

Global Hand Washing Day in Kuron

Global Hand Washing Day was 15th October 2017. However, due to absence of key personnel the day was celebrated on 18th November in Kuron, in the village of Napil. The WASH team of Holy Trinity Peace Village, Kuron (HTPV) had organised the arrangement, and contributed with parts of the program. St. Thomas primary school and Vocational training center contributed with song and drama. The Carter Center finds common interest in promoting basic hygiene and contributed. Some heads of villages/sultans were present, as well as women's groups and Peace Village staff. In total several hundred people from a number of nearby villages participated, both men, women, school children and other children.

By Per Nordmark



To attract people The Carter Center had provided loudspeakers, music and a microphone. After the program lunch was served to all.

The program started around 11 and lasted till around 3. After this the people enjoyed the music and the gathering lasted on.

What it is all about; clean water and hygiene

The program was led by Mawa Joseph, which he also presented. There were several speeches; by local village leaders, women leader Elisabeth Kuron, by WASH assistant Margaret Ajeo, The Carter Center Supervisor Moses, WASH Coordinator Dr Thomas, Director of Peace Village Lam Cosmas and Board member of Peace Village Per Nordmark.

Women leader Elisabeth Kuron gives a strong message (right)

In addition to the important message on basic hygiene and hand washing, in particular Elisabeth Kuron highlighted the hot topics for the people at this time: The operation of the clinic, which has been closed for about 3 weeks due to harassment of the clinic staff, and looting of food for the clinic patients. The Kapoeta State authority has given the responsible individuals fines in kind of cattle, and decided to keep the clinic closed till the fines are paid. Now the whole area is suffering for this misbehaviour, and Kuron strongly asked the responsible head of villages to fulfil their obligations, so that the clinic could resume its service.



She also addressed the other hot issue; abduction of children. These two issues were then further commented and discussed by the other speakers. Apart from the issue of WASH promotion, this gathering therefor had a wider and important function.



Italian based NGO; InterSOS has established a cooperation with Peace Village. Recently a joint training workshop in WASH were held for women in Kuron. These women had during the workshop made a song about hand washing, and had practised performing this song. As they arrived at Napil, they danced as they were singing this song.

Women group perform their own song on washing of hands



St Thomas School Choir sings songs supportive to the topic of the day: Hand washing

An important part of the program was to present practical ways to prepare for proper hand washing. Three washing stations were organised, and many of the people present practiced hand washing.



Toposa women practice hand washing according to instructions



The women are listening



The Local Head chief; Akadawa Romolo is washing his hands thoroughly, performing a good example for others.

The event ended with a good meal for all, - an important factor for attracting people to come for such events

The hand washing day in Kuron was an important input for improving personal hygiene. However, it also created an arena for the village people to address and discuss other important matters for the communities, which they also did.



Food is served