



HOLY TRINITY PEACE VILLAGE KURON NEWSLETTER MARCH 2022



Bits and Pieces

International Day of Women was celebrated by all the HTPVK staff on 8.March.2022. Men prepared the food and set up the venue. Mr. Juma was the MC, the Primary School presented a play, the Scouts presented a dance.

The National Anthem was sung in honor of our women and a dance was joined by the men and women in honor of culture and traditions. The Toposa men and women were fascinated by the different performances.

A Child Safe Guarding training in Narus sponsored by the St. Patricks Missionaries was held from Feb.01 to Feb.05 Primary Head Teacher Mark Atanga Sebit, Secondary Head Teacher, Br. Francis Xavier, and Teacher Drania Grace John attended the 5-day workshop.



Education training in Juba by Stromme Foundation 23.to 27 March was attended by: Mr. Mark Sebit, Mr. Okori Emmanuel, Ms. Apio Immaculate, Ms. Nachebe Sharon, Mr. Amena Boniface and Mr. Okot Edward .

Partners visiting this month include: **IMA, MCC, AVSI,UNMISS and County Health Department.**

Okori Emmanuel has taken up duties as Project Officer implementing Stromme Foundation funded COMMUNITY BASED EDUCATION INTERVENTION & VOCATIONAL TRAINING project. Lillian Akwero has taken up duties as Guest House cleaner. She continues to serve as seamstress.

We are in the heart of the DRY season. Temperatures are routinely around 38 C (100 F). The Kuron river has completely dried up. The locals have taken all their cows to distant places. Dust haboobs cause dirt and dust to fly in all directions and cover everything with the fine sand. Lots of visitors take advantage of the dry roads to visit Kuron Peace Village and assess programs.



Kuron River can be flooded during the Wet season and completely empty during the dry Season.

Left: Sept.2020

Right: Mar.2022



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African Proverb

God has no favorites - Malian Proverb

Meaning: Everyone in this world is seen as a dignified human being and deserves to be treated with respect and dignity without prejudice to race, creed, gender, or any economic status.



Prayer Requests

Bishop Paride Taban continues to improve under treatment in Nairobi. We pray for everyone's health.

For World Peace and an end to wars.

For those without food in South Sudan.

For staff who have lost family members.



Pastoral

Despite no priest being available for the staff and local community, the religious activities carry on. The Brothers of St. Martin de Porres have taken the lead in Liturgy of the Word on Sundays and Stations of the Cross on Fridays.



Infrastructure

The Multipurpose Prayer Hall Building has progressed to the point of placing beams for the roofing. The height will be 6 meters and the interior section is 18.5 x 8.5 meters. (see picture to left)

Clearing of the Secondary School site and Matara Nursery site was also done.

Materials were transported to the Multipurpose construction site.



LT: Nursery Teacher Kato John greets participants in the Mama/Baba meetings

RT: Toposa Leaders and Youth enjoy a meal during the workshop at Kuron Peace Village.



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Peace Building

February and March have been busy months for the Peace Department. Much of these activities are funded by the European Union Peace Funding. As reported last month, there were two Peace Conciliation Meetings (Feb.7-10 and Feb.24 to 28) to de-escalate a revenge attack by the Murle on the Nuer for previous raids. (pictures to right)

This was followed by a Youth Camp Retreat at the Peace Academy in Kuron Peace Village for 90 Kraal youth from Toposa, Murle, Jie and Kachipo (Feb.21. to 23). This is part of the continuous engagement with the different pastoral communities to find peaceful ways to solve conflicts. (picture of sports team below)



The on-going monthly Community meeting (15.Feb.) was attended by over 60 Toposa elders and youth to discuss and sensitize for peace and also to address some respect issues for HTPVK assets. (picture at bottom left)

The Peace Team held a Payam Level Advocacy Meeting at Nachodokopele (March.3 to 4) for issues to deal with peaceful co-existence. These are on-going meetings to strengthen community resolve.

This was immediately followed by a launch of Peace Structures in Narus (March.5 to 7). This was to try and get the government involvement more active in the local peace processes.

The HTPVK Peace Team also facilitated a workshop (Saturday.12.March.2022) for Community Orientation on reconciliatory Processes. Forty One (41) Men and Women attended the half day workshop at the Kuron Peace Village. March also witnessed two meetings for Training of the Peace Committees at the Payam level, follow up meetings in the villages for Peace Structure Activities and Training of the Peace Structure Leaders. Over 150 total participated.



TRAUMA HEALING WORKSHOP

On 22.March, over 50 members of several communities spent a day at Kuron Peace Village learning about Trauma and ways to heal. Many stories were shared of times when individuals were traumatized by shooting, drownings, abductions, and other terrible events. The people were very grateful for this workshop held by the Peace Department. This is all part of efforts to keep the local communities engaged. (Right: Mr. Lokii Eliah leads the Trauma Healing) see attached IMPACT ARTICLE



Chief Lino Nakerui paraphrased comment: “ ...We realize that communities have to be united for Peace and Reconciliation to work. If one chief needs help with an issue, we all need to help him and work together to resolve that problem...we are stronger if we work together.... It is much bigger than all of us. ...so we need to realize we have to unite and speak with one voice....”

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LT: Top student in Primary receives prizes for great accomplishments.

RT: Pupils packed into one of two lorries ready to go to Kapoeta for the break.



Head Teacher Mark Sebit says: *“The performance of our pupils was good. One thing I noticed this year was much improvement in the discipline of the learners.”*



Primary School

Final Promotional exams were finished on 11.March.Friday. Primary Eight students (23 total with 4 female) are waiting for their results which were sent to central Education offices for correction. Primary 1 through 7 have received their results from regular testing. They were sent home with the report cards and a letter from the Head Teacher to the parents. All students are scheduled to return April.11 to 13 and a 17 of April Opening Celebration will be held for the New Academic Calendar.

There are 12 teachers total in the St. Thomas Primary School. 282 students P1 to P7. We wait for P8 results to be reviewed in Juba. Math and English are the most difficult for the learners. Science was the subject the students did best in.

Secondary School

Forty Four students in Senior 1 and 2 have taken their regular exams. Head Teacher, Br. Francis Xavier is encouraged that they are improving and settling into a routine. Several proposals to build more classrooms have received favorable replies from donors but as of March only one block of 3 classrooms has begun. The academic school year ended on 11.March and the students and pupils will return in April.



Teacher Anthony Minga comments: *“The learners were diligent. They didn’t cheat. They made good progress and we have seen the results are favorable.”*



LT: Foundation is dug for a new classrooms block in St. Thomas Secondary school the project is Jointly funded by Caritas Austria and ProSudan Association.

About 140 Primary and Secondary students were transported to Narus and Kapoeta via HTPVK trucks.

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Primary School pupils perform dances (left) and plays (below) on the International Day of Women.



Comment by Mother of Primary pupil:
My children could not wash their clothes before [they went to school]. They were lazy. Now they come home and they can do all their clothes by themselves.

Nursery

Exams have finished for the 50 learners in nursery.

The 7 members of the School Management Committee held a meeting on 15.March to talk about the school grounds. This SMC has donated all money, materials, and labor for the construction of two shelters for children to use as temporary urinals.

Mama/Baba Club met on 17.March to coordinate their activities during the school break.

A mobilization for awareness and instruction on children with disabilities was done on 11.March for Matarra and Namaton communities trying to encourage parents to send their disabled children to school.



Nursery learner who was promoted to Primary One had a question: *"Will we get the same good food in Primary 1 like we received in Nursery?"*



Above Left and Middle: Nursery teachers hand back the exam results with report cards to the learners.

Left: Mobilization for Inclusion of children with disabilities in the Nursery Schools



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Primary Health Care Centre

Ojjaba Sunday Abdalla has joined the PHCC in February as a nurse. She is born in Opari, Majui. Sunday received a Diploma in Nursing from St. Mary Health Science Institute in Juba in 2020. Welcome to the PHCC team Sunday!

The Covid-19 Vaccination Campaign was kicked off on 17.March for staff and local community throughout the next few months. The Primary Health Care Centre – Kuron staff worked in cooperation with CCM / Amref and State Ministry of health to visit and mobilize the villages around the area.

A group from IMA visited to discuss the on-going Khalazar eradication program.



Nurse Ojjaba Sunday Abdalla



Covid 19 Vaccination Point

LAB TESTS

Over 350 lab tests were conducted in the on-sight lab. Most of these were malaria and/or typhoid.



Mentally and Physically Disabled clients at the PHCC receive special attention and care for health check-ups

COVID -19 VACCINATIONS

Over 600 staff and the locals from the Kuron area have received the Johnson Johnson vaccine shot. There are more coming every day to the PHCC where the vaccines are held in cold storage.



The Primary Health Care Centre saw lower numbers of Out-patient and In-Patient due to the fact that many Toposa have left the area to move their animals to the kraals in the hills far away where water and grass can be found. Staff took advantage of the lull to organize medicines and stocks.



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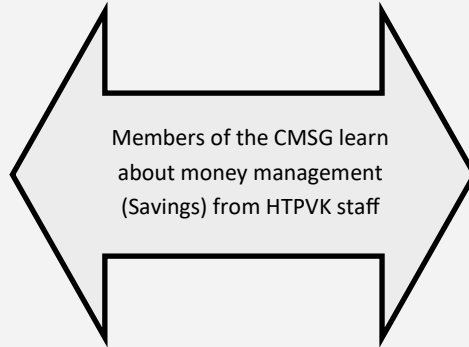
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LIVELIHOODS

CMSGs

The Community Managed Savings Groups met on 14. March. 2022 to discussion actions and activities. The people are very interested in this but are at a disadvantage due to the isolation of the Kuron area and the poor condition of the roads.



Livelihoods

Several Capacity Building workshops were held for over 80 people in Finance Management, Innovations, Income generating activities, Natural resource management, Marketing, Climate effects on agriculture.

One big topic was on Group Management which helps the people learn how to work in groups. The Toposa were quite keen on the discussions which were held on the key points in working in groups.

Animal Traction Plowing was demonstrated in the fields. Below Left: Mr. Juma Chelimo discusses climate issues.



RT: Women and Bonga girls with local products for sale to create

Bonga Girls

Bonga Girls continue to make beads and are planning a bread making business for income generation.

A new group of Bonga girls will cycle in this year while the veterans will move on to their private businesses.





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Supporters of HTPV Programs in 2022:

Personal contributions from His Excellency, President Salva Kiir Mayardit, President of the Republic of South Sudan

1. European Commission - EU
2. Norwegian Church Aid (NCA)
3. Norwegian Friends of Kuron
4. PAX for Peace Nederland
5. Stromme Foundation Norway
6. Friends of Sister Emmanuelle (FOSE) Belgium
7. South Sudan National Ministry of Health - (Health Pool Fund)
8. Caritas Austria
9. ProSudan Association Austria
10. Franciscan Sisters of Little Falls (USA)
11. Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration (USA)
12. South Sudan Council of Churches (SSCC)
13. Diocese of Mainz, Germany
14. World Food Programme (WFP), South Sudan
15. UN Mission in South Sudan
16. Mennonite Central Committee (MCC)



Finance Department: Emmanuel and Margaret review the invoices and budgets.



Left: Toposa Women are invited to share a meal with HTPVK women on International Day of Women.

Right: HTPVK staff working on reports in the crowded Livelihoods Office.

Only three (3) acts of violence reported in the Kuron area since the beginning of the new year.



Positive Development:

10 Cows that were stolen in 2021 by Toposa youth were recovered and returned to the Murle in Boma.

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