Internews’ Humanitarian Information Service (HIS) implements the Communicating with Communities (CwC) program, aired on Kondial 97.2 FM. The program acts as a tool of empowerment, encouraging civic engagement among a diverse set of individuals inside Bentiu PoC. The feedback shared sets the agenda for government and humanitarian actors – building responsive and accountable processes that serve the needs, and advance the rights, of those in the camp. If you have information to share with the PoC or humanitarians, please contact:
Humanitarian Project Manager Nimaya Manasseh (nmanasseh@internews.org).

What We Heard This Week

Feedback from the Community

Take Lead On Covid-19 Concerns
Sector leaders thanked IOM camp management for the public address system they donated. “The system will help us raise awareness on coronavirus. We request for sanitizers to set a good example in the community.”

Elders, Block 16 Sector 3, Bentiu PoC

Covid-19 Control And Training
Leaders requested agencies to do block to block food distributions to prevent the spread of coronavirus. “We need training of all camp leadership on coronavirus prevention. We will share the information with the community in the PoC.”

Elders, Sector 3 Bentiu PoC

UNMISS Appreciated
Internally displaced persons (IDPs) thanked UNMISS and humanitarians for suspending the Biometric Card Authentication process in the PoC. They said that halting the process would help stop chances of contracting and spreading Covid-19.

Mixed, Bentiu PoC

Rains – Need For Sheets And Nets
Rubkona county residents said they need plastic sheets for shelter construction. “I bought a plastic sheet last year with my own money but it’s now old,” said 29 years old woman. They also requested for mosquito nets for protection against mosquitoes.

Adults, Rubkona County

Need For Additional Water Taps
“There is only one water tap in the whole Mankuay” lamented a 32-year-old woman. She was among the Rubkona county residents concerned about water shortages. They requested the WASH cluster to install more water taps.

Adults, Rubkona County

This week Internews collected feedback from 76 unique individuals:
- (11-18 years) 5%
- (19-35 years) 30%
- (36-45 years) 57%
- (46-60 years) 8%

Internews interacted with people through:
- Community Meetings 14%
- Informal Meetings 8%
- Listening Groups 78%

Kondial FM correspondent interviews women belonging to a Women’s Group in Bentiu town.

Photo@Internews
HEALTH: SOCIAL DISTANCING IN PRACTICE

Feedback from the community indicates that health cluster messages against big gatherings and the practicing of social distancing is working. This is meant to help control the spread of Covid-19 in gatherings like local court sessions. While appearing on the radio talked show, the CDC chairman said that court sessions should be limited to the two people to avoid congestion. "The government is soon stopping the public transport within Unity State," said the director general of trade. With proven cases in South Sudan, more preventive measure will continue to be put in place.

CONFIRMATION OF COVID-19 CASES IN SOUTH SUDAN

With confirmed cases of Covid-19 in South Sudan, the Director General Ministry of Health in Unity State dismissed rumors of coronavirus in the state. Appearing on Kondial FM, the official reminded listeners to frequently wash their hands, practice social distancing and avoid touching their faces. He said the state government has formed a task force with support from health partners across the nine counties to communicate prevention and control measures. He urged the communities to report any suspected to the toll-free number 6666. Kondial FM listeners appreciated the state task force for setting up isolation facilities in the Bentiu.

PARENTAL SUPPORT FOR CHILDREN AFTER SCHOOL SUSPENSION

The closure of schools due to the risk of Covid-19 has led to parents taking the initiative to encourage their children to read their books in the absence of teachers. Parents who appeared on Kondial FM’s evening talk show said that they will try to keep their children busy revising and informed on Covid-19 during the lockdown. “We shall keep our children informed through reading their books, avoiding social contact with other children, no random greetings because the world is suffering because of deaths caused by Covid-19.” School administrators in all eight schools advised children to keep reading their books.
Internews’ Humanitarian Information Service (HIS) implements the Communicating with Communities (CwC) program, aired on Jamjang 89.4 FM. The program acts as a tool of empowerment, encouraging civic engagement among a diverse set of individuals in Ajuong Thok. The feedback shared sets the agenda for government and humanitarian actors – building responsive and accountable processes that serve the needs, and advance the rights, of those in the camp.

If you have information to share with the PoC or humanitarians, please contact: Humanitarian Project Manager Aikiiki Tusime (atusime@internews.org).

What We Heard This Week
Feedback from the Community

Promote Peaceful Co-existence
An intercommunal misunderstanding between Athoro and Angola tribes led to confrontation in Ajuong Thok refugee camp. As a result, the head of Block 47 appealed to the camp leadership to sensitize the community about peaceful coexistence.

Adult, Block 47, Ajuong Thok.

Stop Illegal Routes
The head of Block 50 in Ajuong Thok said the refugees are now using hidden routes between Ajuong Thok and Yida after the ban on public transportation. “Three people were robbed along the ungashted routes,” he said while appealing for sensitization of the refugees.

Adult, Block 50, Ajuong Thok.

Engage Students To Curtail Movements
Families in Ajuong Thok said many students started travelling to Nuba Mountains after the closure of schools. “For this to stop, we are requesting the education cluster to keep the students busy with homework,” said a resident.

Adult, Block 51, Ajuong Thok.

COVID 19 Prevention Measures In Camps
During a listening group session, the head of block 50 in Ajuong Thok said that preventive measures like social distancing against Covid-19 were already in place while refugees in Yida appreciated procedures by humanitarians to protect the population against Covid-19.

Adults, Ajuong Thok and Yida.

Elderly Aspire For Life Skill Trainings
The elderly in Ajuong Thok raised concerns that they are never included in the life skills trainings by humanitarians. They requested the management of the humanitarian agencies to include them in future training plans.

Elderly, Block 50, Ajuong Thok.

Jammaj FM Correspondent interviewing nutrition flour beneficiaries after the General Food Distribution in Ajuong Thok.

- Photo @Internews
HEALTH: HOW QUARANTINE HELPS REDUCE SPREAD OF COVID-19

Jamjang FM hosted a health official from Hope Clinic to explain and clarify on the issue of quarantine and isolation. “Quarantine is a form of isolation imposed on a person especially those with symptoms related to Covid-19 like fever, coughing and shortness in breathing,” said the doctor. He appealed to the community members to follow the measures put in place to mitigate the risks of contracting the virus. The medical official added that there is no confirmed case of Covid-19 at Hope Hospital in Pamir camp or in Greater Ruweng Administrative Area.

HEALTH: MESSAGE ON DEPRESSION

On the Health Program, a mental health specialist with AHA said that depression is an illness characterized by persistent sadness and loss of interest in activities that the person normally enjoys. The doctor went on to explain that the depression can also disrupt sleep and appetite. “I appealed to the community members to report to hospital any suspected case of depression to help the patients access treatment,” said the doctor. Many people within the refugee and IDP communities suffer depression without knowing it. Radio programs like these help alert them about their conditions.

COMMEMORATING INTERNATIONAL HEALTH DAY

The International Health Day is globally observed to celebrate the work by nurses and midwives in the field of health. The day is also used to create awareness about the importance of health activities in communities. A health official at Hope Clinic in Pamir camp told Jamjang FM that the day is commemorated to acknowledge the role being played by nurses and midwives. The head of midwives at Hakima Hospital in Ajuong Thok camp appreciated the midwives and nurses for their hard work delivering health services to the community.
Internews' Humanitarian Information Service (HIS) implements the Communicating with Communities (CwC) program, aired on Radio Salam 99.1 FM. The program acts as a tool of empowerment, encouraging civic engagement among a diverse set of individuals Maban. The feedback shared sets the agenda for government and humanitarian actors - building responsive and accountable processes that serve the needs, and advance the rights, of those in the camp.

If you have information to be shared with refugees or humanitarians, please contact: Humanitarian Project Manager Adhe Boru (aboru@INTERNEWS.ORG) or Philip James Lukudu (jlukudu@INTERNEWS.ORG)

What We Heard This Week
Feedback from the Community

Request For Screening Equipment
Refugees in Kaya camp said they are living in fear of Covid-19. They asked agencies operating in the camp to set up Covid-19 screening equipment for testing people. They said that anyone found with Covid-19 symptoms should be isolated.

Adult, Kaya Camp

Price Spike Due To COVID-19
Refugees in Kaya camp complained about the soaring prices of food in the market after the closure of the border between Sudan and South Sudan.

Adult, Kaya Camp

Covid-19 Cannot Reach Maban
Refugees in Doro camp said Covid-19 was eradicated in China where it originated, and it can’t reach Maban refugee camps. Others said that Covid-19 is like malaria in developed countries that’s why they are dying in numbers.

Adult In Doro Camp

Request For Translation Of Covid Literature
Refugees in Doro Camp Zone A said they heard that Covid-19 has killed thousands of people around the world. “We are asking humanitarians to translate Covid-19 messages in local languages because some community members don’t understand Arabic or English.”

Adult, Doro Camp

Create More Waiting-room Space
Refugees in Gendrassa camp said patients line up in long and winding queues in the waiting room. They requested humanitarian agencies to create more room to help patients practice social distancing.

Adult, Gendrassa Camp

This week Internews collected feedback from 58 unique individuals:
- (19-25 years) 43%
- (26-35 years) 38%
- (36-45 years) 17%
- (46-60 years) 2%

Internews interacted with people through:
- Community Meetings 6%
- Informal Meetings 56%
- Listening Group 38%

Samaritan’s Purse Medical Officer and Director of County Health Department commenting on rumors and misinformation on COVID-19 gathered by Radio Salam team across the four camps - Photo@Internews
**Radio Salam 99.1 FM**

**Weekly Program Highlights**

**Protection: The Use of Power in Relation to SGBV**

The Protection Program on Radio Salam addressed the use of power in relation to SGBV. The program hosted DRC and SGBV Community Activists group. During the program, DRC Women Protection Activist spoke to Radio Salam about how and when people use power. She said that power is flaunted at the workplace, within the refugee community and in instances where fair judgement is required. She exercised in several areas in the workplace. Early child marriages are a common phenomenon where money is used to disadvantage young girls. DRC Team encouraged communities to resist from the practices.

**Education: Distribution of Home Package to Students**

With schools closed in all the four camps, students were advised to go for holidays as a precautionary measure against Covid-19. LWF distributed home packages to the students. This was revealed by the LWF Education Officers for Batil, Kaya and Gendrassa while appearing on Radio Salam. The officers assured learners that they will distribute homework packages to both primary and secondary school students. An official with LWF encouraged learners to follow the guidelines for prevention and protection against Covid-19 and put pay attention to the lessons in the packages given to them.

**Health: Dealing with Misinformation on COVID-19**

Every day, rumors, misinformation and disinformation about Covid-19 continue to cause a lot of anxiety around the world. Radio Salam team receives all manner of information about the virus from refugees and host communities. Some people say that herbs like the neem, alcohol consumption and smoking can protect them against the virus. Radio Salam hosted a doctor from Samaritan’s Purse and the Director County Health Department in Maban to discuss the spread and prevention of Covid-19. The doctor called on the community to adhere to advice from health people rather than relying on rumours.

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**Community Feedback**

Internews Maban collects feedback on a weekly basis through listening groups, over the phone or by SMS and through direct interactions our staff have with community members. The chart below illustrates the overall categories in which feedback was collected this period.
What We Heard This Week
Feedback from the Community

**IOM Appreciated**
Residents in PoC appreciated IOM for clearing grass in the drainages, for establishing a new toilet in Block (C2) and for reaching a deal with the government for garbage and sewage disposal outside the camp after declaring a lockdown.

Adults & Youths, Location: Sectors 1 & 3, Blocks H&C

**Dietary Concerns**
Residents in Sector 2 Block N requested humanitarian agencies to advise IDP community about what they need to eat to improve their immunity to help fight Covid-19. Boosting ones immunity is one of the preventive measures.

Adults & Youths, Location: Sector 2 Block N

**Need For GBV Awareness**
Parents in the PoC requested humanitarians to raise awareness on GBV issues for both female and male youth about the effect of early marriage, while the closure of schools is on as a result of Covid-19.

Adults & Youths, Location: Sector 1 Block B

**Requests From The Vulnerable**
Elders in PoC requested for cloths, and plastic sheets before the rainy season. They said that whatever they received last year is worn out. They also wanted the drainages unblocked.

Adults & Youths, Location: Sector 1 Block C & H, Sector 3 Block A & B

This week Internews collected feedback from 60 unique individuals:
- (19-25 years) 15%
- (26-35 years) 35%
- (36-45 years) 25%
- (46-60 years) 22%
- (60+ years) 3%

Internews interacted with people through:
- Call-ins 18%
- Informal Meetings 49%
- Listening Groups 33%

A community member speaks to Nile FM correspondent about the role of the community in stopping early marriages. – Photo@Internews
**PEACE & RECONCILIATION: STOP DISCRIMINATION TO BUILD PEACE**

The guest on Nile FM’s Peace And Reconciliation Program said that the community should fight discrimination, racism and disputes among communities through forgiveness and reconciliation. This, the guest added, will encourage social coexistence and trigger mediation to solve disputes. He added that, disputes affect development because they are a source of separations. He Implored the community to respect other people’s opinions to avoid disputes and encouraging them to mutually respect themselves.

**HEALTH: PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT FOR COVID-19 INDUCED STRESS**

A specialist in psychosocial support said that the existence of Covid-19 South Sudan is creating stress in some sections of the community. One of the psychosocial specialists said that, the stress is as a result of accumulations of problems and rumors in the community. The official said that this can be avoided through guidance and encouragement from friends and relatives. “IOM is at hand to offer guidance and support at the psychosocial support center,” said the official. The expert pointed that IOM department of psychosocial support is always ready to help in providing support and awareness.

**WASH PROGRAM: GOOD PRACTICE TO IMPROVE ENVIRONMENTAL HYGIENE**

The Chairperson of Nile Friends Association said that the community should be socially responsible and put into action the advice by humanitarian agencies to improve environmental hygiene. The local leader said that community members should take seriously the advice on prevention of Covid-19 like regular handwashing with clean water and soap. He added that, the community should refrain from forcing other people to shake hands and they should understand that it is a preventive measure in the fight against Covid-19. “For the safety of the communities and the country as whole,” he concluded.