

Sudan Report



GAIN volunteers avoid danger while en route from the Juba airport to Mundri for a week of meetings, food and clothing distribution and water well visits.

Our mission is to demonstrate the love of God, in word and deed, to hurting and needy people around the world, through relief and development projects.



On September 6, 2009, Bill Blaney - the Director of Global Aid Network (GAIN) Canada, Peter Koteles - GAIN's Project Manager, GIK & Logistics and Dr. George Rhoades - Director of Trauma Training, was suddenly stopped by a man on a motorcycle shouting that there were bandits only a few miles ahead. Armed with automatic rifles, these bandits, which attacked a military outpost only one-week prior, had just robbed a man and took another into the bush.

All of the vehicles were stopped immediately and the team waited for two trucks of military police, which then lead an armed convoy toward Mundri. The tension was high as the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) had been carrying out attacks about 15 miles from Mundri.

Though the insurgence and genocide was very real and very present, the overwhelming need for water and food was even greater. As the team met with James Smith - Project Manager for

South Sudan Relief and Rehabilitation Commission (SSRRC), they learned about recent attacks by the LRA where 8,000 people were displaced. When these families returned to their homes, there was no food for their children. Fortunately, GAIN had a reserve of two 40-foot containers of food already sitting there. Without any hesitation, the local partner distributed the previously sent food among the families. "If we didn't feed these children, they would have died. GAIN stopped a bad situation from happening," shares Smith.

While meeting with another local partner, GAIN also learned of the influence they were having with the population growth of a few villages such as Mbara. Smith shared that the resettlement and affluence of the Mbara village was directly correlated to GAIN and the boreholes they had provided. In just two years, the population had doubled to approximately 105 families totaling 630 people. Many of

the Internally Displaced People (IDP) had returned and used this pure water source to set up their roots and rebuild their lives. As a result, almost every three months, 10-15 families, averaging six people per family, were returning from northern Sudan and receiving clean water. That's 60 people a month—two a day!

"Wherever there is water, there is life. Where there is life, there is growth. Where there is growth, prosperity. Prosperity...commerce and where there is commerce, there is transformation," shared Blaney, *"and this process was evident in Mbara."*

With a somewhat chaotic start to the trip, the team walked away with a deeper understanding of the need and the urgency. Because of that awareness, GAIN sent another container of 950,000+ servings of dehydrated soup at the beginning of November 2009.