

## BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF THE LIFE OF PETER LOJANA

My name is Peter Lojana, son to Alexander Gothil Akwaraboho and Dominika Nakure. I was born in January 1954 in Inyati Village, Loudo area of Eastern Equatoria, South Sudan.

In 1959, my father enrolled me in a Catholic Mission Elementary School located in Chukudum, which was approximately 20 miles away from Loudo. Despite my eagerness to commence my studies that year, the teachers deemed me too young to join. However, the Head Teacher assured me of admission the following year, in 1960. During this interim period, I resided with my elder sister, Elena Nakeny, who was residing in Chukudum with her husband, Mauro Iko, an Elementary school educator. As I awaited the opportunity to commence my education, I undertook the responsibility of caring for my niece, Pia, in my sister's residence.

In 1960, Mauro Iko, my sister's husband, escorted me to enroll at Chukudum Elementary School, a prestigious institution known for its academic excellence. This esteemed school operated as a boarding school, featuring four distinguished dormitories - namely Dormitory 1, Dormitory 2, Dormitory 3, and Dormitory 4. The majority of the students resided on campus, partaking in both their meals and rest within the school premises, with only a select few residing closer to the school opting to commute from their homes.

The school life was arduous and challenging. At times, the entire school would face shortages when the contractor failed to deliver provisions on time. The school contractor, an Arab named Haleil, resided in Kapoeta, 70 miles away from Chukudum. In the absence of food, students would endure days of hunger. Some resorted to foraging in the wilderness for wild vegetables to sustain themselves. It was during these moments that the absence of my parents weighed heavily on me. I would gaze longingly at the hills, hoping to catch a glimpse of them following the familiar path I used to traverse during school breaks. Among the students, there were those with botanical expertise who could identify various edible plants suitable for consumption. One such remarkable student was the late Marko Abenyo from Kikilai. Not only did he possess knowledge of different types of vegetables, but he also excelled in preparing them. His specialty was the herb Chiribili, which he cooked to perfection. Marko earned the moniker "Chiribili" due to his fondness for this particular vegetable.

Furthermore, grappling with the complexities of learning to inscribe numerals and alphabets proved to be a formidable challenge for new learners. Among these, numbers 3 and 8 posed particular difficulties for me. I harbored a keen interest in Biblical narratives, especially those recounting the stories of Creation, Noah, Abraham, Joseph, Gideon, David, and Goliath, among others. Teacher Akileo Awath would narrate these Biblical stories in English, subsequently elucidating their meanings in the Didinga language for enhanced comprehension. Additionally, I harbored a passion for playing football.

In 1963 when I was in the top Class 4, the rebel Anyanya Movement started and several young men were accused of joining the rebellion. Kalisto Lohopirimoi and Augustino Lochalamoi (a local police officer) were arrested and executed by the Arab government soldiers being accused of rebellion. Pio Nagiro, a Prison Warden in Nagishot who was accused of conspiring to join the rebellion with Augustino escaped and became a rebel leader in the Didinga Hills.

At the end of the 1963 academic term, I embarked on a three-month holiday to my ancestral village in Kerewan, Loudo. In the days preceding the Christmas festivities, a contingent of government soldiers from Chukudum clandestinely infiltrated our village during the night, encamping within the vicinity. At daybreak, they departed, traversing down the hills towards Nathilani. Allegedly, Cirino, purportedly an Arab government informant from Kerewan, led the government soldiers to the dwelling of Ajeo Narumo, suspected of

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rebellion. Concurrently, rebel factions commenced organizing incursions into the Didinga community, gradually cementing their presence. In January, Cirino and Bejamino Locorimoi met their demise at Gulic and Kovir in Ngauro at the hands of the Anyanya rebel combatants, accused of espionage.

The government forces embarked on a relentless pursuit of the rebels within the Didinga Hills, razing homes and villages suspected of providing support to the insurgency. In the initial quarter of 1964, multiple government offensives were launched in a bid to quell the rebellion. Troops amassed from Kapoeta, preparing to assail the rebels from Nathilani in the East, while another battalion advanced from Chukudum in the West of Loudo via Nagishot.

Heavy artillery bombardments were unleashed from Nathilani into the Didinga Hills and forests, where fugitives sought refuge. My parents narrowly escaped death, as the government soldiers from Chukudum stealthily advanced through Nagishot. Nobody alerted people that government soldiers were coming in different directions. Mauro lko, my sister Elena, my mother, my cousin Loturi, my auntie Adele Nakulany and I were hiding in the forest valley of Natimomua. Firstly, we were sitting in a small open grass space next to the forest. Suddenly, there were gunshots in the direction of a cattle camp in Natimomua near the main road/path to Nagishot. So, we all ran into hiding but mother ran up stream through the forest and as she was about to cross the road or main path, she heard the movement of many soldiers marching towards Nakuathuro and Kerewan village. So she hid herself till evening when she ran away toward the South in the direction of Tharachal.

A kilometer away from where mother escaped the government soldiers identified fresh foot marks of someone wearing sandals. They followed hurriedly and across the valley was my father. He had a spear in his hands. They aimed their guns and shot at him with a volley of bullets. Fortunately, they missed him. He fell down and took cover next to a rock. Father could understand Arabic language. And as the soldiers were talking he could hear them saying 'he is dead' but others would say "No, he is still alive". So they would shoot again and again heavily. Finally, the soldiers decided to go and surround the place and check if the person was still alive. When they went there, father let them come closer so that they won't shoot at him because of the fear of injuring their own. So, as the soldiers came closer father sprang from his hiding rock and leaped into the forest down the valley. The government soldiers were angry because nearby the bushes of a home was where my father's step mother hid herself. They found her and shot her dead. Nyaboyo was very old and could not run far to the forest to hide.

From then the situation in the Didinga Hills became untenable and we fled to Uganda in April of 1964. We walked for 4 days to the border town of Karenga, in Uganda. While sojourning in Karenga, a serious incident happened in the camp. A group of 3 South Sudanese rebels posing as refugees came to Karenga and stayed in my mother's house. Two were from our home village back home and one was a Boya tribesman who had joined the rebel movement. They were asking me many questions, such as " Do you go to the police station"; What kind of uniforms do they wear"?. With the naivety of a 9 year old boy I could answer every question they ask.

One day, the Refugee Headman assigned them to go thatch a hut in a police post. Every day the Ugandan government administration in Karenga, assigned refugees various duties to do in the camp.

Out of chance or coincidence the three rebel refugees were sent on duty to the police post together.

Two of rebels were up on the roof of the hut thatching, the one was on the ground passing up bundles of grass and rope for thatching. A police guard was innocently sitting under a tree during a sunny day. In one moment the person on the ground jump and grabbed the

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rifle from the policeman. The other two on the roof jump down and together wrestle the police man down and strangled him to unconsciousness.

When they disabled the policeman, all ran through Kidepo National Game Park and escape to Sudan. This incident brought in crisis in the refugee camp. Men were gathered in one place beaten and tortured. My father and his brother Lokadito Philip were hunted, arrested and imprisoned. They were accused of harboring rebels in the camp. All the cattle (500 or more) which the refugees came with into Uganda were collected that same day and driven to one big kraal and guarded by the Ugandan police. The kraal was build by the refugees after the ordeal meted them by the police and military that morning. The cattle were taken by the government to compensate for the stolen gun.

- After the turmoil in the refugee camp settled down, my family and I found ourselves in a state of uncertainty. The loss of our cattle, which were not only a source of livelihood but also a symbol of our heritage, left us devastated. We struggled to adapt to the new reality of being displaced and stripped of our possessions.

- Despite the challenges we faced, we found solace in the resilience of our community. People came together to support each other, sharing whatever resources they had to ensure everyone's well-being. The sense of unity and solidarity among the refugees was a beacon of hope in the midst of despair.

- As time passed, we slowly began to rebuild our lives in the refugee camp.

- Education became a priority for me and my siblings, as we viewed it as a pathway to a better future. Despite the challenges of limited resources and overcrowded classrooms, we were eager to learn and make the most of the opportunities available to us. The pursuit of knowledge became our beacon of hope in a world filled with uncertainty and hardship.

- Through resilience, community support, and a steadfast commitment to education, my family and I navigated the complexities of life as refugees. We held onto our cultural heritage and traditions, finding comfort in the familiar amidst the unfamiliar. Our journey was marked by challenges, but also by moments of strength, unity, and hope that sustained us through the darkest of times.

The Ugandan government decided to relocate the refugee camp from Karenga to a new site in Nakapiripirit far from the border with Sudan. Ten military trucks commandeered to transport refugees to Nakapiripirit. My father and uncle, who had been wrongly accused and imprisoned, were eventually released after a thorough investigation cleared their names. It was at dawn when father was brought into the military truck still handcuffed. It was in the truck that the hand cuffs were removed. The trauma of the incident lingered, but we found strength in each other's presence and unwavering determination to overcome adversity.

The journey to Nakapiripirit was long and tiring. Upon reaching Nakapiripirit, the family was greeted by a stark landscape and hills that were vastly different from their familiar surroundings. The dusty roads and sparse vegetation painted a picture of a remote and isolated district. As they settled into their new temporary home, they were met with a mix of uncertainty and hope for what the future held.

The refugee authorities in Nakapiripirit welcomed the refugees with open arms, offering support and assistance in adjusting to their new environment. Despite the challenges of being uprooted from their previous life, there was a sense of resilience among the refugees as they began to rebuild their lives in this unfamiliar setting.

As days turned into weeks, the family started to find a sense of belonging in Nakapiripirit. They forged new friendships, explored the local culture, and embraced the opportunity for a fresh start. The journey to Nakapiripirit may have been long and tiring, but it also marked the beginning of a new chapter filled with possibilities and resilience.

That same year, I enrolled at Moruita Primary School upon our arrival in Nakapiripirit. In 1966, Father Michael Rosato, the Catholic Parish Priest of Kangole in Napak District, with

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the endorsement of Father Arkangelo Petri, the Parish Priest of Amudat, welcomed my step brother, two of our sisters, and me to Kangole Mission Schools. The ecclesiastical institution in Kangole comprised a Girls Primary School and a Boys Primary School. After completing a year in Kangole, I proceeded to Nadiket Seminary School in Moroto the subsequent year. Initially aspiring to join the clergy as a Catholic priest, that aspiration eventually waned. Following two years, I undertook the Primary School Leaving Certificate Examination (PLCE) and attained a Grade I, which made me eligible for admission to a Government Secondary School.

On the 19th of January 1970, I travelled to Kampala with a friend to look for Senior Secondary School admission. Bishop Mazzoldi of Moroto Diocese gave me 20 Uganda Shillings, Fr. Arkangelo Patri of Amudat Parish gave me another 20 Ugandan shillings, my mother gave me 20 shillings and my father gave me 50 cents. All these money assisted in to travel to Kampala and fed me during the search for secondary school admission. I was accompanied in Kampala by Paul Langa, Arkangelo Lokuli, Bernadino Locorimoi, John Loki Lokirimoi, and Makiriano Lokai Nakanihileng. Our lodging during the initial week of our arrival in January was graciously provided at the Student's Hostel located at Nsambya Catholic Secretariat.

After an extensive two-month quest and application process for enrollment in senior secondary institutions, Paul Langa, Arkangelo Lokuli, John Loki and I successfully secured admission to Old Kampala Senior Secondary School. Equipped with our admission documentation, we embarked on a quest for sponsorship. Following a prolonged endeavor, we eventually secured sponsorship from the International University Exchange Fund (IUEF), overseen by Andrew Gombey and John M'Coll, who were serving as American Corps in Uganda at the time.

We resided in Uganda from 1964 to 1972 until tranquility was reinstated in Sudan. Upon the completion of my Senior Secondary education in 1974, I returned to Sudan.

I was employed in 1974 by the Regional Ministry of Education in Juba as a Junior Secondary School teacher in Chukudum.

I taught a variety of subjects including Sciences, CRE, Geography to eager young minds. It was a fulfilling experience to witness the growth and development of my students over the years. As a teacher, I strived to create engaging lesson plans that catered to different learning styles and abilities, ensuring that each student had the opportunity to succeed.

Outside of the classroom, I also participated in extracurricular activities such as organizing school events, coaching sports teams, and mentoring students in their personal and academic pursuits. Building strong relationships with both students and colleagues was essential in fostering a positive learning environment where everyone felt supported and valued.

Reflecting on my time as a Junior Secondary School teacher in Chukudum, I am grateful for the opportunity to have made a positive impact on the lives of young individuals and contributed to the educational landscape of the region. Teaching has been a rewarding journey filled with challenges and triumphs, and I look forward to continuing to inspire and educate future generations.

In 1978 I joined College of Adult Education and Training in the University of Juba as a matured student under the sponsorship of the Regional Ministry of Education. I studied various subjects including Research Methods, Social Work, Cooperative Education, Philosophy and Psychology of Adult Education, Comparative Adult Education and Adult Literacy

After graduating from Juba University in 1982, I was deployed as a teacher of Adult Education at Amadi Rural Development Institute in Mundri District Western Equatoria State. The Institute was funded by Euro Action ACORD and run by the Department of

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Community Development in the Regional Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development to train government officials in community and rural development.

During my time at Amadi Rural Development Institute (ARDI), I had the opportunity to work closely with the local community, designing and implementing educational programs tailored to their specific needs. It was a rewarding experience to witness the impact of education on individuals and communities, empowering them to improve their lives and livelihoods.

As an instructor of Adult Education, I focused on promoting literacy, numeracy, and practical skills that were essential for the adults in Mundri District to thrive in their daily lives. I strived to create a supportive learning environment that encouraged active participation and collaboration among the students, fostering a sense of community and shared growth. Beyond the classroom, I engaged in outreach programs that aimed to extend the benefits of education to marginalized groups and remote areas. By organizing workshops, seminars, and community events, we aimed to raise awareness about the importance of lifelong learning and skill development, inspiring individuals to pursue their educational aspirations. Reflecting on my time at Amadi Rural Development Institute, I am grateful for the opportunity to contribute to the educational landscape of Mundri District and witness the trans-formative power of education in uplifting individuals and communities. The experience has shaped my perspective on the role of education in fostering social change and empowerment, motivating me to continue advocating for inclusive and accessible education for all.

In 1984 the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army (SPLM/SPLA) started to wage war against the Sudan Government in Khartoum. With the incursion of the SPLA in Western Equatoria, Amadi Rural Development Institute had to close and staff were relocated to Mundri town and later to Juba.

In the following years, the conflict between the SPLM/SPLA and the Sudan Government escalated, leading to widespread devastation and displacement of civilians across the region. The impact of the war on educational institutions like the Amadi Rural Development Institute was profound, forcing many schools and colleges to shut down or operate under extremely challenging conditions. The staff members who were relocated to different towns faced significant disruptions in their professional and personal lives, adapting to new environments and coping with the realities of conflict.

Despite the adversities faced during the war, some educational initiatives managed to continue their operations, albeit with limited resources and support. Organizations and individuals dedicated to promoting learning and development persevered in providing education to those in need, often under dangerous circumstances. The resilience and determination of educators and students alike in such turbulent times highlighted the importance of education as a beacon of hope and progress in conflict-affected areas.

From 1987 onwards, Euro Action ACORD has been dedicated to funding and supporting government initiatives aimed at training young people and communities in and around Juba. This partnership has been instrumental in fostering skills development, empowering the youth, and enhancing community cohesion. Through targeted programs and resources, Euro Action ACORD has played a pivotal role in equipping individuals with the necessary tools to thrive in their respective fields.

Looking ahead, it is crucial to continue investing in education and training opportunities for the youth to secure a brighter future for the region. By expanding vocational training programs, promoting entrepreneurship, and fostering a culture of innovation, we can unlock the full potential of young people and communities in Juba. Collaboration between government entities, non-profit organizations, and local stakeholders will be essential in

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sustaining these efforts and driving meaningful change in the community. Together, we can build a more prosperous and inclusive society for generations to come.

In 1988 I won a scholarship to study in Daystar University College, Nairobi, Kenya. I joined College on the 9th January 1989 to pursue a Masters Degree in Communication. Daystar University was an affiliate College of Wheaton College, Illinois, USA. The system of Education in this University College was completely new to me and it was arduous and challenging.

In spite of the initial challenges, my time at Daystar University College proved to be a transformative experience. The diverse student body and faculty provided a rich environment for learning and personal growth. The emphasis on practical application of communication theories through hands-on projects and internships was invaluable in shaping my skills and preparing me for the real world. The connections I made during my studies continue to be a source of inspiration and support in my professional journey.

As I reflect on my time at Daystar University, I am grateful for the opportunities it afforded me to expand my knowledge and perspective. The rigorous academic curriculum pushed me to think critically and creatively, fostering a lifelong love for learning. The cultural exchange and exposure to different viewpoints broadened my understanding of the world and deepened my appreciation for diversity.

Looking back, I can confidently say that my decision to pursue a Masters Degree in Communication at Daystar University was one of the best choices I made. It laid the foundation for my career and instilled in me a passion for effective communication that continues to drive me forward.

Upon completion of my Graduate Studies in Daystar University College in 1993, I did not return to my government job in Juba because the war around it was intense. So, I pioneered a humanitarian relief work in South Sudan with the Adventist Relief and Development Agency (ADRA) behind the SPLA/SPLM lines. ADRA Middle East and ADRA Uganda collaborated in the delivery of relief supplies to the people of South Sudan in the "SPLA liberated areas." I was based in Uganda with support of ADRA Uganda to receive hundreds of bales of used clothes from the USA.

After receiving the bales of used clothes from the USA, we embarked on the challenging task of distributing them to the people in need in South Sudan. The logistics involved in ensuring that the relief supplies reached the intended recipients in the war-torn regions were complex but crucial. Working closely with local communities and partners, we organized distribution points and coordinated efforts to provide not just clothing but also essential items like food, shelter materials, and medical supplies.

As the humanitarian relief work progressed, we encountered various obstacles, including security threats, logistical constraints, and the ever-changing dynamics of the conflict. Despite these challenges, the resilience and determination of the team, along with the support from ADRA Middle East and ADRA Uganda, enabled us to make a tangible difference in the lives of those affected by the crisis. Our efforts were not only about providing immediate assistance but also about fostering hope and resilience in the face of adversity.

The experience of leading a humanitarian mission in such a volatile environment left a lasting impact on me. It reinforced the importance of compassion, collaboration, and perseverance in the face of adversity. It also highlighted the urgent need for sustainable solutions to address the root causes of conflict and humanitarian crises. Moving forward, I am committed to continuing my work in the humanitarian field, advocating for peace, justice, and dignity for all those affected by conflict and disaster.

As my team completed the distribution of relief supplies to the people in need in South Sudan by October 1993, the ADRA Middle East sent a missionary couple, Jerry Lewis and Vicky Lewis to join me assist the people of South Sudan. The Lewis's preferred to work in

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South Sudan from Nairobi, Kenya. So, I had to leave Uganda to join them in Kenya, register ADRA South Sudan and deliver cross border services from Kenya. Although it was not easy to register an organization with a similar name in the registry of Companies and Non Governmental organizations in a Country, nevertheless ADRA South Sudan was registered in Kenya in April of 1994.

ADRA opened an office in Nairobi and joined the United Nations Operation Lifeline Sudan (UN/OLS) a huge UN humanitarian operations led by UNICEF to deliver critical relief services and supplies to the war victims in South Sudan.

ADRA South Sudan started its operations in the then Western Kapoeta County (now Budi County) my home district. With funding from USAID, the organization entered South Sudan on the 14th August 1994 to implement primary health care/veterinary health care programmes in the present Budi County and gradually extended its operations to provide not only relief supplies but also long-term development projects in education, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), and agriculture.

Collaborations with local communities and government agencies helped in implementing sustainable programs that empowered the people of South Sudan. Working for ADRA South Sudan in my home district impacted the community with the feeling of care and ownership.

### **Challenges Faced**

Operating in a volatile region posed security challenges for ADRA South Sudan staff and volunteers. Secondly, limited resources and funding constraints required strategic planning and effective utilization of available resources.

### **Impact and Growth**

Over the years, ADRA South Sudan's impact grew, reaching more communities and making a tangible difference in the lives of the people. The organization's commitment to humanitarian work and dedication to serving those in need garnered support and recognition from international partners and donors.

### **Establishment of Christian Development Service (CDS)**

ADRA South Sudan was based in Chukudum, implementing programs from its satellite health centers in Lorema, Nagishot, and Kimatong. However, operating in a volatile region presented security challenges for ADRA South Sudan staff and volunteers. The Khartoum government, in pursuit of the rebel SPLA forces, frequently bombed Chukudum town, assuming it to be the SPLA/M headquarters.

In 1995, concerned that ADRA, as an international organization, might withdraw if the security situation worsened, I proposed the creation of a Community Service (CS) department in Chukudum under the SDA Church. Due to the nascent stage of the SDA Church in the area, organizing a Community Service Organization was not feasible at that time.

Therefore, in 1996, I established a community-based organization in Chukudum, later named Christian Development Service (CDS) to enhance the capacity of Christian youth towards self-sufficiency and long-term viability. I was fervently advocating for the necessity of local Churches to attain financial independence and sustenance through tithing and offerings. The concept revolved around empowering young individuals in technical vocational education and business acumen, enabling them to generate income to support their households and contribute tithes and generous offerings to the Church.

I identified a young South Sudanese man who had completed a Diploma Course in Horticulture in Tanzania and entrusted him with managing this fledgling organization while I

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sought funding for agricultural projects, skills training, and vocational education in Chukudum District. Through diligent efforts, we officially registered CDS in Kenya in 2000, primarily to facilitate banking operations and fundraising. During the civil conflict in South Sudan, the Christian Development Service (CDS) secured funding from prominent organizations such as CIDA, Caritas Switzerland, NPA, ADRA, UNICEF, and PACT Sudan.

After a prolonged peace negotiation between the Khartoum Government and the SPLM/A in Nairobi, Kenya spanning several years, a Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) was ultimately signed in 2005. Dr. John Garang, the esteemed leader of the SPLM/A, was duly appointed as the First Vice President of Sudan. This historic milestone elicited widespread jubilation among the Sudanese populace, with refugees expressing a fervent desire to repatriate to their homeland.

In the year 2006, I was tasked with the responsibility of relocating ADRA South Sudan from Nairobi to Juba, necessitating my relocation to the latter city to lay the groundwork for this significant transition.

In January 2007, the ADRA South Sudan office based in Nairobi, along with its entire staff, made the move to Juba. Initially, ADRA encountered obstacles such as insufficient office space, staff housing, electricity, internet connectivity, and essential services at the Juba SDA Munuki Compound.

ADRA enlisted the services of a Canadian technician to construct a prefabricated office building in Juba, which upon completion accommodated all staff offices. Some ADRA personnel leased Church residences for lodging, while others secured accommodations with acquaintances in the city. Our commitment to providing aid to the vulnerable populace in South Sudan remained unwavering and extending beyond Juba. The operational zones in Chukudum, Yambio, Nassir, Mayen Abun, and others remained unchanged.

In 2008, I retired from ADRA South Sudan after dedicating over 15 years to the organization. Nonetheless, I continued my involvement with CDS as the Board Chairman. In May of the same year, the late Peter Abeikori, Managing Director of CDS, appointed me as the Chief Executive Officer of the organization. Subsequently, I actively engaged in networking with acquaintances who facilitated connections with benefactors. The collaborative partnerships that CDS established between 2009 and 2015 included esteemed entities such as the French Embassy, DanChurch Aid, NPA, FAO, CORD Aid, Bread for the World, Church of Sweden, UNICEF, UNMISS, among others.

### **Sudan/South Sudan Government Service**

My initial position within the Regional Government in Juba was that of a Junior Secondary school educator from 1994 to 1998 in Chukudum and Magwi. Following my graduation from the University of Juba, I assumed the role of Senior Inspector for Community Development, serving as an Instructor and facilitator for Adult Education at the esteemed Amadi Rural Development Institute (ARDI). Within ARDI, I also undertook the responsibilities of Programming Coordinator. Furthermore, I undertook additional extracurricular duties as the Head of the Welfare and Recreation Committee.

Presently, I am honored to retain the esteemed position of Director for Community Development within the National Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Cooperatives, and Rural Development in Juba.

### **Work Experience with INGOs**

The initial opportunity to work with an NGO came through the Cooperative Coordinator of Norwegian Church Aid, Mr. John Fleistad, in Heleu, Torit. At that time, I was a student at Juba University during a break from my studies. My responsibilities in this new role involved



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gathering data from businesses in Eastern Equatoria State for market analysis and preparing a comprehensive report. Over the course of the three-month contract, I traveled to various locations and urban centers.

The second position I held was that of a small business educator in Juba, supported by ACORD in partnership with the Government Department of Community Development. My team was tasked with mobilizing underprivileged women from various areas of Juba city, providing them with training, and offering initial funding for their entrepreneurial endeavors. Subsequently, we guided the launch of their businesses and continued to oversee and monitor their progress.

I worked for ADRA South Sudan in Uganda, Kenya and South Sudan from 1993 to 2008. I pioneered the humanitarian work in South Sudan from Uganda under the auspices of ADRA Middle East. ADRA Uganda hosted me to implement delivery of relief items from their offices in Uganda. Thereafter, a missionary couple was appointed by ADRA ME to join me to start a full program in South Sudan. The missionaries preferred working out from Nairobi. I then had to leave Uganda and come to Nairobi to open a new program in my home area since it bordered Kenya in the North West of the Country.

My initial role at the beginning was to assist the Country Director in Logistics, registration of ADRA South Sudan, conducting feasibility studies or assessment and liaising with the Sudan Relief and Rehabilitation Association (SRRA), the humanitarian wing of the rebel SPLA/M responsible for coordinating the work of humanitarian agencies in the SPLM/A controlled areas.

Once we got the registration, the CEO and I visited donor offices to try to raise funds. Our first donor was United States Agency for International Development (USAID/OFDA) who gave ADRA South Sudan half a million dollars to implement Primary Health Care and Veterinary Health Care in Kapoeta West (current Budi County). This funding continued to grow and got renewed yearly to cover not only health but also water, sanitation and hygiene and food security and livelihoods. I was assigned to work in various roles in the field (Chukudum). My roles included being training coordinator, community mobilization, project manager and roads rehabilitation, veterinary assistant and later in Nairobi I became an Indigenous NGOs Advisor and Trainer, Human Resource Manager and Administrative Assistant, the role I undertook till my retirement in 2008.

### **Involvement in the SDA Church Development**

- Secretary, Community Service, Munuki SDA Church Juba
- Church Elder, Munuki SDA Church Juba
- Sabbath School Assistant Teacher, Central SDA Church, Nairobi
- License Missionary worker, Middle East Union of SDA Church
- Leader of Church Company in Chukudum