



Stories from South Sudan



Support to Refugees with Special Needs in Jamjang, South Sudan

When Zainab and Yasini look back at their journey to Jamjang in search for a secure place for their families, it brings back some painful memories.

Zainab (32) and Yasini (34), Sudanese refugees from South Kordofan, Nuba Mountains, first came to Pamir camp, South Sudan, in September 2019. Zainab recalls the difficult journey of walking to Pamir with her young son, while Yasini recalls the agonizing moment he made a choice to go with his three girls and two boys, leaving behind his wife and infant son.



Zainab posing for a photo in Jamjang, 2020

Immediately upon arrival, Zainab and Yasini were assisted with Core Relief Items (CRIs) by DRC. The items included cooking pots, jerrycans, sleeping mats, mosquito nets, buckets and soap. For Zainab and Yasini's daughters, DRC provided them with sanitary items to ensure they live with dignity. In addition to the CRIs, Zainab and Yasini were allocated a plot to settle on and provided with clothes.

“After I arrived in Pamir, two years ago, I came with nothing other than the clothes on my body. DRC supported me with essential housing items and provided me jalab (clothes). These items helped me and my son to settle in well and raised our hopes for a long-sought relief,” Zainab recounts.

Access to a safe shelter, is a basic human right. An emergency shelter helps newly arrived refugees settle in and protects from the harsh weather elements in their new settlement. DRC provided both Yasini and Zainab with an emergency shelter kit consisting of a mattress and bed. Last year, Zainab received routine shelter maintenance, as well as basic items such as a basin, soap, sandals, and torch to improve her living conditions.

DRC also provide Zainab and Yasini with donkey cart services to help them transport food rations from the distribution point to their homes. This would ensure the food is not damaged during rainy seasons, making it last longer for consumption.

“Due to my disability, I could not transport my food home; sometimes it would get stolen by the people I hired to transport it. Now with DRC support, I don't have to worry about my food reaching home safely,” says Zainab.

Furthermore, the food rations they receive do not last them an entire month and exchanging it for transport worsened their already dire food situation.

The assistance received from DRC has had a significant impact on their quality of life. The shelter provided has protected Zainab and her son from harsh physical and climatic conditions, promoted good health and dignity. The donkey cart service has also given her relief and more time to attend other community activities such as hall meetings, where she actively participates in the decision-making processes.

“When we first arrived at the camp, I remember me and my son faced a lot of challenges in the shared family tents during the rainy season, which was accompanied by storms, lightning and strong winds. Now, we can sleep comfortably knowing we will be protected no matter the weather condition,” She says.

The most significant change in Yasini's life is increased food security as he can now feed his family. The donkey cart service has eased his life as he gets to transport his food ration safely.

However, both families still face many challenges, such as ensuring enough food is available until the end of the month as the rations are not sufficient. In the future, Yasini hopes to get more resources to expand their shelter to ensure it is big enough for his wife and son to join them. Although they still need more support, Yasini and Zainab say they are hopeful for the future and a better tomorrow, as they continue to raise their kids and provide for their families.



With funds from UNHCR, Danish Refugee Council (DRC) is implementing a multisector refugee response that seeks to improve the lives, safety and dignity of approximately 91,000 Sudanese refugees settled in Ajuong Thok and Pamir camps. The programme aims to reduce the displacement-related risks and vulnerabilities and increase their access to essential services.

Through its Camp Management and Camp Coordination sector, DRC provides material or other non-cash support to Persons with Special Needs (PWSN). Specifically, this support from DRC is in the form of:

- Internal referrals to the DRC Shelter department for the construction of transitional shelters or community roofing support.
- Internal referrals to DRC Livelihoods department for the provision of masks, as well as for vocational training and business skills development opportunities;
- Operation of CRM desks at the location, transportation of food items with donkey carts to PWSN homes, and/or assistance via the fast-track lane during the General Food Distribution.
- Provision of in-kind assistance such as assistive devices, mattresses, sandals.
- Provision of additional food support to highly vulnerable persons with no other coping mechanism who have lost their GFD food ration due to house fire, theft, or other applicable circumstances.

Yasini at his home
in Jamjang, 2020

