

NEWSLETTER

HOLY TRINITY PEACE VILLAGE KURON



March.2021

BITS AND PIECES

Possible Indicators of Attitude Change:

Chief talking to his people: "...this is our bridge and we have to take care of it because it helps us in so many ways. You collect stones and don't ask for payments...."

Guest House: The administration issued a letter to all partners, friends and tourists notifying them that accommodation services, meetings for people coming to Kuron Peace Village have been suspended until it proves safe for social gathering. However online meetings will continue with partners and donors.

Administration: Coordination meetings continue each month for increased communication and sharing between departments. A one week NCA training in Juba for Program Manager was cancelled due to Covid 19



positive cases in Juba. Mr. Lokii spent time in Rwanda University finishing his exams for his degree in Peace and Conflict Studies.

Logistics: general cleaning and reorganization of stores and warehouses was done through-out the month. Rocks, stones and murrum were loaded and transported to the bridge area for the repair work. A large water tank used as a reservoir was transported to the Plantation site for watering the coming new year crops. (previous tank was washed away during the floods.)



Challenges: Sunday mass is limited to the staff and their families with the use of masks, hand washing and keeping social distance.

Statistic: Less than 1 percent of the Toposa population has attained formal education. (Eye Radio 28.Feb.2021)

Sudanese Proverb

Empty stomachs have no ears

Meaning: One must meet the basic needs of the community before we can discuss such issues as deep rooted beliefs and traditions and long standing conflicts. In order to build trust and respect one must start where the people are at.



From the desk of Program Manager, Mr. Edward Okot.



take the pleasure in welcoming you to Holy Trinity Peace Village (HTPV-K).

The HTPVK mission is to be a holistic model where individuals and communities of diverse ethnic and cultural backgrounds are empowered to co-exist and interact peacefully. Through this newsletter, we are sharing the exciting progress and achievements made by our programs in various sectors. Thanks to the devotion of our funding partners, we continue to make great strides in improving the lives of our communities. Together with our partners, we ensure that communities we serve are socially, economically, and spiritually empowered to lead a life of security, dignity, peaceful co-existence and prosperity. Peace building, education, livelihoods, economic empowerment and health are key areas of concern. We strive to be transparent and accountable in our work and remain committed to our willingness to take action in the face of many challenges.

Best Wishes, Okot Edward

PRAYERS

Ambayo Martin's brother passed to heaven end of February. Rose Nandasi's brother also passed away in March. Please pray for their souls.

Despite the dry season many staff continue to suffer from malaria and even typhoid. Several of the children were also sick.

Corona 19 is making a resurgence in South Sudan. There are many new positive cases. Please pray for health and safety of all people.

Br.



International Day of the Woman

A very grateful thank you to all our faithful women who work so hard every day on this Peace Village Compound. We appreciate your dedication and energy in support of all the work we are doing. Your leadership and behind the scenes efforts are much appreciated.

Covid 19 Update

106 South Sudanese people have so far died from the virus, (Ministry of Health 10.March.2021.) Confirmed cases in the country have risen to 9,849. A great number of these were within the last several weeks. The Govt. says they are serious this time and enforced a fine of 10 USD for not wearing a mask. All HTPVK staff wear masks when in the village offices and meetings.

PASTORAL



Catechists had an organizational meeting at the end of February. Catechumens and baptism candidates are being prepared according to the program of the Church. They should be ready by Easter.



Fr. Henry baptizes assisted by Br. Francis Xavier

Dry season is the time to visit far flung villages for Sacramental and Pastoral visits. The Pastoral teams have been very busy organizing the communities and the candidates. For example: on 07.Feb. over—210 people

were baptized at Kangiriba; on 14.March—193 were baptized from the Matara area. Since the beginning of the year, many have been catechized for several years and since January 2021, 650 catechumens have been baptised in different villages.

NURSERY SCHOOL



Mobile teaching began in the 4 nursery centers of Naku-buze (5 villages), Napil, Kuron, and Matara (5 villages). All teachers are adhering as much as possible to the Covid 19 regulations and precautions. To date, 186 children (78 females) have registered during the first period and the expectation is that eventually there will be more than the target of 300 children. There is a certain amount of enthusiasm amongst the parents after a year of slow or no activity.



INDICATOR OF PROGRESS: During the registration one elder was trying to explain to the children the importance of Education. He was saying that he never got education and now he is behind the times. He was also asking the Nursery team for Functional Adult Literacy. He said that even an old person can learn.

PRIMARY SCHOOL



AVSI began renovation work in earnest on one block section of the Primary School Classrooms this month. New window frames were installed, floors and walls were plastered, and repainting of the entire building was finished this month. ACROSS also held a two week Workshop on Methodology and Evaluation for several of the teachers. The entire teaching staff met to plan for the re-opening as soon as the GOSS gives the go ahead.



INDICATOR OF PROGRESS: It is said that HTPVK Primary students in Kapoeta are raising money as they want to be able to spend Easter in the Village. They like the Village Easter Celebrations and miss their school and teachers.

BEFORE AND AFTER CLASSROOMS

PEACE BUILDING IN KURON



No major incidents of conflict were reported this month in the Kuron regional area. There was a one week Pax training in Juba for two HTPVK staff members. Mr. Lokii Eliah traveled to Rwanda to complete his thesis review and sit for his exam at Rwanda University.

INDICATOR OF PROGRESS: Toposa leaders initiated their own peace reconciliation meeting and approached HTPVK staff for assistance in mediating conflicts between Jiye and Merle.

LIVELIHOODS



A workshop was held for one day in the Village for HTPVK staff on Climate Change and Development. Mr. Milla presented and did a very good job. All departments will continue to speak on this issue in the context of their regular meetings with the people from the area.

The Women's Group has met to set their specific objectives for the year.

AGRICULTURE

Over 700 households were given some garden tools and seeds for the upcoming planting season. From FAO to WASI to HTPVK



each households received a rake, hoe and several different seed bags for the upcoming planting season.

HANDING OUT TOOLS AND SEEDS

AGRICULTURE PACKS READY TO BE DISTRIBUTED.



240 households were given emergency food supplies to offset losses from the recent flooding that devastated their crops. Food for Work and distribution of Emergency Food Supplies is a very sensitive topic and distributions require great care and organization to prevent confusion and anger. There are several agencies distributing so coordination and communication is essential to reduce confusion amongst the beneficiaries. However, this distribution was very organized and the beneficiaries disciplined and there was no chaos. Caritas Austria were the donors for this distribution done by HTPVK and the people appreciated HTPVK and CA so much.



Emergency Food Distribution to Elderly and Women

KURON PUBLIC HEALTH CARE CENTRE (KPHCC)

Out-Patient consults continue to be high. In February there were 434 adults and 162 under 5 years of age. This month the most common disease was Brucellosis and Upper Respiratory Infection.



Lab Tech. Albert checking a blood sample while Clinical Officer Richard looks on.

In the month of February there were 104 In-Patient visits. The average stay was 3.5 nights. In February, 70 pregnant women came for consultations but none of them delivered in the centre. They prefer to deliver at home.

Nutritional Assessments continue to show there is a higher rate of malnutrition amongst the under Five Age group. WFP has been bringing food supplies into the area. Save The Children sponsors the Vaccination Campaigns which saw over 1,100 vaccinated this month. The problem is that too many start BCG and OPV but then disappear and don't finish the dosage.

CCM came to paint the entire complex including all the buildings inside and outside. CCM has also promised to build a latrine for the staff. The security fence is really falling down and there are thieves coming to the compound almost every week.

LOGISTICS DEPARTMENT



In the Guest House a Vehicle Parking Shade was constructed for vehicles. An electrician was brought to the Peace Village to assess, repair and organize the electrical system and power grid of the entire compound. There were many problems which he has now rectified. The electrician also repaired appliances and equipment which had not been working.

The Peace Academy has begun cleaning up from the flood last year. Pipes were clogged with silt and buildings were filled with mud. The fence is being repaired. The water pump has to be restored also.

INFRASTRUCTURE DEPARTMENT

BRIDGE repair was the priority this month as the WFP sent their engineer team to replace the timbers and rebuild the gabions. Many villagers from around assisted in the collection of materials voluntarily. Several hundred workers moved stones from various places and trucks brought the materials to the bridge where they were off loaded and put in the gabions. A lot of intensive manual labour was needed for this work. The HTPVK and Toposa communities were all involved.

100 metal plates were welded to the bridge superstructure. 75 cross bars were then welded to the plates for traction. 270 cubic meters of stones were placed in 38 gabions along the southern bank as added protection against erosion. Over 40 truck loads of murrum were spread on the roads on either side of the bridge to raise the bed and allow passage even in flooding season.

Bridge Before with wood



Metal Sheets Welded



Gabion Reinforcements

under the bridge



Indicator of Progress: A chief convinced his people: "...this bridge belongs to Toposa and we are responsible for its maintenance and repair also, not just HTPVK..."