

SCOPE SUCCESS STORY

SOUTH SUDAN



Najwa pictured with her healthy son delivered at a local health facility.

USAID/World Relief: Photo by Kezia Lenyiwa, World Relief.

NAME AND ROLE

Najuwa Solomon, mother and Thomas Timo Isaac Care Group Volunteer

LOCATION

Modubai Maridi County, South Sudan

SUMMARY

SCOPE Care Group Volunteers are helping mothers understand the value of seeking care at their local health facilities when giving birth.

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CARE GROUP VOLUNTEERS HELP MOTHERS SEEK CARE IN MODUBAI MARIDI COUNTY

South Sudan has one of the world's highest maternal and child mortality rates. With limited health facilities, mothers and their young children often do not have access to care or understand the benefits of seeking healthcare. Even when facilities are available, these clinics are often plagued by a shortage of health professionals and unavailable essential medicine. SCOPE works with Care Groups to help fill these critical gaps.

In South Sudan's Maridi County, Care Groups educate women and their families in an effort to lower maternal and child death rates. Each Care Group includes a dedicated promoter and seven to nine volunteers. The promoters discuss nutrition, family planning, child health, and hygiene and sanitation topics with volunteers; and in turn, the volunteers share their knowledge with their neighbors. As a result, healthcare messages spread rapidly through otherwise hard-to-reach areas. Recently a volunteer in Mudubai Village acted on information from a Care Group training to change the behavior of women of reproductive age in his community.

HELPING MOTHERS CARE FOR THEMSELVES AND THEIR CHILDREN

Najuwa Solomon is a 36-year-old woman and mother in Modubai Maridi County. She was visited by Thomas Timo Isaac, a Care Group Volunteer who came to her house to teach her about caring for her children. As Najuwa shared: "Thomas Timo Isaac has been coming to me and has been teaching me, which opened my eyes on how to take care of my health and the health of my children, and also to have the mindset of visiting a health facility." Najuwa went on to share that Thomas had taught her critical skills in

helping to improve the health of her family and the baby she was carrying. "When I was pregnant, my aim was to deliver at home as it normally happened for my previous deliveries, but as Thomas always came to my house with teachings, I started to realize the benefit and the importance of going to a health facility for an antenatal care visit."

Najuwa began regularly going to the health facility during her pregnancy, where she learned about danger signs and the challenges of home birth. She gave birth to a healthy baby boy in her local health center and is now sharing her experiences with others. As Najuwa explained: "Through my visit to the health facility, I gave birth to a healthy baby boy. My thanks go to Thomas and his team for their

work in changing the behavior of people of this community and South Sudan at large."

THE CRITICAL ROLE OF CARE GROUP VOLUNTEERS IN SUPPORTING MOTHERS AND CHILDREN

SCOPE Care Groups in South Sudan are working to ensure more residents access healthcare services. In Ibba and Maridi, a Care Group volunteer's counsel helped a family adopt health-seeking behavior and timely health schedules. By 2024, 1,000 SCOPE Care Group Volunteers will reach 10,000 of their neighbors with lifesaving health messages.

This story was written by Yangadako Justin John Dindo, SCOPE Monitoring & Evaluation Assistant.