

**Christian Aid South Sudan/Universal Intervention & Development Organisation  
(CASS/UNIDO)  
Salisbury Dioceses Appeal-funded Cash & Cash Voucher Famine-Response Project  
Nyal Village, Panyijiar County, former Unity State. 22 June 2017**

**Interview with a Host-Community Beneficiary**

QUESTIONS	
Full name	Mrs Elizabeth Nyamead
Age	60 years (?)
Gender	Female
Family status	Wife and mother. Elizabeth has eight children, the eldest 25 years old. Her husband is disabled as the result of a car accident. Since 2015 she has taken in three families displaced from other counties in Unity State by fighting and famine.
Job	Housewife and busy mother
Where she is from?	Nyal village, Greater Nyal, Panyijiar County. Unity State
	
	<i>Photo: Robert Hayward, Christian Aid</i>

<p><b>What is happening/has happened to them?</b></p>	<p>Elizabeth has always lived in Nyal village. Since the renewed fighting within the country in December 2013 and particularly since government-backed forces attacked the Sudan People's Liberation Army in Opposition (SPLA-IO) strongholds in Unity State counties to the north of Panyijiar Country in 2015, thousands of families from those counties have fled southwards to the still-SPLA-IO-held areas in Panyijiar, including Greater Nyal.</p> <p>During that time, Elizabeth has taken in three families, from Koch County, from Leer County and, in 2017, from Mayendit county, a family that was escaping the famine as well as the violence. "I took in the first family because I knew one person in it. There were five people on that family. Then there were two more families, each just a mother and her children, the first with four children, the second with three. I just had to help them – they had nowhere else to go. To start with they used my tukul huts and then they built their own tukuls on my land".</p> <p>"I was given some sorghum and lentils by the World Food Programme but that has stopped. My husband is disabled and I have no income. I had seven cows but I have had to sell three of them, to buy food, so I have only four left. When I can find food or money from somewhere else, my family can eat twice a day but we normally eat just once a day". Yes, there are many other families like mine, looking after people who have had to leave their homes because of the fighting and famine to the north.</p>
<p>How do you feel about the situation you are in now?</p>	<p>"At the moment I feel safe here but I get worried when I hear fighting in the distance and I am worried by the food shortage".</p>
<p>How are we supporting them?</p>	<p>UNIDO has been supporting IDPs and the host community with CASS food security &amp; livelihoods (FSL) funding from Irish Aid and Salisbury Diocese since 2016, including providing fishing gear, quick-maturing seeds, hoes and training. This 2017 UNIDO famine-relief response project, which is being funded mainly by the Bishop of Salisbury's 2017 Lenten Appeal through CASS, is distributing the equivalent of GBP50/month for three months in cash (40%) and cash vouchers (60%) to 600 IDP and host-community families in Nyal that have either been displaced to Nyal by the famine and fighting in Leer and Mayendit Countries to the north or have hosted some of these families in their own homes and communities in Greater Nyal, when they arrived. The recipient families can spend their cash vouchers at one or more of the twelve shops that are taking part in the project and bringing in food and other necessities down the Nile from Juba, the country's capital by barge and then by pick-up truck from the nearest landing point along the river. The families can spend their cash on food, soap, medicine, clothes or any other necessities in any of the shops or clinics.</p>



*Photo: Robert Hayward, Christian Aid*

What difference has this made?

At the time of this interview, Elizabeth had only just received her first month's cash vouchers, so had not yet spent any of them or of the cash that she was expecting. However, she thanked UNIDO and its donors for the support and said that she would now be able to feed her household, including the guest IDP family, better.

1. What are your fears?

"I am worried that the government will come and attack us. There are so many displaced people here and I worry about the shortage of food".

2. What do you hope for in the future?

"There is little hope of peace. Peace will only come when the leaders listen to the people and understand the situation we are in themselves. The international community must speak with the leaders. When peace comes, we can depend on our own hands.

<p><b>Where does the story take place?</b></p>	
<p>Country, region, village</p>	<p>South Sudan, Unity State, Panyijiar County, Nyal Village</p>
<p>Give the story some colour:</p>	
<p>1. What does the location look like?</p>	<p>Greater Nyal is flat scrubland with some palm trees and villages of <i>tukul</i> thatched, mud-walled huts and corrugated-iron and plastic-sheeting shelters on or close to the Sudd swamp, with its rivers, streams, open lakes and dug-out canoes.</p>
	<p>Nyal is one such village. Its fish-market is supplied by canoes that nose their way through the reeds along the narrow inlet off the nearby river, with their nets, their lines and their catch safely stowed. A rough dried-earth airstrip runs through the heart of the village. This is also used as a roadway by wandering long-horned, white cattle, by ladies carrying water, by children playing football and by the (very) occasional motorcycle or small vehicle, until such time as an also-small aeroplane flies low along the runway, encouraging the cattle, the walkers, the footballers and any motorcycle or small vehicle to scatter and make way for it to land. It would seem that the airstrip does not meet United Nations specifications for its own aeroplanes, as UN Humanitarian Aid Services (UNHAS) uses only helicopters to bring in passengers and supplies to Nyal and these land on an open grass field some distance away.</p> <p>The village compounds are well-fenced and tidy and any space between them is carefully cultivated. There are ladies sitting on mats, using large, ancient charcoal-glowing irons, with piles of neatly-pressed trousers and shirts lying beside them. Near the Catholic church a small girl swings on the pump-handle of a borehole repaired by UNIDO/CA. Katieth market, where some of the project's cash-voucher-redeeming traders are, is a 20-minute walk along from the runway and has many, mostly corrugated-iron-sided and roofed shops, with gloomy, unlit interiors, temporary home to large-sized sacks of grains, medium-sized boxes of glucose biscuits, small-sized cloth balls of salt, hanging, tear-off tea-bags, cigarette lighters and batteries. Grain for sale is piled up on a canvas mat in front on one shop, topped by a measuring tin, while brightly-coloured clothes hang on racks in another. There is plenty to buy but there are very few people buying it. Perhaps the arrival of the cash vouchers has now changed that. Post-distribution monitoring will tell.</p>
<p>2. What does it smell like?</p>	<p>Clean, dusty and, near the compounds, wood-smoky, as meals were prepared over open fires. At the fish market – fresh-fishy.</p>
<p>3. What can you hear?</p>	<p>Light aircraft taking off very low over the big tree under which the cash-voucher distribution is taking place and, in the distance, the occasional, very noisy Russian-built helicopter. Cattle, dogs, donkey and squawking cranes. Crying babies, showing-off motorcycles and grumbling internet-users.</p>



*Photo: Robert Hayward, Christian Aid*

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