

# PUBLIC HEALTH IN SOUTH SUDAN

Categories: Refugee Assistance/Community Building

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

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### Refugee Assistance

#### Urgent Need calls for Quick Response

JEN is currently offering emergency relief in the Kenyi District of Lainya County in the state of Central Equatoria, where some 440 households are currently living. Such displaced families are presently in dire need of basic necessities, and JEN has taken a moral obligation to help support these people by distributing goods and services.

JEN has recently begun a program that consists of the distribution of relief supplies and workshops for hygiene instruction. Basic necessities that are delivered are first evaluated by JEN staff members in order to warrant good quality and condition. Furthermore, JEN and JPF logos were placed on each item. Prior to delivery, the internally displaced individuals were provided with coupons sent by JEN, which were used to receive a multitude of supplies such as mosquito nets, plastic sheets, rope, polyethylene containers, buckets, water cleaning agents, basins, soap, nail clippers, kitchen supplies, and kitchen oil.



*Above: Relief supplies as prepared by JEN staff members*

JEN staff members, identified by their dark red polo shirts with the JEN logo, handed out items to families. As traditionally done in South Sudan, women carried large, heavy items on their heads.

*Below: Women carrying relief supplies on their heads*



### Community Building

#### Report from Maliamungu M. Moses, Hygiene Promoter

Working in an entirely different region usually consists of working alongside completely different cultures. Cultural barriers are often the cause for delay in relief efforts to reach troubled populations. Thus, JEN places an emphasis on the importance of building relationships between different cultures. Mr. Maliamungu M. Moses, hygiene promoter for JEN, reported on one of the tribes of South Sudan known as the Pojulu tribe of Tijor Payam in Juba County.

**COUNTRY: SOUTH SUDAN**

Mr. Moses spoke to a tribe elder found that there is a belief among the tribe members that all youths must undergo a form of initiation in order to be considered an adult by the rest of the tribe as well as the rest of society. Becoming an adult marks a point where the youth is allowed to socialize with the elders of their tribe. The initiation process lasts for 90 days, and requires the youth to remain unclothed for the entire duration, while partaking in daily activities. Further, the youths are not allowed to sleep inside their homes during that time (this process often occurs during the rainy season).

Initiation into adulthood also allows for them to partake in marriage. In Pojulu tradition, males – along with their parents – place bids on the women they would like to wed. The women ultimately wed the man who offers the highest bid to take her hand. As different from Japanese culture as it may seem, this tradition has been long practiced by the Pojulu ancestors.



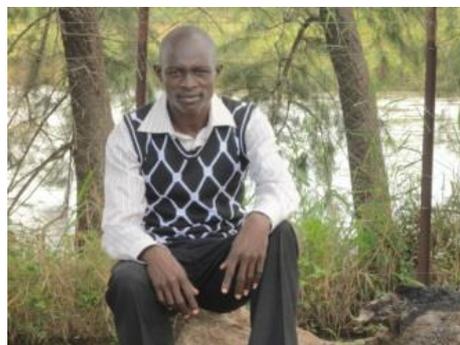
*Above: Tribe elder explaining initiation practices*

The tribe elder went on to mention that despite the fact that this has been an ongoing tradition, many youths have become uncommitted to their ancestral practices, and have instead left their communities without ever going through initiation.

Due to the extremely tough manner of the initiation process, the Pojulu tribe is often mistaken for another more warrior-like tribe. This often results in members being portrayed as hostile tribesmen, however as Mr. Moses reports, this was not the case. Although he was a stranger to them, they appeared harmless and an elder was even willing to speak to him about their culture. With that being said, Mr. Moses' experience reveals that gaining a fundamental understanding of a different culture allows for better understanding.

**Community Building**

**Welcome Mr. James, New JEN Staff Member!**



*Above: JEN's new staff member, Mr. James*

JEN would like to welcome Kibo Dominic James to the JEN staff team based in the city of Yei, in the southwest of South Sudan. He is the new Logistics and Administrative assistant. Before joining the staff team, Mr. James had worked as a driver for JEN since 2013.

Mr. James wishes to see a lot of success in working with JEN, primarily in the WASH programs that have been implemented in schools and communities throughout the region. He is also hoping to see an increase in community members practicing good hygiene.



**The 7 EN's of JEN**

- Engage
- Entrust
- Encourage
- Endeavor
- Enjoy
- Encounter
- Enable

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