

BONGA PROGRAM **Indicators of Progress** **(October.2020)**

Providing safe spaces for girls at risk to realize personal development.



Anna stands outside the St. Thomas secondary School gate

Anna Nadapal, is a 20 year old Toposa girl from Moruase Village, Kuron Payam, in South Sudan. She is the youngest of nine (9) children. She completed her primary education from St. Thomas Primary School in Kuron. Moreover, she is a mother of two children as a result of forced marriage by her elder brothers.

However, Anna was determined to succeed in education. She was not deterred when her studies were interrupted by pregnancy twice and always re-joined primary education. She is a graduate of the Bonga Program and has shown resilience and fortitude in the face of strong traditional suppression of women in the Toposa culture.

In 2019, Anna was among the candidates who completed her primary education. She scored 359 out of 500 marks. In January and February 2020, Anna got a temporary job for a short period with Andrea Foods, South Sudan to distribute nutritional supplements to pregnant and nursing mothers for two (2) months.

After this period, she was recruited by HTPVK as a BONGA Animator to train community girls in Napil BONGA centre. The training consists of hygiene, self-confidence, family planning, life skills like how to keep a house clean and organized. As a Bonga animator, Anna hopes to raise funds to take care of her two children and enrol them in secondary school.

In March, Anna was able to register her children St. Thomas Secondary School, a newly established first-ever secondary school in Kauto Payam, Kapoeta East County of South Sudan. Anna Nadapal Meri is now in Senior one. The recent Covid 19 pandemic has temporarily closed all schools so neither Anna nor her children were able to attend classes. However, Anna has kept active in her work and also works with her children at home to teach them what she can. She and the family are eagerly awaiting the opening of schools soon in South Sudan. Anna is resolute to complete Secondary Education and who knows what will happen in the future? If there is a chance, she will keep studying in advanced institutes.

Anna is one of the hundreds of young women that have benefitted from the Bonga program implemented by Holy Trinity Peace Village Kuron in partnership with Stromme Foundation.

(edited: 09.Oct.2020 gh)

Kommentert [CA1]: What is she training the Bonga girls in?

Kommentert [GH2R1]:

Kommentert [CA3]: Please add a line or two about how COVID-19 has affected her secondary school enrolment, or if she is able to attend school.