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SCOPE SUCCESS STORY

SOUTH SUDAN



Peter and his mother during a follow-up home visit.

USAID/World Relief: Photo by Joseph Tagita, Care Group Supervisor Central Subzone

NAME AND ROLE

Peter (name has been changed to protect confidentiality), two-year-old nutrition program patient

LOCATION

Namarabia Boma, Ibba, South Sudan

SUMMARY

SCOPE Care Groups are working to assure that more residents access healthcare services. In Ibba, a Care Group volunteer's counsel helped a family find the treatment needed to resolve their two-year-old son's severe malnourishment.

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CARE GROUP ADDRESSES MALNUTRITION FOR FAMILIES IN IBBA

In South Sudan's Ibba County, Care Groups educate the public on healthcare support in an effort to lower the rate of maternal and child death. Each Care Group is composed of a dedicated promoter and seven to nine volunteers. The promoters discuss topics that include nutrition, family planning, child health, and hygiene and sanitation. Following each meeting, the volunteers, who are all women from within the community, leave with resources on these topics to share with neighbors. As a result, healthcare messages are spreading rapidly through otherwise hard-to-reach areas. Namarabia Village, located in the rich, green farmlands of Ibba County, is one area where Care Group messages are spreading. Recently, in Namarabia Village, a volunteer acted on information from a Care Group training to save the life of a sick toddler.

CARE GROUP VOLUNTEER'S INTERVENTION GIVES BOY A CHANCE AT A HEALTHY LIFE

Peter (name changed for confidentiality purposes), is a two-year-old boy who lives with his parents and five siblings. From an early age, Peter's mother had seen him display signs of weakness and abdominal discomfort. By July 2021, he had developed persistent diarrhea accompanied by loss of weight and appetite. Around this time, a neighbor visited Peter's home to share home hygiene information, including preventative measures against Covid-19 she had learned through Care Groups. As a Care Group volunteer, this neighbor recognized Peter's symptoms of malnourishment and referred his family to a healthcare facility that admitted him to a nutrition program.

Peter's health improved rapidly as he participated in the nutrition program. As his energy increased and his symptoms disappeared, he began to walk, play and eat with the rest of his siblings. His family was overjoyed. Now fully discharged from the nutrition program, Peter continues to thrive at home. The experience has motivated his mother to continue learning from Care Group volunteers.

"I was extremely happy for my neighbor for the good messages given for me and my family that made my son to get well. I will continue to attend the lessons that the Care Group volunteer is teaching and put them into practice."

- *Peter's mother on her Care Group experience*

CARE GROUPS FOCUS ON MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH

In the case of a child with symptoms like Peter's, Care Group counsel can bring quick but critical relief. Care Groups in Ibba expect to see a significant increase in the utilization of healthcare services as families like Peter's gain knowledge and resources. Prioritized services include primary health care among children under five and reproductive health care for women of reproductive age. Through the information they share and the support they provide, Care Groups fill the gap between these healthcare needs and services, offering positive outcomes to women and children throughout the community.

This story is written by Yangadako Justin John, SCOPE Project M&E Assistant, and Elizabeth Cooper, SCOPE Communications Intern.