut Town. Routine daily water quality tests were undertaken at water points and at household level.

“My children had a lot of stomach problems when we used raw water from River Nile. The problems ended when we started using safe and clean water provided by World Vision,” Dengtoma 2 IDP Camp resident, Achok Ajang, 49, says.

Another project achievement was ensuring that the most vulnerable populations had adequate access to sanitation services. Three hundred and sixty-one household latrines were constructed in Kor Adar and Dengtoma IDP camps.

Twelve hygiene promoters (9 women and 3 male) were trained in Kor Adar IDP camp. There are 14 hygiene promoters in Dengtoma 1 and 28 in Dengtoma 2.

The hygiene promoters reached 19,266 individuals with cholera messages in Kor





Adar, Dengtoma 1 and Dengtoma 2. The key messages focused on critical times for handwashing, which included before eating, cooking, and washing with soap, or ash after visiting the toilet. Other messages included

covering food and water storage containers, personal hygiene, environmental cleaning, proper disposal of faeces, and jerrycan cleaning. The project conducted nine campaigns in the Dengtoma camps and Kor Adar.

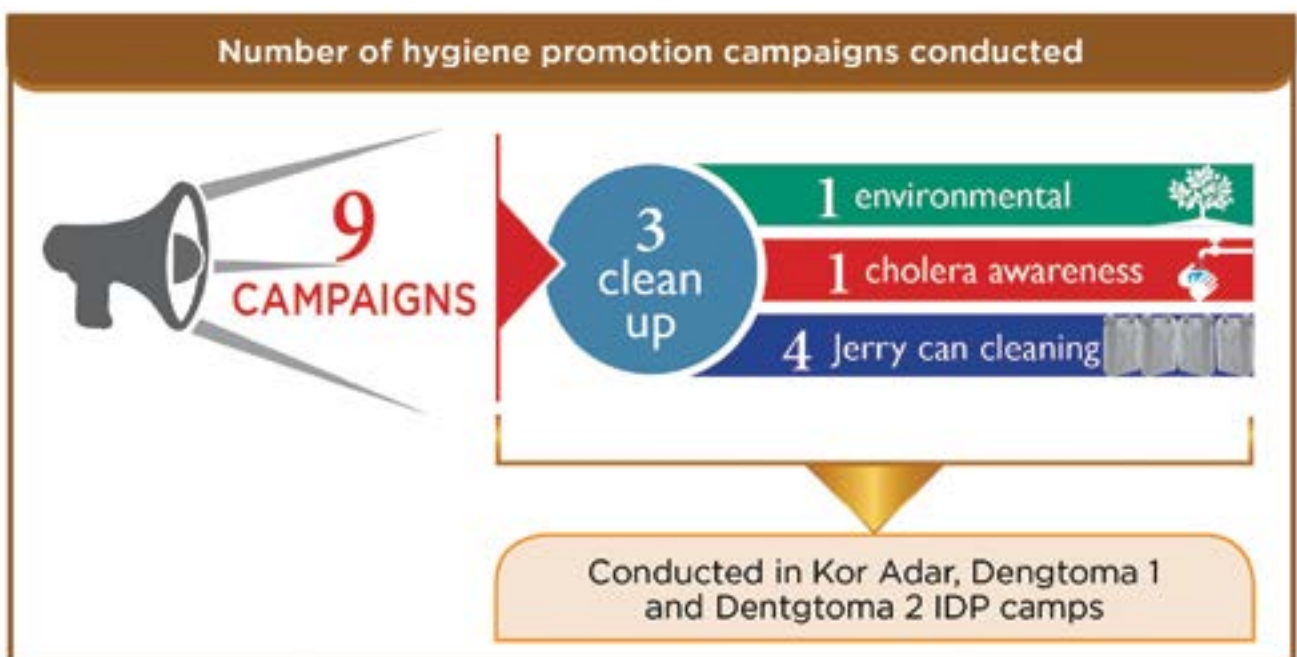




*Hygiene promoters visiting IDPs at their camp.*

Nyathithin Bol, 28, a resident at Dengtoma 2, says hygiene promoters have transformed her life. “We were used to open field defecation until the hygiene promoters taught us it was harmful. We now avoid the habit because we understand that it causes diseases such as

diarrhoea and other stomach ailments.” Her neighbour, Achol Mayiik, says she has since learnt the importance of taking children’s stool to the toilet. “I also make sure that my compound is clean and that my family members wash their hands after using the toilet,” she says.



## Water supply, sanitation and hygiene: facts and figures

- At the Kor Adar IDP settlement, the project provided an average of 150m<sup>3</sup> per day (22 l/p/d) of clean and safe water to 6,790 individuals, including 4,006 women.
- The project also provided 310m<sup>3</sup> of clean and safe water (15 l/p/d) to 12,017 women and 8,102 men in Dengtoma 1, Dengtoma 2 and Melut Town.
- Three water management committees (WMC) – 40 individuals (22 female and 18 male) were trained in Kor Adar camp.
- One WMC comprising 28 individuals (10 female and 18 male) were trained in Dengtoma 1 and 2 camps.
- One WMC comprising 15 individuals (12 female and three male) were trained in Malek camp.
- Nine campaigns (3 clean up; 1 environmental, 1 cholera awareness and 4 jerry can cleaning) were conducted in Kor Adar, Dengtoma 1 and Dengtoma 2 IDP camps.
- 660 households, 559 female-headed, received buckets and collapsible jerry cans in Kor Adar IDP camp.
- 600 households, (555 female-headed and 45 male-headed) received 20-litre buckets in Dengtoma camps.
- 189 latrines were built in Kor Adar and 172 in Dengtoma 2 IDP camps.
- 12 community hygiene promoters, nine of them women, were trained in Kor Adar Camp.
- Hygiene promoters reached 19,266 individuals with cholera messages in Kor Adar and the Dengtoma camps.
- The project distributed 2,100 bars of soap to 1,920 households, 1,410 female-headed, in the Dengtoma 2 IDP Camp.
- 250 hand-washing facilities were installed at family level.
- 1,730 women and 29 girls in Dengtoma 1 received hygiene kits.
- 2,266 women and girls benefited from the 1,617-menstrual management hygiene (MMH) kits distributed to households in Kor Adar and Malek IDP camps.

Messages from hygiene promoters are helping change IDPs' harmful behaviours. Says Rebecca Ajak Arop, 44, of Kor Adar IDP Camp: "In 1992, many people died in Nak Diar. We knew nothing about the need to use safe and clean water, washing our hands after using toilets, and keeping our environment clean. The situation cannot be repeated today because hygiene promoters have created awareness in our camp on how to avoid diseases such as cholera and diarrhoea."

Washing hands with soap after visiting the toilet is an important life skill IDPs learnt after receiving 2,100 bars of soap. Beneficiary households in Dengtoma 2 IDP camp numbered 1,920 and were largely female-headed (1,410). Each person received 265g of soap for personal hygiene enough to last one month.

Convincing IDPs to use the facilities was no easy task, according to Patricia Labina, World

Vision WASH Project Officer. "Use of latrines was a strange thing to most of them. It was difficult to make them understand the dangers of drinking raw water from River Nile. Some of them could not stand the smell of chlorine in treated water. At times, we were met with resistance. One woman even vandalised water taps. But they gradually adapted to the level where they now understand the importance of WASH facilities."

SSJR2 Project Manager Johnson Kwangware says the project has helped change the behaviour of IDPs, and to some extent, that of host communities. "In 2016, there was no outbreak of cholera in Dengtoma 1, Dengtoma 2 and Kor Adar IDP camps. This is an indication of the project's success," he says.

The IDPs settled in the area in 2014 and since then, World Vision has been implementing WASH activities in the camp. No cases of cholera have been reported in the camps since 2014.



*Two of the girls benefiting from the provision of WASH infrastructure*

# WATER SUPPLY, SANITATION AND HYGIENE STORIES OF CHANGE

## Drinking raw water can cost life

Abuk Akech, 35, is a mother of seven. When civil strife erupted in their native Bailiet County in January 2014, they had to abandon their “good life” to seek refuge in Melut County, Upper Nile State. Abuk and her husband, Ngich Chuol, 48, are IDPs at Dengtoma I camp.

“When we arrived here, we used the Nile water for everything, including drinking. An international NGO provided clean water, but the smell of chlorine put us off. We kept using the raw water from the river;” Akech says of the nine-member family.

In the same year, 2014, their 12-year-old son fell ill. The family sought treatment at both Paloich and Melut health facilities, but the boy succumbed to typhoid, a water-borne disease. The family was devastated; they had hardly settled in Melut after losing all their property in the civil strife. “His death was a turning point for us. It helped us realise the importance of drinking clean and safe water. We no longer take raw water from River Nile. Since 2014, we have not had a case of diarrhoea, cholera or any other water-borne disease in my family,” Akech says.

Hygiene promoters engaged by World Vision



*Abuk Akech with safe and clean water from water points installed by World Vision.*

including safe use of water, nutrition and the importance of using latrines. It is through the work of health promoters that Akech’s family has been educated on the importance of hygienic practices.

## Closer WASH facilities a boon for physically-challenged Thon Akol

Life is always difficult for displaced persons. It is even more so for an IDP who is physically-challenged. Thon Akol, 29, has been confined to a wheelchair since the age of five in 1992 when he had an injection by a quack. Circumstances force him to call Dengtoma 2 IDP Camp his home. Because of his physical challenge, he lives with his aunt Aukot Monilial, 38. The family sought refuge at the camp due to insecurity at Bigi, their original home.

“I am very grateful to World Vision for providing us with a household latrine. It was not easy for me when we used a public toilet. It was always dirty, making it difficult for me to use it because of my physical challenge,” he says. The household latrine is equipped with rails and a chair on which he can sit.

Thon says it was dangerous for him especially at night. “I could not run away from danger, including wild animals. It was even more difficult when it rained because my wheelchair could not move because of the mud. I’m now glad because the household latrine provided by World Vision International is 10 metres away from my house and now I can visit it any time.”

As Thon washes his hands after using the toilet, he explains why: “Washing hands after using the latrine prevents us from being infected with diseases. One can unintentionally touch faecal matter. It is important to wash our hands with soap after using the toilet.”

Aukot Monyluak, a mother of eight and Thon’s aunt, who makes a living through



*Thon can now easily access a latrine in his compound.*





sale of tea in the IDP camp, says that her water point is close and it takes her two minutes to get there. “We used to collect water from River Nile. It is far and the water is dirty. We now have clean and safe water,” she says.

Thon and Aukot Monyluak’s family are happy because they have water and sanitation facilities at their temporary home at Dengtoma 2 IDP Camp. The peace of mind has enabled Thon to once again contemplate becoming a farmer that he once was. He wants to grow vegetables again.

## **World Vision projects have brought mind-set change to IDPS**

Mijok Mun Ayook is the Deputy Camp Manager at the Dengtoma 2. He describes the situation before and after World Vision’s intervention.

“There was no clean and safe water when IDPs arrived here. There were no toilets either. People used to defecate in open fields. Diarrhoea and cholera were rife. Flies were all over the place. With the benefit of hindsight and also the knowledge we have gained from hygiene promoters, the flies

were partly responsible for the diarrhoea as they contaminated food.

“Health promoters have made a big difference in the community. Today, water supply points are nearby and also toilets have been increased. Many people were previously reluctant to use toilets. Others were using them but were unwilling to clean them. Hygiene promoters have been educating us on the importance of keeping the toilets clean. Failure to do so can lead



to people getting infected with diseases, defeating the purpose of having the toilets in the first place.

“World Vision’s interventions go beyond water and sanitation. They have changed our mindset. We used to be idle. Not anymore, because we have been challenged to go out and work. They have enabled IDPs to start income-generating activities. One that stands out is the support to fishermen. Through provision of modern canoes, fishermen are able to catch a lot of fish, which they sell and also take to their families. They use income from selling fish to buy sorghum and other food items for their families.

“We have also been educated on the importance of growing vegetables. Many

of the IDPs are now engaged in vegetable farming while others are keeping goats, sheep and poultry. Even some have donkeys, which are like cars in the camp. The donkeys do a lot: they carry charcoal, grass and even people. They are normally hired for a fee.”

## More support

“We appeal to World Vision to acquire for us donkey carts, increase canoes to benefit more fishermen, and also ensure that there are enough water pumps to enable vegetable farmers to irrigate more land and get more vaccines and drugs for livestock.”

# Voices of hygiene promoters

*“Before this intervention, our community believed that people suffering from diarrhoea should not drink water. On the contrary, they need more water because they are dehydrated. They now give water to those suffering from diarrhoea.”*

**—Nyandok Malakal, 35, mother of five**



*“Our people have the habit of keeping long nails. It can be a source of food contamination from germs. They now trim their nails after we educated them on the need to do so.”*

**—Ayak Miyan, 37 and a mother of three children**

*“Open field defecation was a common practice among our community members. Others even defecated in the river. Disease outbreaks were common then. Our efforts have had an impact because people are using toilets and fetching clean and safe water from the taps at designated water points.”*

**—Peter Riak, 36 and a father of six children**

# CHALLENGES AND LESSONS LEARNT

Insecurity was one of the key challenges that affected smooth implementation of SSJR2. There were situations where tensions were rife or cases of insecurity occurred. This forced both the project staff and project beneficiaries to stay in their homes or camps, hampering implementation of project activities.

## Other project-specific challenges

- In a few cases, host communities were unwilling to allow IDPs to use their land for farming.
- Non-availability of maize seeds forced project managers to source them from neighbouring counties, leading to delays.
- Absence of local chickens for the poultry activity in Melut County, affected the

poultry project, which targeted vulnerable women. The chickens were eventually sourced from neighbouring counties.

- Erratic rains affected crops, especially sorghum, in Kor Adar.

## Vaccines and drugs

- Delay in signing of the Letter of Agreement (LOA) affected livestock vaccination that was supposed to start in September.

## Looking into the future

Lillian Mumbi Kamonjo, Response Manager, World Vision South Sudan, says there is a lot that needs to be accomplished in Melut, especially on the needs of the host community.





The project was principally designed to save lives and alleviate suffering by enabling IDPs to safely access services and resources with dignity.

To some extent, host communities have been able to benefit from farm inputs, including seeds and pumps. They have also had access to water and the project has built latrines for them.

“Through our advocacy work, we are reaching out to donors to support us to be able to provide services to the host communities” Lilian says. She adds that World Vision shall continue to target host communities because they are equally in need of the services offered to IDPs. The other advantage of this approach is to minimise tension that has sometimes simmered where host communities have been angered when they “perceive IDPs to be leading better lives than themselves.”

SSJR2’s sustainability plan has host communities at its core. According to Lilian, some immovable infrastructure shall be handed over to the host community when peace returns and IDPs go back to their homes. Such infrastructure includes water

pipelines, latrines and surface water treatment systems (SWATs). The project will ensure that host communities acquire requisite skills to be able to manage or maintain these assets. Some host community members have already been trained under SSJR2.

In the future, World Vision also seeks to expand both the geographical area and activities to reach the vulnerable populations whose needs have not been addressed by the current intervention. The organisation will also address the issue of sustainability of the project to ensure long-lasting impact and continuation of benefits to the communities after the end of the project.

Lilian is positive about World Vision initiating another emergency response project in neighbouring Manyo County. Only water activities under SSJR2 shall continue in Melut County, although there is a strong case for retaining animal vaccination and treatment activities as well. Also, farmers who have just been introduced to vegetable farming will need sustained extension services to enable them acquire additional farming skills that will enable them to farm for food.



## List of abbreviations

CORDAID	Catholic Organisation for Relief and Development Aid
FSL	Food Security and Livelihoods
HRD	Humanitarian Requirements Document
IDPs	Internally-displaced persons
IRC	International Rescue Committee
PLW	Pregnant and lactating women
SCI	Save the Children International
SSJR2	South Sudan Joint Response 2
WASH	Water supply, sanitation and hygiene
WVSS	World Vision South Sudan

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