

Editor's Note: This trip report is a supplement to Nancy's regular Presbyterian World Mission Connections letters

## A Field Trip Report from Nancy McGaughey serving in South Sudan

### Jiech Trip Report

9 – 12 June 2015



**Tuesday, 9 June 2015** – Travelled by UNHAS to Jiech via Rumbek, Toch, Old Fangak and Kurwai. While scheduled to arrive at 12:30 p.m., due to problems along the way the flight arrived at 4:30 p.m. We proceeded to COSV compound. SSRRA was informed of my arrival and we were asked to come at 9 a.m. the following day. I had informal conversations at COSV compound with Michael, field supervisor for WHO and County Education Officer.



**Wednesday, 10 June 2015** – We met with SSRRA acting coordinator Mr. Caan. According to him, the IDP population of Jiech has recently increased by 1,525: 525 from Pigi, 300 from Canal, 150 from Kaldak. 200 from Fangak, 100 from Pom, and 250 from Bentiw. Mr. Caan then took us to meet the County Commissioner, James Mawiech, and the Deputy Commissioner and Sr. Administrator, Moses Jok.



From there we proceed to Jiech PHCU+ and Nutrition Center. There were few people in the nutrition center. Staff attributed this to the cloudy/slightly rainy weather and that many people were busy cultivating. This gave me time to meet and talk with staff. Dak, the nutrition supervisor, seems very knowledgeable. He has a file with necessary nutrition guidelines (weight for height tables, medication schedules, etc.). There are 2

community nutrition volunteers, 1 CHW, 1 nutrition assistant and 1 cleaner supported by OFDA and 4 nutrition assistants, 1 IYCF leader, 1 nutrition supervisor and 1 cleaner supported by CHF funds that will end soon (COSV plans to apply for funds again). ECHO funds support guards at all three sites (Jiech, Pagil and Wai) as well as materials for SAM and MAM (this funding ends in July but may possibly be extended).

The stabilization center consists of two tents with 8 beds each. There are 2 nutrition assistants who staff the SC. They work 4 days (24 hours) on, 4 days off. They are responsible for mixing feeding for patients in SC, which is given every 3 hours. There are currently 3 patients admitted to SC. (One patient was referred to Wai the second day, a 6-hour walk from Jiech, where MSF is working with nutrition staff to strengthen their capacity. MSF will be leaving Wai in July). Staff receive 5 days training in CMAM and then refresher trainings as needed. There is a good

supply of nutrition supplements in Jiech—plumpy’nut, plumpy sup, F 75, F 100, CSB+, oil—with the exception of sugar. This has been ordered, but WFP has informed them there is no stock of sugar in the country at this time. Rather than doing pre-mix, supplies of CSB+ and oil are given to PLWs. There is also a good supply of medicines (amoxicillin, vitamin A, mebendazole, remosol).

In OPT 511 screenings were done in May (outreaches done in Gaduk, Riang, Panya, Biligal, Chueich and Thongjok). 42 of those screened were admitted to the OTP program. 34 were discharged cured and there are currently 95 in the program. There were 187 admissions to TSPF in May; 17 were discharged from the program, leaving 170 at the beginning of June.

Grass around the area was quite tall, offering a place for mosquito breeding and snakes, but had been cleaned by the time I left.

I then spent some time at PHCU. ANC care is provided by Kathleen, a midwife, and assisted by Pajok, a CHW. They saw 20 ANC patients in May. Kathleen thinks more women would come if



safe delivery kits were available. (She had 25, and numbers increased during that time, then dropped when these were finished. Arrangements were made to send 4 boxes [200 kits] on the next charter.) There is one tent designated for ANC. There is no place for deliveries, but Kathleen feels women would come to the center for deliveries if a well-equipped place was available. They have some bed nets, iron/folic acid, SP. Mebendazole is available but no quinine for treating malaria. When Kathleen is on R&R or leave, there is no one to cover for her.

OPD patients are seen by the CHW-in-charge, seeing 50–60 patients a day. There is not a copy of MoH guidelines, but they do have MSF guidelines available for reference. EPI is functioning with routine vaccines; a lab assistant is there and able to do RDT for malaria, test for Brucellosis and Kala Azar. Currently there is one Kala Azar patient undergoing treatment; no new patients have been started on treatment this month.

All of the MoH medicines for Ayod County were delivered to Jiech and are currently stored in a tent. Some of these were moved to other sites by plane on Friday.

Late afternoon we were visited at COSV compound by Governor Gabriel Duop Lam, current governor of Phou State in Opposition (and former minister of Justice in Jonglei State) and the commissioner. We had a long discussion as his Thuraya phone was being charged. Two things of note that he mentioned:

1. Opposition is considering banning Thuraya phones in their area to better control communications. They are encouraging NGOs in the area to establish alternate means of communication. No time line for this to take effect was given.
2. Given the large number of IDPs in the area and the isolation he feels that the PHCU should be upgraded to PHCC.

**Thursday, 11 June 2015** – A possibility of a charter from ECHO and also from CMD (Christian Mission for Development). Close contact with both was maintained. I spent the morning at the nutrition center observing staff at work. In the afternoon I read validated results of a recent SMART survey conducted by CHF, UNICEF and COSV in Ayod County (GAM rate of 23.2 and SAM rate of 6.3) as well as other documents from COSV. CRS is conducting BSFP in the area.

**Friday, 12 June 2015** – ECHO charter is arriving today, planning to be on the ground for 2 hours to view health and nutrition centers. During that time, medicines will be shuttled to 2 other PHCU sites. Michael from ECHO and Hawata were on that flight. After touring the facilities we discussed ways to cooperate in improving services in Jiech and Ayod County. A follow-up meeting will occur in Juba.

Arrived in Juba at 5:30 p.m.



## Addendum to Jiech Report

On Wednesday afternoon I met with local PCOSS church leaders. Present were Pastor James Chol Bitoang and Evangelists John Deng , John Kuak and Elijah Kuak. I extended greetings from the PC(USA) and from PCOSS Moderator and General Secretary.



Pastor Bitoang explained that since 2008 Ayod has been a part of Northwest Jonglei Presbytery. Currently the moderator of this presbytery is in Juba. The vice moderator died and an acting vice moderator, David Lam, is in Ayod. The church office is a small tukhel near to Jiech PHCU. They said they have had no contact from church leadership since the crisis started. They expressed the feeling that no one heard them. They were happy that someone had come seeking them out and praying with them.

They are currently operating a church school for classes 1–6 but have no materials for teaching. They are praying for peace. “When there is peace,” the pastor explained, “it is not like this. Since this problem started our people have suffered. We are trying to build a church, but lack materials for building. We send our greetings to Moderator Gai and give thanks that he is alive and safe. We continue to pray for your good work. Let us know that you have received our message and are there.” They gave me a letter expressing their difficulties and asked that I give it to Moderator Gai. We then walked over to the site where the church is being constructed and prayed for the church, its leaders and members.

Contents of letter to the Moderator:

Presbyterian Church of South Sudan, Jonglei State, Ayod County Jiech Boma

Challenges facing church congregation and the office activities:

1. Lack of office where church leadership can solve the church issues
2. Lack of office chairs and tables
3. Lack of the office stationaries
4. Gum boots and raincoats for the pastors
5. Lack of plastic sheet for covering the church during the rain as the church building is leaking
6. Lack of the school materials for the children of the Presbyterian church and also accelerating learning programme stationaries to support adult learning
7. Mosquito nets are also needed

8. Digging tools and the tool for cultivation, this time for church people to produce food themselves and not to depend on UN (WFP)
9. Fishing equipment is also needed by Pastor-In-Charge James Chuol Bitoang, Jiech Boma Ayod County

The *2015 Presbyterian Mission Yearbook for Prayer & Study*, p. 139

[Read more](#) about Nancy McGaughey's ministry

[Write](#) to Nancy McGaughey

*Individuals:* [Give](#) online to E200527 for Nancy McGaughey's sending and support

*Congregations:* Give to D502951 for Nancy McGaughey's sending and support

Churches are asked to send donations through your congregation's normal receiving site (this is usually your presbytery).