

# MEDICAL TEAMS WORLDWIDE

## SOUTH SUDAN CIVIL WAR:

## 10,000 REFUGEES IN MELUT, SOUTH SUDAN

Spring 2014



**Above:** The Nuer Tribe refugees had to be protected by tanks in the UN compound from the Dinka Tribe



**Above:** 8,000 refugees from the Dinka Tribe live in grass huts



### OUR MISSION

In December of 2013 a civil war broke out in South Sudan between the Dinka and Nuer tribes in a power struggle between them. The fighting has claimed over 10,000 lives in the first 2 months of the war. In the Upper Nile region 80,000 refugees have fled the fighting and are living in refugee camps. Medical Teams Worldwide chose to help those refugees. Also our organization used the trip to assess the medical needs of the town of Melut, South Sudan (located near the refugee camps) for possible placement of a fully functional small hospital for the community. Due to the civil war the nearest hospital is over 400 miles away. To augment our impact on the 80,000 refugees, we collaborated with End Nuba Genocide Coalition to help facilitate the purchase and distribution of 16.5 tons of food. John Jefferson was the representative of that coalition on our team.

### MELUT SOUTH SUDAN

The team assembled and purchased supplies on days 1 and 2 at Medical Team Worldwide's facility in Nairobi, Kenya. On day 3 the team flew a chartered plane from Nairobi 8 hours to Paloich, South Sudan in Upper



**The Team:** (Left to Right) Dhous, Chris Ward, Dr. Alan Kelley, Fred Mendoza DDS, John Jefferson, Judy and Steve Cochran and Tim Dillard.





**The soldier patients in the Melut Hospital could not sleep there. If it was attacked in the night they would be shot in their beds.**



**Above:** Chris Ward treated hundreds of children for parasitic infections along with nutritional supplements.



Nile State. Commercial flights had been canceled because of poor security due to the civil war. The team was hosted by Gideon Theological College in Melut where we stayed in an abandoned house. The next day, Dr. Kelley traveled to the two known medical buildings in Melut. He talked extensively with a local physician at one of the buildings. He discovered the "local hospital" had 34 beds, meager supplies, no running water, and no surgical or diagnostic capabilities. The nearest fully functional hospital was over 400 miles away. During this time John Jefferson initiated his contacts for purchasing the 16.5 tons of grain for the local refugees.

On day 5 the team visited two small remote villages and they saw 40 patients. They then went to the United Nations compound that was protecting 1100 Nuer refugees from the Dinka tribe. In the camp the team treated over 660 children for parasitic worms. Dr. Fred Mendoza DDS pulled 35 infected teeth from the refugees that afternoon. As those projects were underway, John Jefferson purchased 16.5 tons of food for the refugees. He decided to float it down the White Nile River to the Kodoc refugee camp where 3000 refugees from the Nuba Mountains were encamped.



**Above:** Dr. Kelley examines a large neck mass on a refugee woman



**Above:** Dr. Kelley listens for pneumonia in a small child



The team treated over 280 medical and dental patients and treated nearly 1000 children for parasite infections.



**Above:** Dr. Kelley examines a adult for bronchitis



**Above:** Dr. Fred Mendoza pulled 35 teeth in adult and children at the Nuer refugee camp in an afternoon



The following day the team drove 72 miles south to the Rom refugee camp that was within 10 miles of the battle lines. The camp in Rom had 8,000 refugees. Dr. Kelley treated 210 patients in that camp. In the camp, 50% of the children suffered from dysentery, and 90% of the children had signs of protein malnutrition. Each of the severely malnourished children received two weeks of nutrient supplement concentrate. On this day John Jefferson distributed the 16.5 tons of food along with supervising a deworming program for 200 children in the Kodoc refugee camp. The team left two hours before sunset to avoid traveling after dark.

The residents of Melut and the refugees from the Nuer and Dinka tribes were extremely thankful for the efforts of Medical Teams Worldwide. The town of Melut is anxiously waiting for the modernization of their medical facility.



**Above:** Steve Cochran comforts a severely ill child





# PROJECT UPDATES



## HOSPITAL FOR SOUTH SUDAN

This last trip to South Sudan helped Medical Teams Worldwide to decide to locate our future hospital in the town of Melut. On arriving, we found out there already existed a limited 34 bed facility with meager medical supplies, (see upper photo on left), but it had electrical power, a key requirement for our hospital facility. The local medical building had no diagnostic equipment, such as x-ray and or ultrasound. It also lacked any surgical capability. With the local referral hospital in Malakal being destroyed in the recent civil war, **there is no surgical capability for up to 400 miles from Melut.**

Medical Teams Worldwide plans to install two 40 foot retrofitted containers, (like the ones pictured on the lower left image), placed next to the existing building with surgical, diagnostic and dental capabilities. Also a small emergency room will be added. The container's retrofitting will be constructed to the medical standards of the United States. Ideally, when one walks into the surgical facility, one will feel they have been transported back to the United States for surgery.

# FUTURE PROJECTS

## MARSIBIT KENYA RELIEF SUMMER 2014

This Summer, Medical Teams Worldwide will return to Marsibit, Kenya to finish establishing our clinic in town. We will also give some much needed medical relief to the residents of Marsibit.



## RETURN TO MELUT SUDAN: FALL 2014

Medical Teams Worldwide plans to return to Melut, South Sudan in Fall 2014. We plan to treat refugees from the civil war and continue our development of the planned hospital.

IF YOU ARE ENCOURAGED TO PARTNER WITH OUR MEDICAL PROJECTS,  
PLEASE MAKE A TAX DEDUCTIBLE DONATION TO:  
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