

## SOUTH SUDAN: People Receive Spiritual Nurture and Healthcare

Clinic builds a new in-patient ward and offers devotions for patients and family members



The new children's ward at Martha Primary Health Care Center in Yei, South Sudan, added 18 beds for pediatric patients.

### COMPLETED PROJECT

South Sudan has some of the more alarming health indicators in the world. According to a 2014 World Bank report, one in 10 children will die before the age of 5. The maternal mortality rate is the highest in the world and only 45 percent of the population live within three miles of a health clinic.

Displaced people continue to arrive in South Sudan and find themselves living in harsh conditions with lack of clean drinking water and sanitation. Without available health care, many of the preventable diseases such as malaria, yellow fever, cholera and respiratory infections become endemic. Children are especially vulnerable.”

At the Martha Primary Health Care Center in Yei, South Sudan, there were 11 beds in the children's ward, but an average of about 20 pediatric patients on any given day. Through this project, the health center built a new children's ward that provided beds for 18 patients. The goal for the project was to care for 2,000 patients in the first year. A second goal was to provide 3,500 patients, family members and other community members with opportunities to interact with God's Word through daily devotions.

The Martha Primary Health Care Center continues to play an important role in the provision of quality and affordable healthcare for the community. Construction of the ward was an important step in improving both short- and long-term healthcare needs that will benefit the community for years. This project exceeded one project goal by attracting 1,216 more people for daily devotions than expected. It achieved its second goal by seeing 96 more patients than expected, earning an overall rating of “Exceeded.”

### TRACK RECORD

The Martha Primary Health Care Center opened in 1980, but was closed during Sudan's civil war. It reopened in 2003 with funding from the Diocese of Salisbury, United Kingdom. Initially, the clinic was funded by Irish Aid through the Church Mission Society Ireland. The diocese has also received funding from Basic Services Fund (UK Aid) to establish a mobile clinic. The Brickworks Charity funded the first children's ward and eye clinic. The diocese of The Episcopal Church of South Sudan & Sudan managed the construction of both the clinic and school buildings.

#### PROJECT PROFILE

ID: ARDF-1013-Yei

Lead Ministry

**MARTHA PRIMARY HEALTH CARE CENTER**



Requested amount	\$59,360 ARDF, \$75,750 Other
Amount spent	\$59,360 ARDF, \$69,390 Other
Expected cost per beneficiary	\$16.96 ARDF, \$38.60 Total
Actual cost per beneficiary	\$12.59 ARDF, \$27.30 Total
Location	South Sudan
Sector	Health
Evaluation date	July 2015
Researcher	Frederick Barasa

#### PROJECT PERFORMANCE

BELOW

ACHIEVED

EXCEEDED

#### DEFINITION OF RESULTS

Exceeded	Implementer exceeded goal by more than 20%
Achieved	Implementer solidly achieved the goal +/- 20%
Below	Implementer partially achieved the goal
Not achieved	Goal was 100% not achieved

## ASSESSMENT & RECOMMENDATION

By South Sudan standards, the new children's ward at Martha Primary Health Care Center is a success. It offers water, solar power, new beds and proper equipment. The building is well-maintained, clean, hygienic and meets government requirements.

Construction of the new ward went well and was completed on schedule. Contributing to the success of the project was the construction firm, which was carefully selected. The contract did not go to the lowest bidder, but to the one with experience and a good reputation. The construction supervisor provided regular updates and photographs of the project. The construction firm followed a structured schedule of interim completion dates, each linked to a stage payment and backed up with penalties for missing target dates.

A United Kingdom-based pediatrician visited Martha Primary Health Care Center for the opening of the ward and worked alongside the South Sudanese staff. Once the ward was opened, the local people responded positively and it rarely has open beds. The former ward is smaller, with its space now used for overflow of general patients.

South Sudan continues to experience war, displacement and violence – coupled with limited investment in healthcare. Construction of the children's ward was an important milestone in the provision of healthcare in South Sudan.

While the risks surrounding the project's leadership and financial control remain low, there are other risks that should be considered before future funding:

**Concept.** According to Doctors Without Borders, South Sudan's civil war and unrest has strained the fragile healthcare system, with many hospitals in conflict areas shut down. The medical facilities that remain open are experiencing an overwhelming influx of people with various medical needs. Access to proper healthcare is still limited, especially in the rural areas of South Sudan.

**External.** After emerging from a long civil war, South Sudan faces huge challenges in providing healthcare to its population, particularly women and children. The ongoing violence has made it difficult for people in rural areas to access healthcare services. Ongoing peace talks and agreements between the government and the opposition have not been honored, making the situation on the ground volatile.



*The staff of the new children's ward at Martha Primary Health Care Center attend opening ceremonies.*

### Recommendation

In South Sudan, infant mortality rates are high. Investing in health interventions that serve communities like this one is highly recommended. Global Scripture Impact recommends that The Anglican Relief and Development Fund continues to encourage its financial partners and donors to invest in health provision for South Sudan. The Episcopal Church of South Sudan & Sudan is an important institution with a nationwide reach.

## ANTICIPATED

## ACTUAL

## EXPECTATIONS/COMMENTS

**3,500 PEOPLE** demonstrate a willingness to engage with God's Word by attending daily devotionals while they or their family members are being treated at the expanded ward over the course of 12 months

**4,716**

**[++]** **EXCEEDED** A total of 4,716 people demonstrated willingness to engage with the Scriptures through an evangelist who attended the ward each morning, shared a Bible passage and prayed for the children. The adults were generally very keen to listen and pray. They were grateful to God for the help their children were receiving.

**52,000 PEOPLE** receive medical care at the clinic over the course of a year, as demonstrated by hospital records; of these 2,000 will be patients in the new ward

**50,000**

**[+]** **ACHIEVED** A total of 50,000 people benefited from high-quality care and affordable charges at the clinic, including 2,096 who were patients in the new ward.

### IN THEIR OWN WORDS

*"Martha Primary Health Care Center is so far the best health service provider, not only in Central Equatoria State, but in the entire country as well, in terms of care, facilities, structures, environment, staff, services, honesty, seriousness and treatment. Personally, I had worked side by side with Poppy (Spens, a volunteer nurse from the United Kingdom) and the rest of the staff of Martha while I was the diocesan secretary of the Diocese of Yei right from the initial stages or inception of the Center (2004 – 2010). My own family members and I have all been treated in the clinic, and we have witnessed how caring, loving and competent the staff of the center has been. What always strikes me much more with the people working at Martha is their spirit of care-giving, empathy and zeal to serve the patients. They are ready to do without breakfast or lunch until they have served their clients (patients)!"*

*"My own observation is that we all need to motivate and support the staff and the services of Martha Primary Health Care Center in whatever ways possible (morally, spiritually or materially). This would encourage the good work being done there to make more progress. Martha Clinic children's ward [is] one of the cleanest and most conducive wards I have ever seen in Central Equatoria State and South Sudan, in general. Martha Clinic children's ward is very clean and spacious. Trees and flowers have been planted on the compound to provide shade and more beauty for patients and staff. People whose children have accessed services at Martha PHCC say Martha Clinic workers (clinicians, nurses and support staff) are superb and excellent in their care for children*

*in the wards and outside the wards. They haven't got this kind of service from any health service provider in Yei or elsewhere, hence cannot afford to take their children to other clinics other than Martha.*

*"Parents of children accessing treatment at Martha Clinic compare the care and love of the staff at Martha to that of Jesus (Mark 10: 13- 16), where he took children into his arms, put his hands on them and blessed them.*

*"The staff of Martha are a big blessing for the communities of South Sudan and other nationalities living in Yei. ... As parents, their prayer is that another ward for adults be constructed to meet the ever-increasing need. I thank God for those who assisted and gave financial[ly] for the construction of the children's ward."*

— The Rev. Amule Andu, chaplain of Yei Teacher Training College

## FINANCE REPORT

BUDGET ITEM	BUDGETED FUNDS	LOCAL/OTHER	BUDGETED FUNDS SPENT	LOCAL/OTHER SPENT
Building super-structure		\$35,325		\$20,000
Building sub-structure		\$18,500		\$17,985
Walls and floors	\$15,000		\$15,000	
Equipment	\$10,000		\$10,000	\$6,480
Roofing		\$9,950		\$12,950
Painting		\$9,000		\$9,000
Windows and doors	\$8,500		\$8,500	
Electrical	\$8,000		\$8,000	
Research and evaluation	\$6,360		\$6,360	
Ceiling	\$5,000		\$5,000	
Bathrooms	\$4,500		\$4,500	
Preliminaries		\$2,975		\$2,975
Plumbing	\$2,000		\$2,000	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$59,360</b>	<b>\$75,750</b>	<b>\$59,360*</b>	<b>\$69,390</b>

### NOTES:

\* Exact numbers reflect the fact that the contractor agreed to charge the amount stipulated by Martha Primary Health Care Center. The project was completed on time and met the established standards.

## IN THEIR OWN WORDS

*"I worked in public health and primary care in United Kingdom most of my life. I decided with my husband John to take early retirement in 2006 so we could serve God abroad. And after [receiving a] tropical diseases diploma, we went as missionaries with Church Mission Society Ireland, to work in [the] diocese of Yei in South Sudan. ... We worked full time in Yei until 2011, and visit them twice a year now. ...*

*"Martha Clinic in Yei is now completely managed by local young Christian South Sudanese, which is exciting. It is supported by a diocesan health committee, chaired by Bishop Hilary Luete. They have been fortunate to receive funding from different sources to enable several young people to be trained as capable health professionals. The Martha Clinic treats around 50,000 patients a year, has an eye clinic and now two children's wards. This enables around 3,000 children a year to receive quality care and it saves many lives.*

*"It is so thrilling to meet families whose children receive quality care at the clinic through the ward. It is great to see many of them thanking God for the facility for sick children where not only the quality of the building, but the quality of the care received is high.*

*"All of the staff and Bishop Hilary of Yei and his team would like to join me in thanking ARDF for their generosity. The new ward has made such a difference to the quality of care offered, and has reduced the big problem of overcrowding to the patients in the ward. Now each child has a bed and not mattresses on the floor! As they shout out often in Yei Cathedral: 'God is good all the time. All the time God is good – for that is his nature.' Amen. We agree. Thanks to all the donors."*

— Poppy Spens, 64, a registered nurse, midwife and public health professional who volunteered at the clinic in Yei

## HOW TO FUND THIS PROJECT

### PROJECT RECAP

For information about the fund or projects, see: [www.ardfc.ca](http://www.ardfc.ca)

<b>ID</b>	- ARDF-1013
<b>Timeline</b>	- 12 months
<b>Requested</b>	- \$59,360
<b>Modified</b>	- 082815



The Anglican Relief  
and Development Fund  
Canada