

Crisis in Southern Sudan

Dec. 2007

Hope through Clean Water & Food

We and our in-country partners have been trying to demonstrate God's love to desperate people in Southern Sudan through drilling water wells and providing dried soup mix and rice for 8,500 needy people in Mundri County. GAIN's donors have given funds to drill 24 water wells in Southern Sudan and we are still raising funds to drill the remaining 16. Together with our in-country partners, 11 water wells have been drilled to date and are giving life-transforming, pure water to up to 11,000 needy people! Here is what these grateful people are telling our staff:



**Abobo village, near M'bara, near a school.
Water well serves 579 people**

The difference that having a water well has made is that we are now very happy, because we don't have to travel 12 miles to get water, which is also bad water. We had to travel this distance twice a day. It was open to both people and animals, and they were getting sick from drinking that water. Bringing water here has been an answer to their cries, because for a long time they were suffering from drinking bad water and not being able to bathe for up to 10 days, and neither did children have any access to water while being at school all day. Thank-you very much for your help. We pray that God would bless you and give you strength to be able to help other people have water in other places, too.

Korogbo village, water well serves 786 people

Before, we were suffering a lot in this area because of the water. We used to get water at a river 6 – 8 miles away. The water in the river is also contaminated water, and so we are happy to have this new well. Now we can live healthy lives, free of the diseases that we can catch from the river water. Now that the women don't have to travel that long distance to get water, they have more time to be able to care for their families and tend to their crops. They'll have more strength and energy to tend the crops, and possibly have enough crops to sell, as well as to feed their families. People are dying from sickness and a lack of medicines. If we can even bring them adequate food, it will help. Thank-you very much for coming to give this water to us. May God bless you more so that you can help more people, as well!



Milikodo – water well serves 679 people. They have lived here for 9 years, having been displaced from their homes during the war and have been now given this land. We have been living here for all these years. We gave been praying to God for safe, clean water because we had to walk 3 miles to the river, and after drinking it we would get sick. But today, God has heard our prayers by bringing people who can help us out of our suffering. Now we are happy to have clean water! We won't get sick or have to carry these heavy loads 2-3 times a day for 3 miles. Maybe our children will move back to our village because now there is good water. I want to give thanks to God for bringing you here, since you have the love of God in your heart to give us water. I know it is God who has answered our prayers in bringing you here. May God be with you and guide you and bring you to even more other areas so that you can help others.



Southern Sudan – Hope in Trauma

During a trip to Southern Sudan in May, GAIN staff were privileged to hear personally from people whose lives have been touched by God's love. We and our in-country partners have been trying to demonstrate this love to them through drilling water wells and providing food for distribution to needy families in seven villages in Mundri County. An ALERT team



GAIN ALERT Staff conducts Trauma Counseling Seminars

also took part in this trip, conducting training seminars for trauma counselling as part of our commitment to holistic restoration in this war-devastated country. Each of the seminar participants has suffered through the trauma of war along with the people they're trying to serve. Their measure of personal healing so far is encouraging, and their desire to reach out beyond themselves to help others is awe-inspiring. Here are two of their stories, told after the 3 day trauma counselling seminar, describing aspects of their trauma during the 21 year war in Sudan:

I would like not to give up, but to take courage and go forward in faith.

Mr. Lvan Tata



I have been in trauma up until now because of the war. During the war, I and my mother, my sister & brother lived together. My relatives were separated during the war, with some living in Juba and others having fled to Khartoum. After peace had come, we were happy because we could travel to see each other & move back to Juba. When my brother completed his university degree in Khartoum in 2003, we were really happy, seeing it as a part of our family's security for the future. But, in October, my brother passed away over a 7 day period. Also, my only sister, who had cared for us daily for 10 years, cooking, cleaning, and serving us, also passed away. I tell you sincerely, if it hadn't been for the kind of teaching I've been receiving recently, including this teaching over the last 3 days, maybe I would be the kind of person who could commit suicide. My mom is almost ready to pass away as well. I was having suicidal thoughts in the past, but God has helped me very much ... Since have been learning through workshops and seminars like this one today, I want to take courage; go forward with the faith. My mother's condition is getting worse ... please pray for me and my remaining family. What few of us remain, should be doing something; this is what I would like, not to give up, but to take courage and go forward in faith.

Mr. Lvan Tata

Thank you for allowing me to share this story of what kind of things have been happening during the 21 years of war. We realized that the war has completely traumatized people through examples like this. One time a 12 year old child was taken as a soldier, trained and sent out to fight. After being exposed over and over to fighting and killing every day, when he came back, he quarrelled with his mother. They quarrelled often, and one night while she was sleeping, he decided to cut off her head. Now people are starting to see the danger of taking small children to be soldiers. Therefore, we are very happy because you have come to give us knowledge so that we can help ourselves not to continue such behaviour, because many bad things are going to happen even during this time of peace, because the idea of killing is still in the back of our mind. This is going to manifest itself and we could be killing people for no good reason. Thank-you so much for giving us this opportunity to give us knowledge to help each other. We hope that things may go well, & that you'll come back to give us more knowledge so that we can live in peace & wash away all traumatic events from our minds.

Joseph, a shift nurse at the Lui hospital



None of the hope-giving results through trauma counselling, food distribution or fresh, safe water from new water wells would have happened without people like you. Through your compassionate support, relief aid and development efforts are making a noticeable difference in both word and deed to the people of Darfur and Southern Sudan. Please consider joining us as we continue to offer food, water, and hope to Sudanese trying to forge their lives ahead in this war-devastated country.

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