

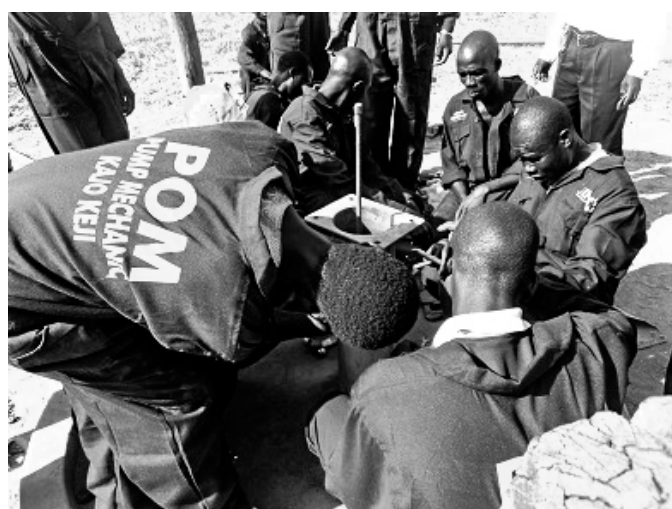
PUBLIC HEALTH IN SOUTH SUDAN

Category: Water and Sanitation Hygiene (WASH)/Sustainability/Hygiene Education/Self Reliance

BE A PART OF THE PROJECT: PARTNER WITH JEN AND CONTRIBUTE

<http://www.jen-npo.org/en/contribute>

Sustainability



Above: Pump mechanics work together fixing a local well.

Keeping the Flow: Hand Pump Association in Lainya County

In part of improving the health conditions throughout our target populations in South Sudan, JEN organized a committee among local villages to act as a first responder group and repair the malfunctioned and broken wells. JEN has installed and irrigated new wells, however if these wells are not properly maintained and cared for, they end up un-operational like many of the already existing wells. These wells break over time because of over-and-misuse. Children are often the ones to draw water and break these wells by using them as play structures.

When wells are out of operation, women travel far from their homes to fetch water out of streams and rivers that often carry diseases. To prevent water-borne illness and grant improved access to safe water, the Hand Pump Mechanic Association was created last fall. This past spring JEN hosted a meeting to help with their training and create a space where mechanics could meet and share information. These sessions have brought safer water, jobs, and self-reliance to these communities.

Helen Manish, a part of the water use committee comments that, “it’s great to now have a hand pump association, before hand there were many broken boreholes (pumps). Now when one’s broken, it’s reported, and a member of the association comes out to fix the pump within three days.”

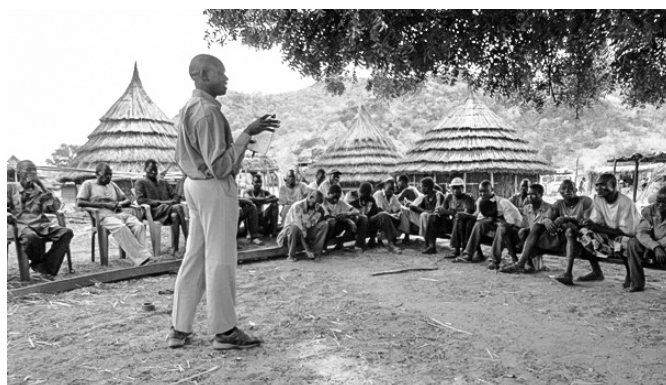
Hygiene Education

Towards Healthier Homes

JEN has been working with local educators and schools about proper hygiene. Children learn about the proper way to wash their hands, use the restroom, and eat meals in order to avoid sickness. Most recently, JEN’s projects have put an additional emphasis on adults through a series of hygiene information sessions for entire villages. The same content taught at these sessions is what is taught in schools. These sessions have not only encouraged families to improve their own practices at home, but also help enforce schools’ hygiene lessons for their children.

The largest issue at hand is that many are accustomed going outside to use the restroom. The hygiene sessions taught the importance of toilets for public health. The head of the village wishes that the South Sudanese government would fund projects to build toilets, however have not yet responded to these needs. In reaction, JEN has provided information on how these villages can build their own latrines using the tools they already have.

Below: Hygiene promoter teaches in Illiangary Village/



COUNTRY: SOUTH SUDAN

WASH

Implications of Hygiene Education: the Stretches of Community

JEN's WASH programs have aimed to improve the health and sanitation of local communities in South Sudan. Our work has aimed towards bringing our programs to the many different people in the surrounding area, not only to those living in the towns and villages, but also to the pastoral and nomadic agricultural clans. Juba County boasts a wide diversity of peoples ranging from the Bari, Lolubu, Mundari, Lokoya, and Nyangbara tribes. Once the rainy season ends, clans begin to move, and finding these pastoral clans often becomes a challenge within itself.

JEN's team recently encountered a group of young men in the middle of a ritualistic rite of passage, ages 18-25. It is a time when young men seek wives and in order demonstrate that they can protect their village from harm, must live outdoors for three months. As dictated by tradition, they live under conditions without clothes and any sort of bath. With respecting their customs, JEN introduced the different ways to access cleaner water, and practice better sanitation. Rather than looking past the populations sometimes considered "basic," we find it imperative to remember the often times forgotten. Kiden Rose spoke on behalf of the community saying, "We are very happy to now have clean water. It is the first time we are receiving hygiene education, and is important for our children." We hope by focusing particularly on the younger men, who by culture are the future decision makers in their tribes, will foster effective change among their people for a healthier future.

Below: Boy washes his hands with clean and fresh water in a small village outside of Juba.



Focusing on the Forgotten Peoples and Regions

Not all areas receive media attention. JEN implements its assistance programs even in regions where there has been little or no media coverage, especially for vulnerable populations (Project Management Policy)

Self-Reliance



Above: Restroom outside of a school in the capital city of Juba. Growing sink hole results from a lack in maintenance.

Attitude: Our Time Here pis Temporary

Plumbing infrastructure is either unreliable or completely unavailable throughout the majority of South Sudan. As a result of this, sanitation regarding lavatories and outhouses without running water has proven to be a difficulty. An example of this is the above picture taken outside of an elementary school in Juba. In a conversation with the school's principal regarding the condition of the facilities, he commented that he "had requested from a variety of NGO to construct new toilets" and until the new ones are built, have been treating the current ones as disposable. There is a reliance on outside support, one of the reasons why JEN emphasizes self-sustainability. We work with these communities, teaching them the tools necessary in order to improve their quality of living. However, the underlying issue behind much of this is the attitude residents feel. As South Sudan is new after a past of displacement, many feel that their time is temporary. Truly, for South Sudan to build an independent nation, with a notion of sustainable autonomy, there needs to be small changes of consciousness. JEN aims to help instill this sense of ownership by keeping projects operated by locals. Please support JEN as we continue our work throughout South Sudan.

NGO JEN (Japan Emergency NGO)

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