



**A message from Todd Hardesty,  
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*Another AHPSS well providing clean water in South Sudan.*

## **CHANGE OF SEASONS**

Spring is here. As I write this newsletter my yard in Alaska still has snow and ice. We are six weeks away from the last threat of frost. Yet for those of us who have gardens, now is the time to plant seeds (indoors) and prepare for the burst of growth an Alaskan summer has to offer.

In South Sudan we are still in the dry season. We potentially have three more months before heavy rains come. There is still time for our AHPSS supported farmers to grow and harvest another crop of vegetables. Three more months before thick mud and high waters make movement for our drilling teams almost impossible.

There is another season that is has more urgent impact in South Sudan.

The season changed by politics. The Trump administration has announced it plans to eliminate the majority of the U.S. development and humanitarian aid around the world.

## **USAID SHUTTERED**

On March 28, 2025, Secretary of State Marco Rubio informed Congress that nearly all remaining staff of USAID (the U.S. Agency for International Development) will be fired and the agency shuttered permanently.

In Old Fangak and throughout the region where we work, USAID has provided medicines to fight malaria, tuberculosis and HIV. They supplied vegetable seeds for farmers, as well as funding clean water projects which targeted the most vulnerable populations in South Sudan. They promoted good hygiene practices to prevent waterborne disease.

USAID emergency food—grown by American farmers—fed the most vulnerable people including those receiving health care at the clinic in Old Fangak. That aid has ended. Many NGOs in South Sudan have canceled all projects which were funded fully, or funded in part, by USAID. The food warehouses are empty. It's a humanitarian disaster affecting tens of thousands of lives in South Sudan.



*All funding from USAID canceled or on hold throughout South Sudan.*



*A patient in Dr. Jill's clinic in Old Fangak suffers from severe malnutrition.*



*One of the children in Old Fangak who benefits from our help.*





### IMPACT ON AHPSS

How has the the loss of USAID impacted our work? The good news is that nearly all of our funding comes from private donors like you. In February and March, we completed new wells in 7 villages. We have plans underway to distribute seeds to over 1,000 households which will help fight food insecurity. Our collaboration with other NGO partners and the United Nations is a different story.

The United Nations office in charge of water and sanitation projects across South Sudan recently asked AHPSS to help with a clean water project to support people fleeing the war in Sudan. Many tens of thousands of refugees are in a village called Renk near the Sudan and South Sudan border. There are very limited sources of clean water and an outbreak of cholera. A deadly combination. The UN asked us to come to Renk, assess the situation, and help provide clean water solutions. Any response would be very expensive, but funding was available. Until now. The UN told us not to come. They cannot support us. Our ability to respond to some of the more desperate and emergency needs in collaboration with others has basically stopped. That amounts to around 10% of our annual budget.

Because we are privately supported, the work we do today and will do in the months ahead has greater impact. We will likely be the only organization providing new sources of clean drinking water throughout the region. We will be

the only organization revitalizing and maintaining water wells as they need servicing. We likely will be the only organization providing seeds for the region's farmers.

### HOPE AND HEALTH

As we consider the change of the seasons, both politically and the natural climate, I am asking you to consider April as a "giving season." We need to be prepared for the changes expected in South Sudan and be able to respond to the needs—especially new sources of clean water. I'm asking you to consider giving a gift today to help us plant the seeds of success in South Sudan.

Like planting a seed, your spring gift will help is grow our impact. When others cut back, we stay strong! It is amazing that one of the most successful programs throughout the country of South Sudan has its roots in Alaska. Our strong foundation is based on your generosity and shared vision for providing clean drinking water and fighting food insecurity by helping people grow their own food.

As I first mentioned, the snow and ice outside my window will soon melt and the Alaska season of long summer days and beautiful gardens will be here. With your help and commitment, a season of hope and health in South Sudan will grow across the months ahead as well. That really is the harvest of our work. Hope and

health for the people of South Sudan. Thank you for all you do and your continued support.

*Todd Hardesty*  
Executive Director



*Milled rice at Old Fangak.*



*AHPSS farmers with bags of milled rice at Old Fangak..*

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