

## SNAPSHOTS FROM KURON CLINIC OCTOBER 2012

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October 02.2012 we (Liv Ditlefsen and Mette Waaler from Norway) arrived in Kuron. We were heartily welcomed by the staff at the clinic.



Liv, Grace and Mette at the airstip

We will stay at the clinic for 1 month. Here is a short report from some of the events the first week of our stay. We are really impressed by the staff, how they manage their work in this hardship area. With limited resources they make a big difference for the Toposa people. We have seen that people trust the staff, and they bring especially their children for treatment and vaccination. The staffs

shows good qualifications both in medical treatment and nursing care, even though they are too few staff, lacking essential drugs and laboratory reagents. They therefore have to treat patients according to symptoms and not according to laboratory result.

Recently they received more than 7000 doses of tetanus vaccines for pregnant women. Storing capacity is a problem and since there are no antenatal clinic and few staff, they will not be able to use the vaccines in near future. Essential drugs they have ordered is not coming. They also lack essential equipment. There is nowhere to refer patients.

At the moment the water pump does not function, but a new one has been ordered from Kenya.

The staff shows good attitude and respect toward the people. Because of lack of staff and appropriate teaching material, they do not manage to do outreach with health education and communication in the villages even if they want to.

In the following, we will describe some of our experiences our first weeks.

### Example from the clinic

Taban 6 weeks old boy, brought to the clinic by the mother. Mother brought the child because of rashes and she expected measles. The staff knows the child form before. He was born in the clinic. He is a twin. The sister died after 4 weeks even though she was the biggest and healthiest. Grace usually asks what kind of advice the traditional healer has recommended,

(Grace has experienced that when she ask "Have you been to the traditional healer" the answer is "no", so she has changed the way of asking) and in this case the traditional healer has advised the mother to take the child to the clinic. because of measles.

What the staff experiences, is that after delivery in the clinic, the mothers send message to the village to get goats milk for the baby and start to give that even before they start breastfeeding. When they come home, they leave the new born baby with an older sister and go themselves to the field. The sister will give the child goat milk during the day, and the baby will only get breast milk during evening and night when the mother is at home.



Taban 6 weeks old

When Taban was born his birth weight was 2,3 kg. (the sister was 2,5 kg) Today Talban's weight is 2 kg. When he was examined there was no fever, few rashes.. He looks thin and weak. Apart from that there are no signs of decease. Grace's conclusion is that this child is suffering from lack of care from the mother:. The baby was given antibiotic syrup for skin infection, and was given some clothes. The mother was told to wash the baby and the clothes. And the

mother was in details explained the importance of frequent breastfeeding, at least 10 times a day and continuously care from the mother. This is a very common and important situation among the Toposas.



Taban gets medicine

Our thoughts about this common problem: It is important with good communication with leadership and opinion leaders in the village to find solutions of the problem. Only the strongest babies will survive under these conditions. We understand that the work in the garden is important to secure food for the rest of the family.



The mother is told to breastfeed Taban

We will try to find out if it is possible to bring the baby to stay in the garden together with the mother in order to be breastfed frequently, and the older sister can also be there to look after the baby while the mother is working. Other solutions may come up in communication with the village people.

## ANOTHER CHALLENGE FOR THE STAFF



At 09 a.m. the child was drinking

The last days they have received 3 sick and very malnourished children. One example is a 3 year old boy brought by the grandmother. He was admitted, given food and treatment. At 04 a.m. Alex heard some heavy breathing from the ward. He called Grace, who found the boy wrapped in cold, wet bed sheets, shivering with difficult breathing. Body temperature was not measurable. Grace and Rose cared for the child until the morning. They wrapped him in warm blankets, monitored his condition and gave him intravenous fluid. At 07 a.m. the temperature was measured under the arm to be 35 Celsius

## WARD ROUND OCTOBER 10.2012

This morning 4 very sick children are admitted in the ward. All have two or three conditions, like measles, malaria, pneumonia, eye infection and ringworm. One child was brought in the middle of the night with high fever with convulsions, vomiting a lot of thick mucus. They had walked 75 km before they reached HTPV and was brought by the bishop's car to the clinic in the middle of the night...



Recovered child with new clothes

Another child who had been treated for a couple of days, are now recovering, free of fever and is eating and drinking

Because laboratory reagents are out of stock, they have to treat on symptoms and not according to lab. results.

In addition to a wide medical treatment, the children were given very good nursing care, like bathing, cutting fingernails, food and clean clothes. Especially one of the patients needed close care and monitoring throughout the day.



Child is washed

Another child who had been treated for a couple of days, are now recovering, free of fever and is eating and drinking

By the end of the day all the children had improved, the following day all the 4 children were eating.

## VACCINATIONCAMPAIGN IN NAMUTON VILLAGE



Loading the Unimog

Friday October 5. attended we vaccination campaign in a village close to the clinic. We were collected by the unimog. All equipment was loaded and off we went.

Two days before message was given to the chief that we should come. Message was repeated the day before. Chief were told to find a suitable place with shade. The staff was very efficient in making things ready.

The unimog could not pass a small river, so we had to carry all the equipment the last few meters to the site of vaccination.



Every person had her/his defined task



Alex was registering



Irene and Kevin preparing vaccines and tablets to be given out



Grace was taking care of the vaccination assisted by Rose

After three hours 89 children were vaccinated with BCG, DTP, Measles and Polio. There were also given vitamin A and deworming tablets.



Liv gave polio and Mette gave 'deworming' tablets



Happy finished vaccinated children with cards

Our two first weeks have been exciting.

Finally we want to thank the bishop for inviting us to come to Kuron. For us it is fantastic to be back to South Sudan after 30 years. Again we have learned a lot and we exchange experiences with clinic staff every day.