

tearfund

South Sudan

A TEARFUND REPORT

42 Months of Programs & Impact

Tearfund Canada has been on the front lines of serving those most at risk of death or permanent damage due to the famine and war in South Sudan. We have been able to react quickly and effectively to reach the most vulnerable, on both sides of the conflict.

The majority of households in Aweil rely on the agriculture sector as a means of livelihood. Depleted harvests due to long dry spells followed by severe flooding and pest problems, combined with rising prices of staple food prices have left over 60% of the population severely food insecure.

In the midst of the conflict and food insecurity lies a deep hidden suffering: Sexual Gender-Based Violence. It is rampant, and often used as a weapon of war.

With your support, here is a re-cap of the impact from the last 42 months, helping the internally displaced and most vulnerable of South Sudan





Working Through The Local Church



In the last 42 months, your financial partnership has provided **\$813,852** for the most vulnerable in South Sudan. We have worked very hard on your behalf to leverage these donations with the Canadian Foodgrains Bank and Global Affairs Canada to generate over \$ 7.5 million of programming. The following report provides stories about the impact you have made.

Our program was prioritized for the most vulnerable, you have helped:



Single Mothers



Child-headed Housholds



Elderly-headed Housholds



Disabled People

‘Tearfund’s Church-Based Community Transformation is, by far, the best development model I’ve seen’

Sandra Ryan, The Peoples Church, Toronto



The church’s mission is to show people God’s love and to invite them into a relationship with him. This is why Tearfund works through the local church in Aweil State of South Sudan. The local church conducted community surveys on behalf of Tearfund to identify community members most in need of food assistance, trauma counseling and agriculture training. Together, we are working towards a South Sudan where every person’s basic needs are met, and have a chance to flourish using their own resources to exit poverty. This is what the church is called to do.



YOUR IMPACT IN SOUTH SUDAN!

Here is what has been done to help internally displaced people who fled into refugee camps over the last 42 months.



WATER & SANITATION

- 77,600 people were provided with clean water and latrines
- 96 wells were prepared in 37 villages to bring clean water



CHILDREN WERE STARVING

- 97,406 children under the age of 6 were screened for severe acute malnutrition
- 11,356 were treated for malnutrition
- 1,703,400 packets of Plumpy'Nut were distributed
- 4,952 pregnant and lactating women received nutrition treatments



STARVING PEOPLE WERE SAVED

- 8,533 people were screened for severe malnutrition
- 34,944 vulnerable people received critical food assistance



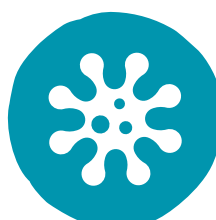
SEXUAL GENDER BASED VIOLENCE

- 72% of women and girls over the age of 12 were sexually assaulted.
- 25,000 people were reached through the radio programming focused on raising awareness about sexual and gender based violence
- 816 Lay women were trained in churches to provide support to survivors of sexual gender based violence, through biblically based trauma healing groups.



SMALL DEVELOPMENT

- 1,200 people received training on sustainable farming practices, 1,012 were led by women farmers



COVID-19

- COVID-19 prevention education and equipment distribution of face masks, gloves and hand sanitizers distributed to 62 local staff members



Food vouchers saved **Alok's** family

Alok Bak Deng is a mother in her mid forties living with her family in the Warawar market area. She has 5 living children, of which the youngest has mental disabilities and needs constant care. Alok has no money to send her children to school, so they sell firewood at the market. Alok's husband is a blind man in his sixties. The drought means that the land produces almost no food and the family owns no livestock.

They eat only if Alok sells firewood each day. The children collect water for the family in a leaky jerry can, but there is never enough water for drinking or hygiene needs. Being amongst the neediest and vulnerable, the local church selected Alok's family to receive food vouchers. Alok expresses her gratitude to you for helping her family get through the hunger season.



THE FOOD ASSISTANCE THAT ALOK HAS RECEIVED INCLUDED:

This program provides vulnerable households with food vouchers, enabling them to receive **105 kg of grain, 11 kg of beans, 6 litres of vegetable oil, and 1 kg of iodized salt per month**. The quantities are based on best practice humanitarian standards that provide an individual with 2100 calories per day.



'Thank you to all the people across the world who have come together to help the poor in South Sudan. We pray that the crisis we experience never happens in your countries. Our biggest hope here is for peace in our country. We hope that your gift gets paid back to you two-fold so that you can continue to help others.'

Alok Bak Deng

Impact of Covid-19



COVID-19 is expected to worsen food insecurity, as the restrictions resulting from this pandemic have disrupted the economic activities for many South Sudanese, reducing their purchasing power, and ultimately exacerbating the already high levels of acute food insecurity in South Sudan.

Project staff are adapting the food distribution activities by conducting distribution and training with smaller groups, enforcing social distancing during distribution, as well as establishing handwashing facilities at distribution sites.



The COVID-19 situation did not affect the project performance and achievement of project objectives. The overall budget was also not affected by the changes.

Food insecurity particularly affects women as they are responsible for providing food for their families. Women reported that lack of food often resulted in negative coping strategies such as skipping meals, borrowing food from neighbors, and foraging for food in the wild. Here is the story of Atoch whose hope has been restored through this program.

CONTINUED PARTNERSHIP

COVID-19 has dramatically increased food insecurity throughout South Sudan. An estimated **144,000 people** in the Kajo Keji region are now classified as having acute food insecurity.

To help, Tearfund is now expanding our efforts into the region of Kajo Keji to help 36,000 of the most vulnerable individuals, who are women, elderly, child headed households and those with disabilities.

The project will provide food assistance, agriculture training, village savings and loan groups and sexual and gender based violence training.





Sexual And Gender Based Violence

At the request of local churches, Tearfund began a pilot project in 2019 called “**Hope in the Midst of Violence.**” The project was spearheaded by the local churches in the communities where we are already present in this larger humanitarian response. In the whole region there were no counselling services. Church pastors and leaders were not equipped to help the countless people in their congregations and communities who had been sexually assaulted.

Of those Tearfund Canada has served since 2017, it is estimated that approximately 72% of females over the age of 12 have been sexually assaulted. The scars of this trauma have not been dealt with. The first year of the project saw incredible success as we trained 141% of our planned number of facilitators in Biblically-based trauma healing.

Every female facilitator had been sexually assaulted in the past. Once the training finished, the facilitators began forming trauma healing groups so that they could support other women and girls in their respective schools and churches through the trauma healing groups.

More Power to the Unjust

For Mary Ayuen, a member of Warapac Angelical Church in Aweil, being chosen as one of the trauma healing facilitators was a happy moment. She is proud of her responsibility to serve her community. She was trained as a facilitator to reach women hiding in the shadows. She told us this story.

A 15 year old girl named Akifa was raped by a man who left her pregnant. Six months after being raped, she was walking home from school and was raped a second time, by a different man while out on the playing field. She tried to wrestle him but was overpowered, causing a miscarriage.



After the incident, Akifa was taken to a local hospital, where she was treated and recovered physically. She received no help to recover from the psychological pain left behind. A small burial was arranged for the deceased (the baby) who was named after the girl’s father.

Even though Akifa is not a part of their church community, Mary and her trauma healing group members felt the need to support her. They arranged to go and pray together with the girl’s family. They invited Akifa to visit them in the church where they carry out trauma healing support and counselling. Akifa lacked the courage to attend the group for counselling, because



Four SGBV graduates at their local church wearing their graduation t-shirts from the SGBV training. They hold hands and pray for the women of their community.

she was so ashamed of what had happened to her. But after another visit from Mary to their home to pray and support the family, the girl finally visited the trauma healing group in church for counselling.

Akifa received nine counselling sessions from the trauma healing group over the course of two months. The group continues to make follow up visits with her. Healing is a process, one she is working through with the support of this group. Progress is occurring as she now freely interacts with other community members and attends church services with her mum.

But there is still a problem. What happens regarding Akifa's marriage now that the entire community knows she has been raped?

Following cultural norms, Akifa still lives at home with her parents, who have made no steps to pursue justice on her behalf. Horrifyingly, they are waiting for either of the rapists to come and pay her bride price. Her perpetrator will be allowed to marry her, since he is the one who took away her innocence.

As a trauma healer, Mary goes on to tell Tearfund that the SGBV training is teaching her to deal with more than just trauma; she also confronts social stigma and justice issues. She wants this injustice that is happening to Akifa to be unacceptable in their community. Mary hopes that Akifa's case will be followed up and the perpetrators taken to jail. Sadly, Akifa's fate currently lies on whether either men will pay her dowry, and if not, the family will try and open a case against the perpetrators. The SGBV officer visited the family recently and shared with them the legal options that they have but the choice is very affected by the cultural norms of the community.

Mary tells us that this is one of the many common cases in Aweil, South Sudan. Many young girls like Akifa are married off to the people that hurt them in the first place. The survivors often have no voice and in the event they disagree to be married off to the men who hurt them, the shame of being pregnant with no husband awaits, which has been normalized to feel "worse" than seeking justice for being raped.

"I hope the girl will get justice. I will continue to follow up on the matter" – Mary Ayuen says.

Justice is a process as these women seek to find God in the midst of their pain. Thank you for being a part of Akifa's healing process as she continues receiving support from Mary's trauma healing group.

THIS PROGRAM IS HELPING TO

- ▶ Create awareness on sexual violence and its impact on community
- ▶ Share what the Bible says about sexual violence and how its teaching can be applied to handle SGBV cases
- ▶ Teach leaders SGBV, root causes, contributing factors and their consequences
- ▶ Create a safe environment in churches for sexual violence survivors
- ▶ Identify the availability and access to SGBV services for referrals
- ▶ Improve the preventative measures and safe responses towards victims

Thank You!



We would not have been able to have come this far without the support of amazing partners like you!

For more information about South Sudan or to continue giving towards Tearfund's humanitarian aid in this country, **you can contact:**

Wayne Johnson
Executive Director
(416) 707-9066
wjohnson@tearfund.ca

Jewel Jamieson
Development Coordinator
(905) 415-8181
jjamieson@tearfund.ca

Our team and partners in South Sudan are grateful for you



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