



1<sup>st</sup>, April 2015

### **URGENT APPEAL TO PEACE VILLAGE'S EARLIER DONOR PARTNERS**

As the donor partners' representative in the board of HTPVK, I am requesting for your organisation's attention for the difficulties Peace Village is struggling with due to the loss of financial contributions and reduction from previous donor partners.

I may understand that missing information and lack of reports might have disappointed and degraded your organisations' interest for Peace Village. I will try to explain that one main reason to the missing reporting is turnover among key personnel in the staff, especially in the administration.

Peace Village has been in operation since 2004 and the attention during these years have certainly been directed to achieving goals and targets in the society of the local area. And there are several good achievements reached: These improvements are first of all connected to positive attitudes in the young people but also to preparedness among the adults to necessary changes in their attitudes for instance to child marriages, but also to cattle wrestling. I want to express that change of attitudes always have to be based on new knowledge and insight. And it is necessary to understand that input of new knowledge has to take time, especially in this area where people are illiterate. I have cooperated with Peace Village since 2005 and I would say that Kuron today is a different society where the locals are adaptive to changing their habits. In the neighbouring areas there is - sorry to say - standstill. ***Many friends say Bishop Paride Taban found the most difficult project in the world.***

It is worth to mention that Peace Village area is having peace compared to the areas in the north of South Sudan. Communications to Kuron are improving: There is now regular air flight once a week to Kuron. The road from Narus to Kuron has been upgraded up to River Lokurwa. The remaining 60 km to Kuron is though still expecting improvement. When this last part is finished it will be a major uplift for communication and transport of people and goods to and from Kuron.

The primary school is making good scores in final examinations. Last year pupils from St. Thomas made the highest scores in Eastern Equatoria State. The vocational training school has expanded their classes to 8 months programs consisting of brick making, carpentry and steel welding. A new project in tailoring for girls is now under preparation. A course for employees from all departments is now going on in understanding of media and communication. The aim is to enforce these employees to prepare reports from their fields. There is also a program for improving the housing for loyal workers in Peace Village. This program is already funded by kind donation from a Norwegian lady.

In the last Board meeting in January the board discussed and reworded the vision and mission statements of Peace Village ([read report on the website](#)) and the Board's belief is that these statements will make a good foundation for building a peaceful and productive spirit to the best

of both Peace Village, the employees and the society members of Peace Village operate inform of cooperative.

During the years since 2004 there might have been too little attention paid to the necessity of enforcing the internal competency, cooperation and team spirit. We have to observe that our strength has to be based on the people who decide to come to Kuron give their workforce, service and living. This Peace Village is one of the hopes for people in the rural area to keep out of the cities.

In the current situation Peace Village is still missing 74% or USD 525,000 of the prepared budget for 2015. And the management has to take serious actions to bring the budget in balance with funds expected or funds promised from the donors. The necessary action for Peace Village in the current position is to reduce and restructure the staff. The aim for the future is to build up a motivated and dedicated team who will be able to bring Peace Village back a setting where previous and new partners and donors have trust to our efforts. Great effort is now put on self-reliance projects.

I hope your organisation will consider assisting Peace Village and becoming a Partner in this difficult situation. A friend in Need is a friend indeed.

Kind regards



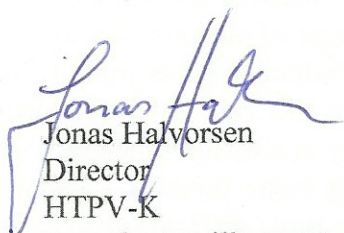
Åge Antila

Elected in January 2013 as the donor organisations' representative in the board of HTPVK



Bishop Emeritus Paride Taban  
Founder and Board Chairman  
HTPV-K

[www.kuronvillage.net](http://www.kuronvillage.net)



Jonas Halvorsen  
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