

**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 an IDP (Internally Displaced Person) Beneficiary**

| QUESTIONS          |  |
|--------------------|--|
| Full name          | Mrs Nyaboul Mateal   |
| Age                | 30 years   |
| Gender             | Female   |
| Family status      | Wife and mother. Nyaboul has six children (three girls and three boys), including a new-born daughter, Nyagova. Her husband is back in Niandiar village in Leer County, so she is on her own with six children in Nyal |
| Job                | Housewife and busy mother  |
| Where she is from? | Niandiar village in Leer County, north of Panyijiar County   |
|                    |    |

*Photo: Robert Hayward, Christian Aid*

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| <p><b>What is happening/has happened to them?</b></p>      | <p>Nyaboul's village was in a Sudan People's Liberation Army in Opposition (SPLA-IO)-controlled part of Leer County. When it was attacked in a government offensive in early 2016, "there was much killing, my <i>tukul</i> (hut) was burned, our livestock was taken and I lost members of my own family". Nyaboul escaped with her then-five children along the rivers and through the swamp in a canoe and finally reached Nyal after five days. Like many other families fleeing the fighting, hers was able to bring nothing with them, so it arrived with no food, no spare clothes and no tools with which to cultivate the land.</p> <p>"At the beginning, I was helped by members of the (<i>host</i>) community here and then later given some land, where I built a shelter for my family, using plastic sheeting. I did receive some food from the United Nations World Food Programme but that has finished and, until now, no one else (<i>other agency</i>) has helped. Three of my children are now in school in Nyal".</p>  <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Photo: Rosie Crowther, Christian Aid (Nyal, 2016)</i></p> |
| <p>How do you feel about the situation you are in now?</p> | <p>"I am still frightened of the fighting, which I can sometimes hear in the distance but I am glad to be here, away from the fighting in my village and I am grateful to the people here who have helped me and my family".</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</p>  |

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.

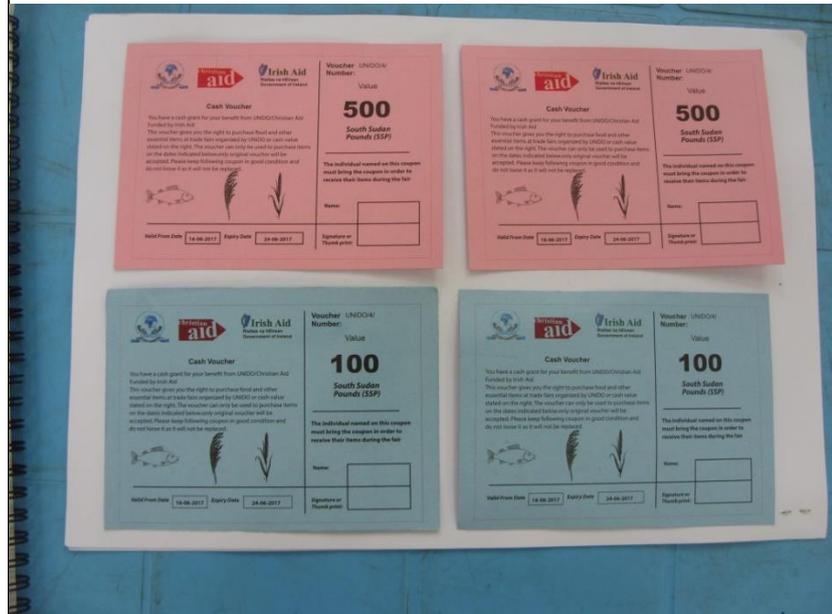


Photo: Robert Hayward, Christian Aid

What difference has this made?

At the time of this interview, Nyaboul 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 was extremely grateful and said that she would now be able to feed her children better and buy them clothes, shoes, towels and blankets.

1. What are your fears?

"I am still frightened that the fighting will reach Nyal and that, when this assistance finishes, I will not have enough food for my family".

2. What do you hope for in the future?

"I hope for peace, so I can return to my village (*in Leer County*) with my children, rebuild my home and bring up my baby there".

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| <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*

Robert Hayward  
Christian Aid London  
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