

**Rumbek East Health and Education Programme, Supported by Tear Fund Australia and Switzerland in 2015 – 2017.**

<b>Name of programme</b>	Integrated Community Based Primary Health Care and Education Project in Rumbek East County, Lakes State, South Sudan	
<b>Donor (s)</b>	Tear Fund Australia and Tear Fund Switzerland	
<b>Programme descriptions</b>	<p>This programme aims to improve the primary health care, basic education, adult literacy and delivery of health and education services by the government County departments in Rumbek East County. WASH has been integrated and will be outworked through the primary schools. The programme will also address the protracted violence and deaths caused by revenge killings and clan fighting through a peace building initiative working alongside the local church. The teacher training will be for lower primary school teachers, offering what Across hopes will be a government accredited curriculum.</p> <p>Peace building and adult literacy are a central part of the Across mission of transformation and this programme will use a sustainable approach of recording peace messages and adult literacy lessons on a simple solar powered device known as a Digital Audio Player (DAP). Across continues to engage in the provision of basic health and education services because of the fragile state of the South Sudan government, that is still locked down in an internal conflict nearly four years old since attaining independence.</p> <p>The peace building and primary health care services. Basic Education and WASH will target 21 primary schools, targeting both boys and girls and particularly encouraging the girl child to enroll and complete primary education. The adult literacy will work through the Mothers Union at the local Prayer Houses in the ECS Diocese of Pacong and Akot.</p>	
<b>What specific problem(s) and opportunity(s) will the project address?</b>	<p>The civil strife and fighting that characterized South Sudan before she became independent in 2011 have not abated and 2013 saw an astronomical escalation that led to unprecedented polarization between the Government and the opposition. Our vision as Across of Christ Centered Transformation of South Sudan communities is one that gears our health work towards preventative care through community based health care.</p> <p>Adult literacy rates are some of the lowest in the world at a mere 27% (<i>UNICEF 2014 – Basic Education and Gender Equality Report</i>). There has been a demand to avail adult literacy to the community and Across would like to respond to this need, which is consistent with our mandate of transforming local</p>	

	<p>communities by availing a programme that will use the local church as an entry point. The Mothers Union of the ECS church meets every Tuesday of the week.</p> <p>Poor education and health systems remain major challenges among communities in Rumbek East County. Most primary schools do not have permanent classrooms; between 70<sup>1</sup> - 76<sup>2</sup>% of schools are taught under trees and/or in temporary structures. Similarly, only 30% of primary schools have access to clean water; while 40% have separate toilets (pit latrines) for boys and girls<sup>3</sup>; many school children practice open defecation. 70% of 6 – 17 year olds have not set foot in a primary class and only 10% of pupils complete primary school ((<i>UNICEF 2014 – Basic Education and Gender Equality Report</i>). The deep hunger for education is an opportunity that needs to be tapped. Some of the few elites that have the resources educate their children outside the country. The proposed government accredited training curriculum for primary teachers who have not completed their secondary school will be a big motivation that will provide an opportunity for future career growth. According to health surveys/studies South Sudan has among the highest maternal and child mortality rates in the world. Under five mortality is 135 (per 1000 live births)<sup>4</sup> while maternal mortality ratio is 2054 (per 100,000 live births)<sup>5</sup>. Infants’ mortality rate is 75 (per 1000 live births)<sup>6</sup>.</p> <p>Health facilities in Rumbek East County lack infrastructure and access to clean water and facilities like latrines and incinerators; at least 25% of health facilities are run under the open air<sup>7</sup>. The IOM Village Assessment Survey conducted in 2013 reported that the Across run primary health care clinic (PHCC) at Adol is the only facility in Rumbek East County providing a comprehensive range of services that include in-patient care, out-patient care, maternity care, laboratory, feeding and psycho-social support. Other facilities provide one or two of these services only<sup>8</sup>.</p>	
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<sup>1</sup> Rumbek East County Atlas, IOM, 2013

<sup>2</sup> Booklet of Education Statistics for Lakes State 2011, GOSS, 2012

<sup>3</sup> Rumbek East County Atlas, IOM, 2013

<sup>4</sup> South Sudan Household Survey 2010

<sup>5</sup> South Sudan Household Survey 2006

<sup>6</sup> South Sudan Household Survey 2010

<sup>7</sup> Rumbek East County Atlas, IOM, 2013

<sup>8</sup> Rumbek East County Atlas, IOM, 2013

	<p>Malaria, acute respiratory infections, diarrheal infections, skin disease, eye disease, STDS and maternal and child health care remain a burden among communities. An Expanded programme of immunization (EPI), will reach out to rural communities with no access to basic health services and provide immunization, ante-natal clinics and distribute treated bed nets to pregnant women and vulnerable people. A lack of trained teachers and health workers poses a big challenge in delivering quality health and education in Rumbek East County. Only 16% of teachers are able to confirm they have completed teacher training, while a further 31% have commenced in-service teacher training<sup>9</sup>.</p> <p>Revenge killing is a part of the tradition of the Dinka Agar who lives in Lakes State. The protracted civil war introduced guns into the hands of civilians and this has escalated violence, killing and clan fights to frightening levels. The power struggle of the political elite, the proliferation of small arms among the youth of the cattle camp, the breakdown of traditional culture, weak security organs that are unable to provide adequate protection to the civilians, a weak judiciary prone to bribery that lacks the ability to enforce laws have all contributed to overall insecurity, where no one feels safe. The women and young children are also vulnerable and reports of rape and looting are common. The local church though it lacks adequate resources is very committed and well positioned to facilitate peace dialogue that can lead to transformation.</p> <p>Peace building in the context of South Sudan, is a cross-cutting need that must be addressed because in the absence of peace, there can be no transformation. Bishop Alfayo Manyang of the ECS Diocese of Rumbek and is the deputy chair of the Across board, has taken up an innovative approach using the DAPs after having visited our programme in Yei. He has was given about 165 free DAPs with peace messages and having seen its impact, decided to scale up the use of this approach among the youth in the cattle camp. He has located a donor who will channel funding through the Across Yei programme to load the DAPs and then go out to Rumbek to train his staff and team of volunteers on how to use the DAPs and how to distribute it and monitor the impact it has among the targeted community. Across will come alongside the Church and incorporate the ECS Diocese of Akot</p>	
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<sup>9</sup> Booklet of Education Statistics for Lakes State 2011, GOSS, 2012

	<p>and Pacong whose dioceses cover parts of Rumbek East County. Across will be a part of the planning, implementation and monitoring of this work with the church in the cattle camps. (Refer to annex one – an extract of an evaluation of Across peace building work using DAPs in a programme funded by Dan Church Aid)</p>	
<p><b>Project Overview</b></p>	<p>The project will provide primary health care to communities in Rumbek East County. This project will also build the capacity of teachers and health workers. The empowerment of community capacity in advocacy will result in more efficient delivery of services by the County government. The teacher training approach will use what Across hopes will be government accredited module for teachers in lower primary schools. This will avail an avenue for career growth and boost their morale and the expected improvement in classroom teaching will lead to better class performance.</p> <p>Mobilizing and building the capacity of school mothers, PTAs and VHCs will enhance increased participation in the transformation of the local community. They become powerful catalysts of change and are an important community asset. The engagement of School Mothers increases the enrolment and retention of girls in school. The PTAs and VHCs that benefit from capacity building become powerful agents of change who facilitate and influence the importance of community involvement in their own development. Literacy rates will improve as the number of adult literacy centers in the County increase, through the use of DAPs. The entry point will be the Mothers Union and based on the success, Across hopes to expand this to other organized groups in the County. The proposed strategy is sustainable and engenders ownership of the process by departing from the traditional approach of provision of a ‘paid adult literacy’ teachers by the church or an NGO.</p> <p>The use of DAPs to pass on peace building messages will begin conversations among the community that will</p>	

	<p>eventually transform them to desire to live in a peaceful environment. The use of DAPs will augment the Across Peace Economy peace building intervention that is mobilizing communities to form community structures that promote peace and reconciliation and act as an early warning structures. The Radio Talk Shows on peace building, health and girl child education will scale up the development agenda of peace, health and girl child education at the State level.</p>	
<p><b>Achievements 2015</b></p>	<p>All the clans in Rumbek East have been fighting one another for a number of years now. In 2014 and 2015, the level of insecurity reached an unprecedented level. There were fights, revenge killing, road-banditry and robbery almost every day. In late 2015, some peace mobilization activities, including community dialogues, started. These activities were initiated by members of State Legislative Assembly for Rumbek East, youth groups and church leaders, and were supported by Across and other development actors. At initial stages, different sides were engaged separately and were finally brought together to negotiate and sign some declarations. The youth of Akot Payam and Paloch Payam, and youth of Aduel Payam and Ataiba Payam, have accepted peace in principle. Conflicting clans have now come together to celebrate peace. Special courts have been formed to look into cases of murder and for different sides to give blood compensation to relatives of those killed during the fights. What remains now is to engage the youth in Western Zone-Pachong Payam with Mathiang Payam, and Malengagok Payam with Cuei-Cok Payam. The successes that have been registered so far are attributable to peace initiatives by Across, other development actors, intellectuals from the areas affected by conflicts and community groups.</p>	
	<p>8,608 have access to outpatient (6588) and inpatient (2020) services and 1132 attended ANC, while 87 deliveries were conducted in Adol PHCC. 3,626 community members and 1,291 school children reached with health education and promotion, and that 881 children under five years of age are fully immunized. Of 1132 pregnant women attended antenatal care services and 560 pregnant women attended more than two visits at 49% while other 572 pregnant women visit only once. 22 TBAs received 5 days refresher training in Adol training centre in</p>	

	<p>2015. Additionally, 20 community health workers from Across supported health facilities, attended 5 days refresher training in Adol</p>	
	<p>There are 291 teachers in Rumbek East of whom 27 are females. 168 of these teachers are trained. The training of teachers and training of county education managers have led to improvement in teaching-learning process and school supervision. This coupled with empowerment of PTA committees and presence of school mothers, have improved the school learning environment. Apart from the high percentages of both boys and girls who passed 2015 PLE (99% for boys and 98% for girls), Rumbek East got the first 5 positions-number 1, number 2, number 3, number 4 and number 5 in Primary Leaving Examination results countrywide. This can clearly be attributed to improvement in teaching, education management and supervision and creation of conducive school environment for both boys and girls. It also points to increased awareness among parents to support their children in school and reduce domestic workload for girls so they have time to study at home</p>	
	<p>The school mother strategy, participation of PTA committees and community mobilization have made school environment girl child-friendly and many parents are willing to send to and keep their girls in school. Guidance and counseling and GEM activities have empowered school girls and their attendance and performance have markedly improved. The Education Statistics Booklet for Lakes State 2015 puts the pupil population for 2015 in Rumbek East at 15,970 of whom 5,795 are girls, which represents 36.3% of the total pupil population. In primary one, a total of 4,743 pupils were newly enrolled in Primary 1 in 2015. Because the total number of children at age 6 (which is the official age to enter primary one) is not known, it is not easy to calculate the Gross Intake Rate (GIR). In Rumbek East, too, for 2015 academic year, 442 pupils sat Primary Leaving Examination (PLE) of whom 117 are girls, which represents 26% of the total number of pupils who sat the exams. Of these 442 pupils, 436 passed, which represents 99% of the total number of pupils who sat PLE. Of 117 girls who sat PLE, 115 girls passed, which represents 98% of the total number of girls who sat the exams. The total number of boys who sat PLE is 325, which represents 74% of the total number of children who sat PLE. Of these 325</p>	

	<p>boys, 321 passed, which represents 99% of the total number of boys who sat PLE. In 2015, promotion rates for female pupils by grade stood at 59.9% for P1-P2, 65% for P2-P3, 79.4% for P3-P4, 79.3% for P4-P5, 77.7% for P5-P6, 75.1% for P6-P7, 64.2% for P7-P8 and 98% for P8 to secondary school. This clearly shows that some change is taking place and much of this change can be attributed to the project intervention as it is only Across which is the only organization which is very active in Rumbek East</p>	
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