



Board members Dr. Jack Hickel, David Fenn and Robb Kulin recently canoed through the flooded land of Fangak County. This is what they found.

It was eerily silent. Only the sound of the canoe paddle slicing the dark water which now floods the land. Our team was on a “canoe-about” to visit 12 villages in an area called Nyadin. Three Board members of Alaska Health Project South Sudan and our South Sudanese canoe drivers. For four days and three nights they journeyed 42 miles through a region that has been devastated by flood water. Homesteads abandoned. Almost all livestock dead. Dozens of families uprooted to the few small patches of land that remain dry. They are now refugees in their own country. No homes. No food except some fish and water lilies. No clean drinking water. But they do have hope!

The goal was to meet with the village chiefs, learn about their situation, and see whether it might be possible for us to drill water wells. It was challenging enough for our small team to travel through this flooded land in canoes. How would we bring all the equipment and supplies for drilling? There’s no question about the need here. Not a single source of clean drinking water. But can we do it? The answer was a resounding YES! But not so easy.

The High Chief of the region requested that we supply machetes and other tools for widening a path through the swamp. This area is an impenetrable web of

reeds, grasses, water lilies and swamp vegetation. But if we would bring in the tools, and fishing nets for the men to catch their daily meals, then a path could be cleared.

Within a week the tools were purchased and put on a Cessna Caravan which landed at Paguir—one of the only airstrips still usable in this region. The tools were quickly distributed to the men of Nyadin. They arrived in dozens of dugout canoes to begin the hard work of cutting a path to their villages. No longer silence. The men were singing. Voices raised in cadence with their work. They all understood that this effort would result in clean drinking water for their children and their community. It would take two weeks.

When we came to check on their progress the word “Alaska” was added to the chorus. Laughter and singing. A song of hope and health. Our song. “Alaska heard our cries for help.”





Nyadin, South Sudan

With a path cleared our drilling crew began moving several tons of sand, gravel, cement, pipes and all the drilling tools needed to bring clean water to Nyadin. A ten-ton boat was used to bring everything as close as possible. But then everything had to be put on smaller boats and canoes. The path might not be open for long. Currents and wind can move this marsh. There was urgency to our action and resolve to get the job done as quickly as possible.

We are happy to report that after one month of drilling in the Nyadin region AHPSS successfully completed four water wells. Four villages now have clean drinking water. The sound of hand pumps and celebration rang throughout. A remarkable effort by our drilling team and the men and women of Nyadin.

As of this writing Alaska Health Project South Sudan has completed 53 successful water wells in South Sudan. In this remote, road-less region—the largest swamp in Africa—a tiny NGO from Alaska is doing the improbable. Together with your help we are bringing clean drinking water to areas and people who have never had access to clean water. It is life changing and life saving especially for the most vulnerable. Infants and the elderly.

Word of our ability to work in remote, difficult areas has spread beyond the borders of Fangak County (our home base). The people of Canal Pigi County to the north have asked for our help. They are suffering.

Our South Sudanese outreach team, led by Lam James Garang, returned just before the Easter holiday from a site assessment in Canal Pigi. Lam reported “*children are bathing while girls and women are collecting drinking water in the same place. Animals also get the water in the same area. It is a very, very dire situation. These people live on the mercy of God. One donated borehole could save many lives there.*”



Path through the swamp to Nyadin.

Once again we are asking for your help. Another area of South Sudan needs clean drinking water. We are the only group with the skill and the resolve to make this happen. We hope you agree. We want to hear the sound of hand pumps and celebration in Canal Pigi. And “Alaska” added to the chorus of their singing.



A bucket of “drinking water” from the river at Korwai, Canal Pigi County.



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AHPSS is a 501(c)3 registered as Hope and Health Intl. EIN 26-2862955