



Nyamuoch Koang – Gambella

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Child/adult [Nyamuoch Koang, 17, Female, Letichor Refugee Camp]
Themes [Child Protection]

Summary (see end for more detailed background information)

Nyamuoch Koang, 17 years old has become head of seven of her siblings due to the fight that had broken out in their country of origin of South Sudan in December, 2013. Responsible for caring for five brothers and two sisters, Nyamuoch is unable to continue her education because of multiple tasks that she shoulders at the moment. She was separated from her mother and uncle when the war intensified in their community. She fled with others along with her brothers and sisters to get away from the violence that they experienced. After 11 days of long walk, she was able to manage to cross the border to Ethiopia through Burbeiy. They currently reside in a refugee camp called Letichor in Gambella region.

Nyamuoch's story

My name is Nyamuoch and I'm 17 years old. I have come to Letichor camp on April 19, 2014 along with my seven siblings due to the intense fighting that is happening in our country. We used to live in Nassir County in South Sudan with my mother and my uncle. When the war happened my father was in Juba. I was not at home while the fighting neared our village. I was out collecting firewood and upon my return found my brothers and sisters at home alone. I don't know where my mother and my uncle were. I think they were out looking for me. When the violence intensified, I decided to move with my younger siblings along with other people in our community. On our way, I remember seeing so many dead and wounded people around our community. Whenever we found a dead livestock on the roads, which were killed by the fighting, we would feed on it. That is how we survived.

We walked for 11 days before we reached Burbeiy which is the border town between South Sudan and Ethiopia. The day we arrived in Burbeiy we were registered and provided with high energy biscuits and ready to use food for children at the reception. The next day, we were transferred to Letichor camp where Save the Children provided us with blankets, a sleeping mat as well as a water collecting container.

In the beginning, a family of seven who were also from South Sudan hosted us for a few days. But since our



combined family size was difficult to manage, with the support from Save the Children we were relocated and provided with a tent, cooking utensils and more blankets. I am the sole provider for my five brothers and two sisters. I cook our food, clean the tent, collect firewood and take care of my younger siblings when they get sick. My brother Kiir who is seven years old is sick and febrile for the past day and a half (at the time of this interview on June 27, 2014) and has not been able to receive treatment because I've been busy taking care of the house work. But thanks to the social worker from Save the Children he is able to get treatment for his condition.

Although, I'm happy that I can support our family in the absence of our parents and relatives, I am really sad that I'm not able to go to school given the responsibility of the whole family. I wish I could continue my education that I discontinued in grade four. If I could get a caregiver for my younger brothers and sisters, I could manage to do so and fulfill my dream of becoming a doctor in the future.

Currently, we are receiving food items such as wheat, oil and lentils. However, whenever we want to diversify our food to things such as milk, bread and cabbage we sell some of the items that we receive. We sometimes collect wild leaves that grow around the camp and cook it to replace cabbage.

I have no means of communicating with people back home or finding out if my mother and other family members are still alive or not. That really makes me sad and uncertain about my family's future.

Interview conducted by Amerti Lemma and Seifu Assegid, during a recent Communications assignment to Gambella Refugee Camp in June, 2014

Location and background [250 words max]

Nyingnyang woreda is one of the 13 woredas in Gambella Regional State. It is located at about 120 km distance from the region's capital town Gambella. Letichor is one of the largest among the three refugee camps that was established following the conflict in South Sudan and currently hosts 47,469 South Sudanese refugees out of which 70% are children. The livelihood of the host community is largely dependent on gardening, livestock rearing, fishing, hunting and collecting wild fruits. The influx of refugees from South Sudan has continued to increase. At the time we visited Burbeiy, one of the entry points for refugees from Nassir County from South Sudan [on 26th June], 500 people [40 were unaccompanied children] crossed the border to Ethiopia and the next day we were told that this number has increased to 1000 people.

Project background

Following the influx from South Sudan, Save the Children was among the few organizations who made the initial response to address the need of the refugee communities.



Save the Children is committing to ensure that all children in emergency have access to education and protection. In view of this, Save the Children has deployed its staff and resources to the entry points and camps that have been established and continues to respond to avert the situation. In Letichor camp, we are currently implementing child protection through Child Friendly Space (CFS) and Identification, Documentation, Tracing and Reunification (IDTR) for unaccompanied, separated and orphaned children. We also implement Education programs through Education in Emergencies (EiE) which focuses on primary education as well as Early Childhood Care (ECCE) which works with children aged three to six years.