



# Report from Holy Trinity Peace Village, Kuron November 2019

By Per Nordmark



*Desert Rose at Matara*

13<sup>th</sup> December 2019



## Content

- Introduction	3
- The Situation in South Sudan	3
- The Situation in Kuron area	4
- Bishop Emeritus Paride Taban	5
- HTPVK Management	6
- HTPVK Finances	6
- HTPVK Programs	7
- Education	7
- Health	12
- Peace	14
- Socio-Economic Empowerment	16
- Infrastructure and Road	17
- Transport and Logistics	18
- Pastoral	18
- EU/NCA Project	19
- HTPVK Board Meeting	19

This report will not give a full update on all programs and activities. Time and capacity did not allow. Hopefully the report will still give useful information to donors, supporters and friends of HTPVK.

*Per Nordmark*



## Introduction

It was called for a meeting of the Board of directors of Holy Trinity Peace Village, Kuron (HTPVK) on 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2019. Prior to this meeting it was scheduled 2 days of training for the board members.

Board member Per Nordmark travelled to attend the meeting, leaving Norway for South Sudan on 3<sup>rd</sup> November and returning to Norway 1<sup>st</sup> December. In addition to attending the board meeting, Norwegian Friends wanted him to use this opportunity to assist HTPVK in making a report which could give an update to donors, supporters, friends etc. on the situation in Kuron in general, and on HTPVK programs, activities, successes and challenges.

Valborg Vigsnes Jakobsen, who is a new board member of Norwegian Friends of Peace Village – Kuron (NF) followed for a week's visit to be able to see and experience HTPVK; the people of the area, the activities. etc. as an important background for her work in the board of NF.

In addition, Erling Gitmark, a member of Norwegian Friends and a good and long-time friend of Bishop Paride Taban wanted to visit Kuron and Bishop Paride Taban, what he has done several times, and he accompanied Per Nordmark during the whole stay.

*Per Nordmark*

## The situation in South Sudan

According to the Peace Agreement of 12<sup>th</sup> September 2018 a transitional government should be established by 12<sup>th</sup> May 2019, including the present government and IO. The agreed preparations were not done by May, and the establishment was postponed with 6 months; till 12<sup>th</sup> November 2019. There were quite some uncertainty if it really would happen in November, and many were fearing that by 12<sup>th</sup> November fighting might once more occur.

The newspaper "EastAfrican", had 4<sup>th</sup> November a front page covered with the faces of President Salva Kiir Mayardit and Dr. Riek Machar. The heading of the article was: "World awaits as South Sudan rivals roll the dice one more time".

The newspaper presented 3 possible scenarios:

Number 1: A transitional government is formed by 12<sup>th</sup> which includes SPLA IO with Vice-president Taban Deng. Leading to tension and possibly fighting.

Number 2: Dr. Riek Machar joins the Transitional government and UN provides him with security in the absence of local security arrangements. This scenario is expected to create tension as the cabinet discuss outstanding issues as the number of states. It is commented that this could be a recipe for repeating July 2016.

Number 3: The absence of Dr. Riek Machar and lack of implementation of the outstanding issues resulting in collapse of the agreement and a military solution.



*The EastAfrican newspaper bought at Entebbe 4<sup>th</sup> November 2019*



On 7<sup>th</sup> November Dr. Riek Machar and President Salva Kiir Mayardit met with President Museveni and some other important people at Entebbe, Uganda. Here the two parties agreed to postpone the establishment of a transitional government with another 100 days. It was also reported that they had agreed to go back to 10 states, from the 32 states which are the present situation. When this news came out the tension seemed to be much reduced and the 12<sup>th</sup> November passed peacefully.

There seems to be quite some impatiens in the international community when it comes to establishment of a transitional government. The Ambassador of USA was called back home for consultations after the delay in establishment of a transitional government.

Inflation is still very high in South Sudan, and the exchange rate in the market (black market) is approximately 31 500 SSP for 100 USD, which is an increase by 6 000 SSP since June 2019 (23%). However, the official exchange rate is 15 000 SSP for 100 USD, - which is given by banks. Organisations are obliged to make the exchange in banks, which gives half value of the funds.

It is still a great challenge that people in public services does not get their salaries paid. It was said there had been no pay since April 2019.

Transport on roads from Nimule to Juba, and Juba – Torit -Kapoeta is going in convoys with military escort due to the high risks of attacks and robberies.

During the last months; October - November East Africa have had abnormal heavy rainfalls. This was reported to be coursed by un-normal high temperatures in the Indian Ocean. South Sudan is seriously affected, and many areas are flooded, especially in northern parts. The flooding has destroying food and crops in the fields, and has made life very difficult for people in these areas. There was an urgent need for humanitarian assistance, and the international community had high priority and activity on giving humanitarian relief.

Juba is considered unsafe, and humanitarian organisation and UN have established restrictions on movement and curfew for employees.

### **The Situation in Kuron area**

In the area of Kuron the situation is not affected by the conflict and tension between the government and IO and other fractions. However, there are still challenges related to some cattle raiding and abduction of children. In particular one incident affected HTPVK: A child was abducted, and the family threatened to make revenge on the schoolchildren from Boma. Due to this the management and board of HTPVK did not allow the approximately 90 schoolchildren from Boma to come back for the third term 2019.

However, the matter has been discussed with the affected family, and in a community meeting in Kuron with the local Toposa leaders and chiefs and the situation seems to be sorted out. The Boma children are expected to be back for the first term in 2020, to continue their education in Kuron.

Due to heavy rain in the area there have been made some damages to the road. Still it is possible to travel "all time" Kapoeta - Kuron by car/lorry.

The cultivation season has been difficult for the local people, and for the agricultural activity of HTPVK. A long period of drought early in the year destroyed much of the first crops. And then too





much rain late in the year also affected the harvest significantly negative. HTPVK reported that harvest of sorghum 2019 was approximately 15% of what is considered a normal yield.

Registered rainfall in Kuron 2019:

Month	Date and amount of rainfall (Date highlighted)	Summary of rainfall per month
January	-	0
February	-	0
March	-	0
April	<b>10.</b> : 3mm	3
May	<b>5.</b> : 6mm, <b>11.</b> : 35mm,	41
June	<b>7.</b> : 4,5 mm, <b>30.</b> : 4,5mm,	19
July	<b>3.</b> : 12,5mm, <b>22.</b> : 106,5mm, <b>27.</b> : 76mm	195
August	<b>10.</b> : 118mm, <b>26.</b> : 40mm,	158
September	<b>2.</b> : 73mm, <b>8.</b> : 13mm,	86
October	(not registered by date, only total)	176
November	(not registered by date, only total, till 19.11)	106,5
December		?
<b>2019</b>	(till 19.nov.)	<b>784,5 mm</b>

The last days of November it was raining heavily, however data was not available when this was written. On 23. November alone the rainfall was 80 mm.

### Bishop Emeritus Paride Taban

Bishop Paride Taban has got good medical help and is again active and energetic. He has resumed his daily exercise and has a lot of initiative. He is again a much used and attractive informant and advisor on national and international level.

The churches in South Sudan was much concerned about the outcome of the establishment of a transnational government on 12<sup>th</sup> November. On this background it was arranged a Peace Marathon and a Peace Concert in Juba on 9<sup>th</sup> November: Bishop Paride Taban (83) participated in the marathon, running 1 km together with the real seniors. He impressed everybody. And by this he contributed to make the event an important and recognised event for peaceful development.



*Bishop Emeritus Paride Taban (83) got everybody up for some exercise as he started his lecture at Catholic University, Juba on "Mental Health in Peace Building"*



Bishop Paride Taban gave a “Bishop Paride Taban Lecture” at Catholic University of South Sudan, Juba in January. This was highly appreciated, and he was requested to give another lecture in November, which he also did. The second lecture had the title “*Mental Health in Peace Building*” and was made a big event, sponsored by Dutch Embassy.

Bishop Paride Taban made an outstanding performance; a lecture with wisdom, humour, clear messages, - and he presented it with energy and involvement. When closing he indicated that he could like to give another lecture at the university, suggesting the title could be “Leadership”.

*Special T-shirts were made for the event,  
- with Bishop’s wise words on the back*



Bishop Paride Taban’s involvement for sustainability and further development of HTPVK is great, and he is active in trying to maintain and rise funds.

### **HTPVK Management**

This year HTPVK has a good staff situation: The management is led by Emmanuel Ira who is holding the position as director – in combination with duties as program manager. Other key staffs are finance manager, finance officer, logistic officer, storekeeper, community development adviser and heads of programs, liaison officer in Juba and various other staff. Peace program have been struggling to find a qualified Head of program, however, there is an acting head of the program.

The total number of staff employed by HTPVK is 88 by November 2019.

The primary health care unit (PHCU) at Matara is operated effectively with 6 medical staff and 3 support staff. However, the PHCU is under-staffed according to national requirements for the great number of patients treated, - a number which is steadily increasing.

In general, there are challenges in implementing the program activities, and there is potential for improvement in productivity.

Through the EU/NCA project NCA is actively supporting the management of HTPVK with a Project Accompanier who is much of the time in Kuron, - but also with finance staff and other staff which operates out from Juba.

### **HTPVK Finances**

HTPVK is totally in a good financial situation with committed donors and a major 3-years EU/NCA funded project, ending 2020. The total budget for 2019 is reported by management to be 929 376 USD.

An important issue is at present the salaries paid by HTPVK. Salaries are in general at a relatively high level and there is a high number of staff. The requirement for paying National Social Security Fund (NSSF) increased the salary costs significantly in 2019. The employees are to be deducted 8% of gross



salary, and the employer have to pay 17% to NSSF. Management will place the total NSSF deduction on a separate bank account as these are employees' funds.

As it was earlier agreed that HTPVK staff should remain with the same net pay after introduction of NSSF, salary costs for HTPVK increased by 25% this year.

The financial update to the Board in the board meeting showed that there is an urgent need to reduce salary costs. The Management was requested by the Board to work on this to prepare a budget for 2020 which allow implementation of programs and other activities, and at the same time are in financial balance (all expenses covered by funding/incomes).

### Donor meeting

A first and successful donor meeting was held in Utrecht, Netherlands in December 2018. Then a second meeting was held in Oslo September 2019. This second meeting gave a clear indication on what will be the HTPVK funding for 2020: It is expected a total funding of 830 000 USD (additional new funding/new activities might come on top). For the planning and budgeting for 2020 this information by donors was highly appreciated (minutes are available from the donor meetings).

*The Participants in the Donor Meeting in Oslo September 2019. Magne Svendsen, NCA is not present when the picture was taken*

*Photo: Lars Saaghus*



### HTPVK Programs

#### Education



*Nursery school children playing in the nursery schoolyard in Kuron quickly gathered and welcomed visitors by singing "We Welcome You ..... "*





*Morning parade at St. Thomas primary school in Kuron*

It has been an ambition for HTPVK to establish more nursery schools, also outside Kuron to allow children from distant villages to get some education.

In June 2019 two new nursery schools were established; one at Matara and one at Nakoboze.

An important element for making this education attractive to the local people is that a proper meal is served for the children. This is quite crucial; if food is not served the children will not turn up.



*Teaching nursery children at Matara; 120 children are registered, this day in November 28 turned up*

At this early stage the teaching and organising is done by two caretakers in each location. These are drop-outs from secondary schools, who have got some local training at the St. Paul II nursery school at Kuron. At Matara also a qualified female teacher is recently employed.

*Employees at Matara Nursery school.  
From left: Apio Immakulate  
Paul Lorii Nakwaam  
Samuel Loyonae Ngorok*



Still the teaching is done under trees. And the accommodation for the caretakers are poor. However, Stromme Foundation has provided funds to make some simple but more permanent sheds for the two nursery schools. By the end of November Iron sheets and timbers had arrived Kuron. However, sand from the river was not yet collected and the construction was therefore pending.

The number of pupils from the local area is steadily increasing in St. Thomas primary school. Half of the pupils registered for first term in 2019 came from Kauto county (the local area). The Board decided in the November meeting that pupils from Kauto and Boma from now on shall have priority in the school.





### Statistics from St. Thomas Primary school

Number of pupils and home area

CLASS	KAUTO		KAPOETA		BOMA		NARUS		JUBA		TORIT		TOTAL	
TERM 1	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
P1	45	10	10	5	4	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	59	19
P2	21	15	15	2	25	2	3	0	0	0	0	0	64	19
P3	12	13	19	3	23	6	0	0	1	0	0	0	55	22
P4	19	6	17	6	12	3	1	0	1	0	0	0	50	15
P5	8	5	21	3	5	0	3	0	2	0	0	0	39	8
P6	5	0	11	5	4	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	22	6
P7	4	0	9	3	2	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	17	4
P8	5	1	16	3	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	24	4
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>330</b>	<b>97</b>
<b>TERM 2</b>														
P1	40	5	8	1	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	52	7
P2	10	2	9	2	20	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	36	6
P3	9	3	6	7	23	3	0	0	1	0	0	0	39	13
P4	19	6	9	3	12	3	1	0	1	0	0	0	42	12
P5	8	5	10	2	5	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	26	6
P6	3	3	8	2	4	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	17	6
P7	4	0	9	2	2	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	17	4
P8	5	1	14	3	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	22	4
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>258</b>	<b>58</b>
<b>TERM 3</b>														
P1	25	8	09	1	00	00	02	0	0	0	0	0	36	09
P2	22	3	8	01	00	00	0	0	0	0	0	0	30	04
P3	14	04	13	02	00	00	0	0	1	0	0	0	28	06
P4	18	1	07	2	00	00	0	0	1	0	0	0	26	03
P5	16	2	12	2	00	00	1	0	2	0	0	0	31	04
P6	6	2	8	2	00	00	2	0	0	0	0	0	16	04
P7	03	0	5	2	00	00	2	1	0	0	0	0	10	03
P8	5	1	14	3	00	00	2	0	0	0	0	0	22	04
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>00</b>	<b>00</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>199</b>	<b>37</b>

Term 1 2019 Summary:

Boys = 330, Girls = 97, Total = 427

Term 2 2019 Summary:

Boys = 258, Girls = 58, Total = 316

Term 3 2019 Summary:

Boys = 199, Girls = 37, Total = 236 (Boma-pupils absent)



*The P 8 candidates as they are soon going for exams.*

*All wanted to continue in secondary school!*



### **School Facilities**

At present there are electricity and light in the classrooms, in the dormitories and in teachers houses when the main generator is running. That is daily 19.00 – 21.30.

In the school-offices there are electricity from a solar system, and this is working well throughout day and night.



*St. Thomas schoolyard and buildings*

*Sorghum, lentils and oil most meals (under)*



Food for the school children, where most of them stay at the boarding, is provided by WFP and distributed by the implemented partner Andrea Food South Sudan (AFSS). The supply has been sufficient this year, however, very basic: Sorghum, lentils and cooking oil.



*Lunch is served at St. Thomas primary school (left)*



The dormitories have gradually become worn and of unsatisfactory quality. Most of the beds are falling apart and the bed bottoms are damaged. Many of the pupils, especially the boys are sleeping on the floor.

*The old beds (above, right)*







*New beds in the dormitory!  
Some were put up for show;  
quite nice and a great  
improvement!*

It has for quite some time been focus on finding ways of improving the conditions in the dormitories. This year St. Dominicus, Utrecht, Netherlands have donated, through PAX, money for new beds and mattresses.

13<sup>th</sup> November 2019; 60 two-level beds with mattresses (for 120 persons if one in each bed) arrived in Kuron from Kitale, Kenya. This is a very good contribution to improve the conditions in the dormitories. The beds will be installed during Christmas holidays.

There is another urgent need at St Thomas primary school: Desks. The desks and chairs which was brought for the opening of the school in 2005 are now to a great extent worn out. The pupils need to sit many at each desk, and many must sit on the floors in the classrooms. Teacher report that desks is the most urgent need at the school.

Some desks have been made by Vocational Training Centre (VTC) at Matara from local materials/timber. It is a potential and an ambition to make a good number of new desks. Materials were available for 30 desks in November, and more materials are now produced locally. VTC will also be able to make desks for a new secondary school; 10 – 15 psc.



*Desk made at VTC  
from mostly local materials*



*Some timbers are cut and split locally to  
make more desks - and for other needs of  
HTPVK*

*Computers are donated and brought to HTPVK to allow teachers  
and students in secondary school to work with digital tools and  
documents*





### Planning for a Secondary School

The Board of HTPVK made it a priority to establish a secondary school in Kuron, starting 2020. This is to give the local children an opportunity for further education in their home area. The ambitions are to start with class one in 2020, and then increase with one more class every year till a full 4 years secondary school is established.



*P 8 pupils sit for exams in the Meeting Hall at Peace Academy, - this hall is planned to be used as a classroom during 2020*

Preparations started in November, and the proposal is to use the meeting hall/former Youth centre as a classroom and laboratory for the first year, at the same time as the construction of a school building will start at Matara. Funding for a first section of a school building is promised by UNIMISS.

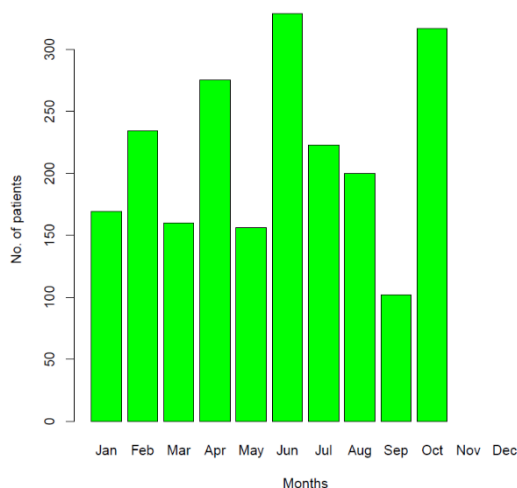
Activities have started to get the curriculum and books etc., governmental requirements, teachers with the required competence, funding etc.

The ambitions are to start secondary education in Kuron in February 2020.

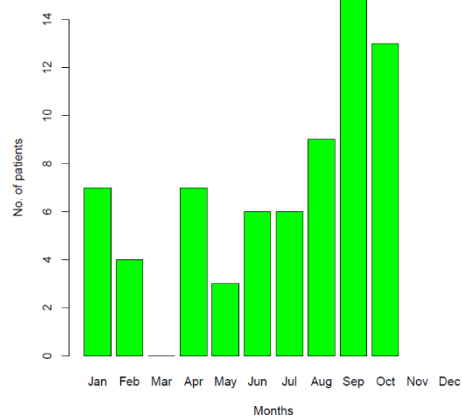
### Health project

Fr. Haumann Clinic, which at present is operated as a Primary Health Care Unit (PHCU) is doing well. A total of 6 medical staffs are employed, plus 3 support staff, totally 9. By the end of October 2019 6452 patients were treated at the PHCU and 409 patients had been admitted as in-patients.

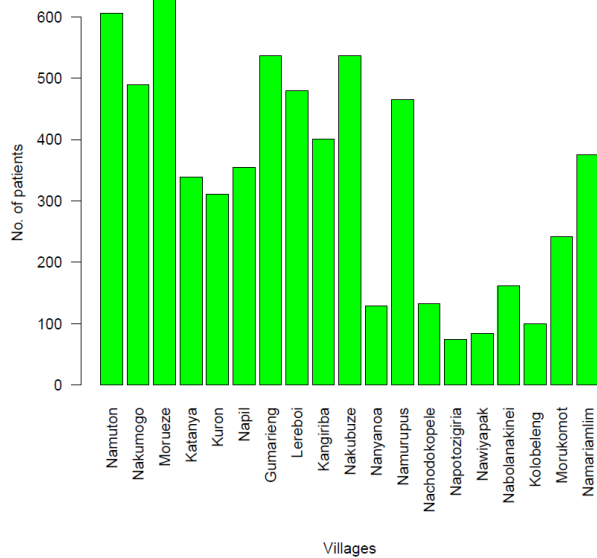
#### Statistics:



Out-patients 2019



In-patients 2019



It is registered a gradual and stable increase in number of patients. It is also registered a very clear change in attitude as the local people now have confidence in the treatment done at the PHCU at Matara. People come directly and are not as before going first to traditional healers.

*Villages from where patients are coming to Matara PHCU*

From beginning for 2019 ARC withdrew as implementing partner for Health Pooled Fund. Christian Mission for Development (CMD) took over in the first part of 2019. It has not been made any MoU between CMD and HTPVK, - as expected, and CMD has operated independently. However, it is now known in Kuron that CMD has not fulfilled their obligations and that the contract with Ministry of Health and Health Pooled Fund is terminated by the end of 2019. What is coming next is not yet known.

Payment of salaries to the PHCU-staff is not made very clear, as some salaries were paid by HTPVK and some paid directly to the health staff by CMD. As salaries for the health staff has been a great concern through 2019, the board requested management to obtain and present information on how and what the health staff is paid.



*In-patients at Fr. Haumann clinic (PHCU)*



*Nurse Rebecca is distributing drugs to out-patients at Fr. Haumann Clinic (PHCU)*

During September/October a new solar system was installed at the clinic! This is now working well and giving electricity and light 24/7! There is now light in the wards and in the staff-houses, electricity for computers and equipment as well as safety lights in the compound.



The water supply for the clinic, and also for VTC is good, stable and functioning well.

Availability of drugs is not quite enough. Drugs should be provided by the implementing partner of MoH and Health Pooled Fund: CMD. But it has still been necessary for HTPVK staff to go to Narus to collect the drugs, which unfortunately normally has some deficits.

The PHCU and HTPVK is facing great challenge when it comes to transport of patients who need to be transferred, - difficulties both practically and economically.

At Matara HTPVK is cooperating with Andrea Food South Sudan (AFSS) on a feeding program for lactating mothers and malnourished children.

*AFSS staff is measuring nutritional status of a child at Matara*



## Peace Program



Small arms are very much available in the Kuron area. Still there are few incidents, except related to cattle raiding. People here used to walk with sticks, now they walk with guns.

One of the main activities under Peace Program is the monthly community meetings held at Peace Academy in Kuron. These meetings are addressing relevant topics, and they give opportunities to share information, to educate local leaders and to make leaders and village people to reflect and develop on governance systems. And it develop a more clear understanding of roles and responsibilities. This is in particular important as there is no governmental representation in the Kuron area, - which gives extra challenges.

Peace program actively identify incidents and report on such to state authorities etc.



*Community Meeting at Peace Academy November 2019*





*Peter Lokitibo, Paramount Chief for Kauto County appointed 20<sup>th</sup> October 2019 is speaking in the November community meeting. His message was: Peace is now the most important!*



*Local Chief Akadawa is presenting his views (right)*

### ***Peace Academy***



*The Meeting Hall*

*Self-contained houses, also at night (in the background and under)*







It is now established a good and large meeting Hall (former Youth Centre), 5 self-contained houses of good quality, and 3 permanent huts of good quality, however not self-contained. All the buildings are wired with light and sockets. At present electricity must be provided by a portable generator. It is an aim to have a solar system installed. However, this is not yet funded. Water is available from a borehole and pumped by solar to a water tank and in addition used directly for watering the garden.



*Picking of hot spices*



*Papaya grows well*

The compound of Peace Academy, and now also the agricultural area and teak plantation is well fenced with razorblade wire. Crops are no longer disturbed by the local people. Various vegetables like sukumawiki, banana, papaya, watermelon, chili and others are now growing



well and harvested from the garden. Some are sold to HTPVK Guesthouse, and some are transported to Juba with the planes when there is free space.

*Sukumawiki (vegetable) has arrived at Friendship Guesthouse, to be taken to Konyokonyo market, Juba*

### **Socio-Economic Empowerment**

The program is aiming at introducing local production of surplus of food crops, and production of cash crops. In beginning for November 35 women were trained in how to produce honey with a modern hive, and by using more traditional and locally made beehives. An external trainer was brought to Kuron where he did the training of the women. It is planned for the women to work in smaller groups of 5 women. Each group will have one modern beehive, and in addition each woman will have a locally made beehive. The ambition is that the total group of women will produce 600 kg of honey.



*Locally made beehives*

Some money is donated for a smaller project with the objective of introducing ploughing with donkeys. The project is organised in such a way that people having donkeys allow HTPVK staff to use and train their donkeys. When the donkeys are trained and able to plough, the owner will use them



for ploughing. 7 people, mostly men have provided their donkeys, and 7 donkeys are now in training. Efforts are made to make women more directly involved.

Firstly, the donkeys learn to pull a piece of wood, later they will pull a plough. HTPVK has available two types of ploughs, - one type to be pulled by one donkey, another type to be pulled by two donkeys (brought for ploughing with bulls).



The training is going on well and the donkeys are now able to pull the plough. However, they need more training to go straight.

*Juma is demonstrating ploughing with donkeys which are under training in Kuron*

There is an aim of establishing a cooperative in Kuron. It has not been any significant development during the last 5 months, and the cooperative is not yet operational in Kuron, except for the grinding mill. Unfortunately, the grinding mill was out of order in November, in need of spare parts.

The Peace Market is established and was successfully opened in June. However, it seems to have no activity at the moment.

### Infrastructure and Road

A new 10 tons dumper was donated from Austria this year. This is meant in particular for the road work. At present (November) the JCB (tractor excavator) has a breakdown some 50 km away from Kuron. HTPVK was waiting for spare parts and a technician to do the repair.



*Road construction by "Food for Work" along Namonton creek*

*Payment for Food for Work: an agreed volume of sorghum for every half day of work*

For the moment some road work is done between Kuron and Matara, along the Namonton creek. The work is done by women as Food for Work.





## Transport and logistics

Three “new” vehicles are donated to Peace village in 2019: a Landcruiser, a Mercedes ambulance and a dumper. This is a great support. The vehicles are generally frequently used and under very rough conditions. It is therefore demanding and costly to keep the vehicles in good and operational condition. Quite often activities are not possible to implement due to lack of transport capacity (breakdown of vehicles).

The long and demanding and expensive supply lines is a challenge when it comes to logistics. To get supplies to Kuron is generally a time-consuming process.

*The new dumper*



A discussion is ongoing for disposing off some of the old vehicles which has high maintenance costs and limited running time.



## Pastoral Program

There are three Fathers now in Kuron; Bishop Paride Taban, Fr. Henri, and Fr. Modi Darius. Fr. Modi Darius is for the time being also acting Head of Peace Program, - Fr. Henry is out for some studies.

There are prayers and Mass in the Chapel at HTPVK all days when there is no Mass at St. Thomas primary school, - which is Tuesdays and Sundays. The Mass at St. Thomas on Sundays is well attended with school children, HTPVK staff and some village people.



*Baptism during Mass*

Mass is also frequently celebrated in evenings in some of the villages around Kuron.

*From Sunday Mass at St. Thomas primary school*





## EU/NCA Project

The EU/NCA project represent the major funding and recourses for HTPVK during the three years project period: 2018 – 2019 - 2020. The project has made a great and significant input both economically and capacity wise.

These are the main activities in the project:

- Activity 1: Organize inter/intra community dialog meetings (monthly community meetings).
- Activity 2: Roll out of peace/ mediation activities across states and countries to raise awareness
- Activity 3: Building the pastoralist networks/linkages to enhance information sharing across States, Counties and Payams (community meetings). Improved relationship between Jie and Toposa.
- Activity 4: Increase the VTC. (VTC is under Social and economic development).
- Activity 5: Develop standards for the VTC (formal and non-formal) (Construction of dormitories yet not started).
- Activity 6: ?
- Activity 7: Strategic plan
- Activity 8: Organizational capacity assessment for HTPVK
- Activity 9: Targeted capacity support to HTPVK
- Activity 10: Developing routines, tools and management systems for activities.
- Activity 11: Support HTPVK Board in developing policies and strategic plan
- Activity 12: Renovation/upgrade of HTPVK services, roads and maintenance, and contribution to local Payam administration.

There is a possibility to extend the project period if all funds are not used within December 2020. This requires an application early 2020 from HTPVK by the Board.

## HTPVK Board Meeting, November 2019

The board meeting and accommodation of the board members was this time located to Peace Academy. The board had first two days of training together with the senior management. The training was under the EU/NCA project, and was conducted by Michael Ouko and Jonas Halvorsen, NCA. The training strengthened the understanding of responsibilities and roles both for board and management. The training was found very useful.

Unfortunately, board member Titos Lokwachuma was unable to attend the training and the board meeting due to other important duties. The following board members and staff attended the board meeting:

- Bishop Paride Taban, Chairperson of the board
- Hon. Dr. Margaret Itto, Vice-chairperson of the board
- Fr. Hakim Dario, Member of the board
- Mr. Per Nordmark, Member of the board
  
- Emmanuel Ira, Secretary of the board
- Jonas Halvorsen, Accompanier for EU/NCA Project



In addition, finance manager Stephen Iranya Mass participated in parts of the meeting.





The board members had some closed meetings where the management was not present.

*Board in a closed meeting at Peace Academy*



#### Agenda for November 2019 Board meeting

1. Opening Prayer and Communication from the Chair
2. Reading of previous minutes
3. Report on board decision from last board meeting (Director)
4. Updates on programme status (Programme Director & NCA Accompanier)
5. Updates financial status 2019 (Programme Director & Finance Manager)
6. Updates on donor meeting in Oslo September 2019
7. Presentation of revised strategic Plan 2020 – 2024 and revised operational plan 2020-2024, and way forward
8. Work plan and budget 2020
9. Revised financial policy
10. Revised organizational Constitution
11. AOB
12. Closure

The board meeting gave a good update on the situation and resulted in useful discussions within the board, and with the management. The board was able to make conclusions on several issues and to give recommendations and directions for the work of the management.

Generally good work is done, and positive results achieved. However, two major challenges were focused: Productivity need to be improved, and operational costs need to be reduced, in particular salary costs need to be reduced for 2020. As donors have given quite detailed information on what will be the funding for HTPVK for 2020 it is possible to make a detailed and accurate budget in balance for 2020. To achieve this was a requirement from the board to the management.

One new activity was in particular focused in the board meeting: To make HTPVK able to start secondary education in Kuron already from February 2020. This was a clear ambition by the board.

The board meeting was scheduled for 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> November. However, due to the many demanding issues the board continued with meetings also on 24<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> November.

Before leaving Kuron the board called for a meeting with the senior management to highlight the importance and the challenges related to good planning of activities, reducing total salary costs and of making a budget in balance for 2020.

*The board meet with the senior management before departing*

