



**HOLY TRINITY PEACE VILLAGE  
KURON NEWSLETTER  
APRIL 2022  
HE IS RISEN ! ALLELUIA !**



**HAPPY EASTER !!!!**

**May all our supporters and friends be blessed with  
Peace and Health and Encounter Joy in the Risen Christ !**

**Bits and Pieces**

HTPVK Program Manager and Acting Director, Mr. Okot Edward, visited Bishop Paride Taban in Nairobi and briefed Bishop Paride about the progress of work in Kuron. Mr. Edward and Bishop Paride discussed a lot about progress of the ongoing projects and up coming projects .

Mennonite Central Committee has become a new partner with HTPVK. Mr. James Jada and Mr. Tadeo Santinino came to visit 29.March to 03.April to assess the program. They had fruitful and successful discussions with the Program Leadership and will be assisting in Peace Building.

New staff member, Mr. Obote Zecharias, from Torit, has joined HTPVK as a driver/mechanic. Ms. Rebecca Deiya has also jointed the Secondary School as cook/cleaner.

Fencing around the Peace Village was done in several places.

On sad news, the wife of long serving Human Resource Officer, Andi Alfred, Zainab Seppe unexpectedly passed away on 11.April. Funeral services were held and she was buried next to her home. A few days later one of the Kenyan Workers, Lomure John, also passed away and was buried in the Peace Village Cemetery.



Left: Women listen to discussion on Animal Traction

Right: MCC talks with HTPVK staff



Edited : 03.May



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## Pastoral

Br. John Ogenda (St. Martin de Porres) led us through Lenten services such as Stations of the Cross and Liturgy of the Word. Fr. Moses came from Kapoeta for Holy Thursday and Good Friday Services.



Right: Staff and local community attend Easter Sunday Liturgy



## Infrastructure

Due to the death of one of the workers, the construction was halted for a short time. The Multipurpose Prayer Hall Building has the roof and walls finished. Remaining is the floors, plastering, and mesh windows.

Left: Multipurpose and Prayer Hall April.2022

## Peace Building

Toposa youth raided some Murle cattle in late March. Murle avenged and raided a Toposa cattle herd after that. Hon. Gov. Louis Lobong Eastern Equatoria came to the area to mitigate the issue. He stayed one night in the Kuron Peace Village. He was speaking with Boma and Kuron leaders to mitigate cattle raiding between the Murle and Toposa.

Right: Elders attend Peace Meetings in the villages



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**Livelihoods**

Mr. Juma Chelimo has been working with the Korokochum community for Animal Traction this month. He has been helping with training and plowing of the field in that community. So far there is quite a bit of cooperation and excitement about the plows. Please see attached article.

Some years ago, the East African Jembe hoe was introduced and today we are seeing more and more Toposa using this new tool for cultivating. The fields under cultivation are larger, the tillage is done quicker, and the ground is prepared much better. If good rains come this wet season, we hope to see more food produced in this traditionally food deficit area.

**POSITIVE OUTCOMES:** More land is now cultivated using the improved Jembe hoes. More males are helping the cultivation of fields.

Community Managed Savings Group has met for the second time. They have increased their savings to over 50,000 SSP. It has been agreed that when they reach 100,000 SSP they will allow loans at a yet to be decided rate of interest.

Above: Pictures of training for assembly of the plows for animal traction.

**Primary Health Care Centre**

The PHCC has continued working throughout the Easter Season. About 50 patients per day are visiting Out Patient Care. In Patient Care is averaging around 6 patients per night. One case of Kalazar was successfully treated. Others “escaped” before completing the course.

Left: Nurse Sunday attends to Out Patients

**Positive Outcomes:**  
More births occurring in PHCC without payments or inducements. They trust the Mid-



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## Secondary School

The Foundation is laid and the walls are beginning to come up on the new 3 classroom structure to the west of the existing structure. There is a plan to construct another latrine on site also.



## Primary School

The opening of all classes was delayed to 02.May.2022 based on the National Government order. A new fence was placed around the girls dormitory.

### Select Supporters of HTPVK Programs:

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. Norwegian Embassy
5. PAX for Peace Nederland
6. Stromme Foundation Norway
7. Catholic Relief Services (CRS)
8. Friends of Sister Emmanuelle (FOSE)
9. South Sudan National Ministry of Health - (Health Pool Fund)
10. Caritas Austria
11. ProSudan Association Austria
12. Franciscan Sisters of Little Falls (USA)
13. Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration (USA)
14. South Sudan Council of Churches (SSCC)
15. Diocese of Mainz, Germany
16. Missio Austria
17. World Food Programme (WFP), South Sudan
18. UN Mission in South Sudan
19. Initiative Pater Stephen
20. Mennonite Central Committee (MCC)

## Matara Nursery

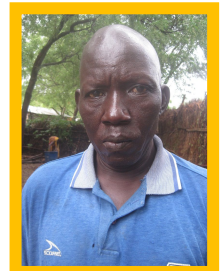
Right: Matara Nursery has new windows and doors fixed.



*Many Thanks to AVSI for providing many books and supplies which have been transported to Kuron Peace Village and distributed between the Primary and Secondary Schools.*



New HTPVK Staff  
Rebecca Deiya & Sylvia.



New HTPVK Staff  
Obote Zecharias



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**ANIMAL TRACTION  
In Karukochoom Village**

**IMPACTS AND CHALLENGES**

*Break up your fallow ground. Hosea 19:12*

Animal traction is a time tested favored method of ploughing and cultivating the land when mechanization is too unfeasible. It has many advantages and positive results. This method has also been introduced to the Toposa People in the Kuron area as early as 2005. As Toposa are pastoralist people, it takes time to adjust to an agricultural based society. HTPVK continues to work with and encourage this type of ploughing.

Toposa land is a chronically food shortage area. Toposa have little food reserves and often eat only once per day. Mostly what the Toposa sow is sorghum. One goal of the project is to also get the Toposa to try other crops and develop a taste for these foods.



*Figure 1 Training four donkeys for ploughing*

The Agriculture team tries to encourage other crops especially vegetables which would supplement the minerals and vitamins for the community. Vegetables are slowly being accepted by the Toposa. However, the taste of the local people is mostly directed to sorghum. The entire Toposa land is very fertile to grow maize but always affected by its fragility to sunshine compared to sorghum which are very resilient to heat.

There are currently three targeted communities with about twelve families each. We estimate each family to have five members so the total beneficiaries would be  $3 \times 12 \times 5 = 120$  total. The donkeys can work up to four hours maximum per day. The soil is best before the rains because it is dry and easily breaks up. Then later, when the rains begin, the farmer can quickly sow the seeds.



The advantages of the plow are speed, less human energy needed, depth of furrow is better at 10 cm.



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## Impacts



Figure 3 Mr. Juma Chelimo shows how to assemble the plows

The use of animal traction takes a heavy burden of work off the shoulders of the women. When asked what they do with the “extra” time, they replied; that now there is more time for other work.

A 200 meter by 200 meter plot of land would take one person two months to cultivate in the traditional way using the hoe. If using donkeys to help with the breaking of the soil and ploughing the same patch of land would take only six days (each day only three hours) to cultivate. So there is a great savings in: time, effort needed, and depth of the earth cultivated. All these are advantages in favor of the farmers.

Mr Joseph Mute is the contact in Namalia Village. He has become the model farmer for this method of cultivation. He mobilizes his community members with a cell phone that he purchased. So the phone really helps in communication and facilitation.

One of the elders stood and spoke highly of the project. What he wants now are seed for more marketable items like: cabbage, sim sim, maize and sukuma. (However, maize is not good in this type of soil) The project officer had to explain that an analysis of soil, rain and other conditions means that not all crops can grow in one place. There are differences even in sorghum production within just a short distance. But we can make something out of nothing. We are using sorghum because it is drought resistant and this is semi-arid land.

## Challenges

The will of the people is not there. Only a few individuals are enthusiastic about using animals to cultivate.

Juma was gone many months due to a serious attack by a stabbing. His work was delayed and behind schedule because of that. He is still limited in his movements.



Figure 4 Field visits and follow up are necessary for the success of any project



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The distance between the three target communities is great and makes coordination difficult. We discovered that many are not aware of roads which lead to their communities as they simply trek across bushes. This makes getting to the villages a bit difficult.

There is a certain amount of disinformation as Toposa have no experience with new ideas and they talk about what they don't know. Sometimes they misunderstand the roles of HTPVK in this community by comparing it to INGOs such as WFP and FAO.

## Lessons Learned

One has to constantly be in communication to refute misinformation and rumors. New ideas take time to germinate. The community's doubts have to be consistently and persistently addressed for a long time until they see and believe. The project officer has to constantly be discussing and explaining all the stages and steps.

It is most effective if the person working with the Toposa can speak the language and has spent some time in the area to familiarize themselves with the people. One cannot simply come into the community, start a program, and then leave it to them. There has to be constant follow-up of the project even after the final implementation period, otherwise, they will forget about it after a short time.

In the future, if all goes well, there is a chance the communities will even be able to make money ploughing other people's fields. This would create income for use in other aspects of life.

## Comments from Toposa

Comment by Mr. Joseph Lopem: I told my wife not to plough. I will do it myself. It can help us a lot.

Comment by Mr. Kere Elder: Before, when I was young, we did all this by hand when. Now I see modern technology. We will see how this goes with donkeys.

Comment by Elder Ngaperungimoe: We don't like to see our cows pulling this thing. Donkeys are better for this work. We accept it. It took so long before and was very hard work. Now this seems a lot easier and faster.

Comment by several Women: This ploughing saves time. We like it. Although, we have to learn first. With our extra time we can do other things around the village.

Madam Nakwar Elder Woman: I was in Uganda long ago. I remember they used cows and donkeys to plough. It was so easy for them because they knew it a long time. The women there were big and strong.

( sources: Site visit to the Karukocho project. Interviews with Mr. Juma Chelimo, Mr. Angelo, Toposa women and men elders. edited by: Gabe Hurrish and Juma Chelimo 10.April.2022 )



Figure 5 Community members are encouraged to speak their opinions, suggestions, and ideas



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