



ASMP Wells Curb Cholera Outbreak!

October typically marks the tail end of the long difficult wet season in South Sudan. It's usually the time when farmers are preparing to begin their harvest and everyone is celebrating the return of the hot dry sun. But this year as the sun was disappearing in Alaska, the rains in Old Fangak turned into floods, and the floods brought devastation. They disintegrated homes made of sticks and mud. They swallowed gardens whole. And they brought cholera.

Cholera is highly contagious and if left untreated can kill in a matter of hours. Refugee hubs like Old Fangak can be very dangerous places for the deadly disease. But this fall something truly incredible happened. Nearly as quickly as the outbreak erupted, it was contained. Dr. Jill, alongside local health workers and volunteers from Doctors Without Borders were crucial in curbing the outbreak, but it was something else altogether that was credited with the quick containment: the abundance of clean, safe water. **Our wells prevented a catastrophe.**



Floods surround homestead in Old Fangak

It's hard to say how many people avoided cholera because of our wells, but there is no doubt that they made a huge difference. We are proud to share this victory with you, our donors. Together we stopped cholera and saved lives!



Bags of dirt still surround well after floods have subsided

A Focus on Sustainability

We keep saying this, but only because there is so much truth to it: **we are in the right place at the right time.** Our work is saving lives, and we are in the unique position to maintain a focus on sustainability while most other organizations in the country are centering their efforts entirely around emergency relief. We drill wells while others run water filtration systems off generators. We help families grow their own food while others drop food from the sky. And there's a good reason for that: we were in Old Fangak long before this war started. We built up a repository of tools back when we could still transport materials on the Nile. We established relationships with locals who have been both the reason for our success and the driving force behind our ambition to keep going.



Girls dry plants after harvest

Ci Run Dial ε Bak Kεεl

Proverbs are an integral part of many African cultures. Passed on from generation to generation, they are used to illustrate ideas and deliver messages of inspiration, consolation and advice.

There is a Nuer proverb that says ‘ci run dial ε bak kεεl’ which translates to ‘All years do not manifest the same conditions’, referring to the ability to overcome adversity and suggesting that no one is stuck in his or her situation. It reminds people that so many things in life can change. We hope to continue to be an agent of change in the lives of those that need it the most in 2017, giving them the tools so that things may be better than they were last year.

The Good, the Bad and the Ugly

THE GOOD: We have made huge progress over the past few months! Volunteers spent a total of 15 weeks on the ground this winter and we have so much to show for it: **3 new water wells and 30 new farmers, bringing our totals to 17 wells in the region and 103 farmers!** Our footprint may be small but our impact is huge!

THE BAD: For every family that we have trained to farm, there are thousands more that are hungry. Our wells in Old Fangak are flowing with clean water, but there are countless communities with no access to safe water at all. **We have more work to do.**

THE UGLY: Civil war continues to tear South Sudan apart. To be frank, we are running out of adjectives to describe the horror. The government has abdicated its responsibility to provide basic services to the majority of its people. One third of the country is now estimated to be severely food insecure – that’s an unprecedented 3.7 million people. Fighting has displaced nearly 3 million people. And, to top it all off, South Sudan now boasts the highest inflation rate in the world - 837% as of October.

Yet despite everything, **we are making a difference.** We are meeting this man-made disaster with a fight of our own. It’s a fight for families that never chose to be caught up in all this chaos. A fight for kids to spend more time laughing and less time walking great distances to gather clean water. A fight for families to know exactly where their next meal is coming from, because they grew it themselves. We will continue to build hope and health for life, because after all, *no one has ever changed the world without hope.*



The Power of Your Donation

Please mail a donation to:

Alaska Sudan Medical Project
PO Box 230183
Anchorage, AK 99523

Or donate online at:
www.alaskasudan.org

\$20,000 - Water Well
\$1,550 - Sponsor a Farm
\$750 - Water Pump
\$500 - Fencing
\$250 - Farming Tools
\$50 - Seeds

You can make a direct impact on the hunger & water crisis facing refugee families in Old Fangak, South Sudan.

ASMP is a registered 501(c)3 non-profit. All donations are tax deductible.

