

World Vision

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Delivering on our Promise
to Communities in Sudan

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This magazine, is a free thematic semi-annual publication providing information on the impact of World Vision work in Sudan and highlighting stories of hope in the communities that we serve.

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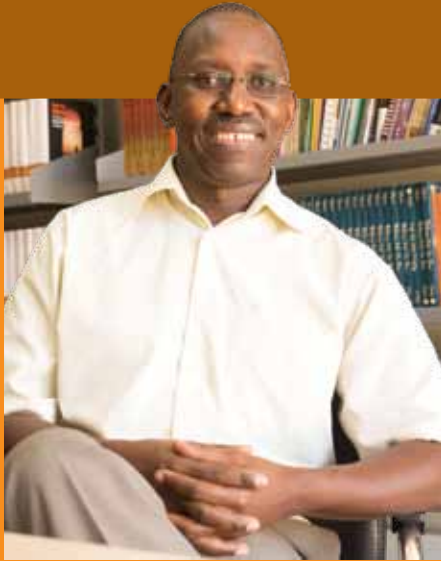
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Insight From Our Country Programme Director



World Vision Sudan's current strategic goal is to reach 700,000 boys and girls by 2015. We aspire to transform the lives of children in Sudan and ensure they enjoy good health, are educated for life, experience the love of God and their neighbours, are loved, cared for and protected. While this may seem like an audacious task, World Vision has so far managed to contribute towards the well-being of 566,667 children in South Darfur, Blue Nile and Khartoum.

What seemed like an insurmountable challenge has been made possible because of the support we have received from our donors and the Government of Sudan. The commitment, passion and hard work of our team of competent staff have also been instrumental to the progress we have made thus far.

In this inaugural issue of our magazine, we take time to bring you closer to the communities that we serve in South Darfur, Blue Nile and Khartoum. Through the voices of the children and their communities, we are sharing stories of transformation and renewed hope, which show that your support is making a difference and is much appreciated.

In this issue we share stories about one of our accountability mechanisms, how we are bringing health care closer to communities, and of one boy in particular, Khalifa who is determined to become a doctor. These are some of the stories that inspire us everyday.

Words and images cannot always capture the exciting change happening in the communities where we work. However, the few stories we share in this publication are glimpse into transformation that has been made possible through your kind support. ▲

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Simon Nyabwengi'.

Simon Nyabwengi



Through your support communities living in areas where we work have access to clean and safe water

Accountability: Opening our programmes to scrutiny by those we serve

By **Luphathe Nyathi**

Accountability, Monitoring & Evaluation Advisor

As a sign of commitment to the communities in Sudan, World Vision has made a deliberate effort to engage beneficiaries to have a say in the projects being implemented. World Vision has designed and rolled out a formal complaints and response mechanism for food assistance beneficiaries living in the camps for internally displaced persons in South Darfur. Using the community help desks and suggestion boxes, World Vision has given a voice to the beneficiaries and their feedback is continuously being used in decision-making and programme modifications.

The feedback mechanism has undergone a number of quality reviews with the most recent being the one conducted by a global network organization known as Action Learning Networking for Accountability in Practice (ALNAP) and Collaborative for Development Action (CDA). The researchers from both organisations established that the feedback mechanism is effectively it being used to inform programme quality and decision-making.

Speaking during one of the review interviews, a principal of a temporary school in Otash camp said, "The suggestion boxes give everyone an opportunity to say something positive or negative and even say thank you".

World Food Programme, a primary partner in food distribution, also lauded the initiative. "We do not want to wait for the quarterly reports for urgent feedback to be submitted. If food is rotten we need to replace it immediately," a WFP staff said during the review interview.

Community help desks and suggestion boxes are used as the primary channel through which World Vision solicits and receives feedback from camp residents about its food assistance programme. The mechanism, which was piloted in 2009, has so far been instituted across all camps where World Vision distributes food. The feedback boxes have also been installed outside the temporary school buildings where World Vision implements

school feeding programmes.

Through this accountability initiative, World Vision introduced other complimentary projects, which were triggered by the feedback from the beneficiaries channelled through the system. Typical examples include the school feeding programme, construction of semi-permanent classrooms, the voucher system and hygiene messaging.

In 2010, World Vision introduced milling vouchers as part of its food assistance programme after repeatedly hearing from residents that they were using part of their monthly rations to pay for milling of the grain. This was a major source of concern for World Vision as partial loss of the grain is a dilution of aid resources and potentially causes nutritional deficiency. Feedback from the community led to World Vision Germany approaching the European Commission's Humanitarian Office (ECHO) to fund a pilot to test the milling voucher feature. This experience informed the strategic decision by WFP to experiment with several types of food vouchers in Darfur.

This feedback mechanism has been praised for being successful in establishing and maintaining some structured ways of engaging with programme and beneficiaries to solicit and respond to their feedback, queries and requests for information. Indeed, World Vision Sudan has been recognised within the World Vision partnership for its accountability initiatives.

Despite the challenging context in Sudan, World Vision is committed to improving accountability to its beneficiaries. ▲





Rhoda Osman and her son two-year-old Aziz

Supporting Communities to Improve Children's Health

By *Susan Amu*
Communications Manager

Rhoda Osman makes her way into a World Vision operated clinic at Otash camp in South Darfur with her two-year-old son, Aziz, cradled in her arms. Aziz is fussy and does not want to leave his mother's arms, he seems weak. Not even the bright colours of the toys in the play area at the clinic will coax him to leave his mother's protective arms.

"This is my first time at this clinic, my son has not been feeling well, so I was encouraged by my neighbours to bring him here for a check-up," Rhoda says.

After being seen by the medical assistant at the clinic, Rhoda was directed to bring her son to the nutrition centre at the camp where World Vision runs an Integrated Blanket Supplementary Feeding Programme.

The nutrition centre at Otash camp gives a much-needed service to over 4,000 children and their families and has been doing so for the past eight years. Out of these, approximately 660 are pregnant women and lactating mothers.

World Vision staff and local leaders, Sheikhs, mobilise women in the camp and the community at large to come to the clinic. They mobilise community members so that they can bring their children to the centre for evaluation and screening to establish their nutrition status and if their growth development is on track. The centre targets children aged between six months and five years old.

Staff at the centre sensitize mothers and caregivers to change their behaviour in terms of how they feed and care for their children. They receive education on the importance of exclusive breastfeeding, complementary feeding, good hygiene and vaccination.

Children are given fortified nutritious food rations to prevent them from becoming malnourished and those such as Aziz who are malnourished are put on therapeutic diets

under a special monitoring Programme. Severe cases with complications are referred to another World Vision Stabilization centre where they get specialized treatment. Every month the centre receives about five to six children who need referral. Pregnant and lactating mothers are also targeted under the same Programme given their additional nutrition needs for the unborn and breastfeeding children respectively. Outreach workers conduct door-to-door active case finding and refer malnourished children to the centre.

"This Programme is serving a very important purpose in this camp. Most internally displaced persons have no source of income, so they cannot feed their children well. This Programme is providing a lifeline for many children in this camp and we are seeing a lot of positive progress in children's growth and development," says Abdul Karim, a World Vision staff member at the centre.

Each day, nutrition staff at the centre hold sessions with mothers and caregivers during which they are taught about the health and psychosocial development of children. During this time, the children are taken to a separate area, where there are toys and open play time. Play therapy is essential as it boosts brain development. Caregivers are also encouraged to play with the children so that they can bond with their little ones.

The centre also provides practical cooking demonstrations three times a week where caregivers can learn appropriate food preparation techniques on how to cook for their children while preserving the nutrition of the food. This also gives the children a chance to share a ready-to-eat meal together three times a week. During each demonstration there are at least 50 children present.

The centre also organizes follow-up home visits to encourage adoption of family health practices taught during health education sessions. The home visits are also essential for follow-up to make sure those enrolled on the Programme stay involved.

"Since 2004, World Vision has been giving significant support to the people in this camp. We are indeed very grateful to World Vision," says Musa Ibrahim Mohammed, a Sheikh of Sheikhs in Otash camp.

Rebirth of Primary Health Care Services in Giessan Locality - Blue Nile State

By **Mohamed Adam Mohamed**
Area Coordinator – Blue Nile Programme



Community members and their leaders celebrate the opening of Abushanina Clinic

World Vision in collaboration with the State Ministry of Health, UNICEF and Pan Health Care has marked a major milestone through an Integrated Primary Health Care Project in Blue Nile State. The project aims to provide improved health services to 133,740 vulnerable and hard-to-reach people in Giessan and Alroseris localities.

Under this project, World Vision Sudan, in partnership with World Vision US, and Pan Health Care with funding from UNICEF have facilitated the rehabilitation and equipping of Abushanina Clinic located in Giessan locality.

Blue Nile State continues to face a number of major health challenges, which range from limited access and poor infrastructure to inadequate utilisation of available health services. Giessan locality is not only underserved with health services and infrastructure but also experiences accessibility challenges due to heavy rains which renders hard-to-reach communities completely cut off for 4-6 months of the year. This in turn results in poor maternal and child health indicators.

Cognisant of these facts, World Vision and its partners found it critical to support the government to improve health care services to the most vulnerable and hard to reach communities in Blue Nile, particularly women and children.

In June 2014 the newly refurbished Abushanina Clinic was officially opened and is now a fully equipped and functional centre providing free health care services to the local community.

Speaking during the opening of the clinic, a representative from the local community, Mr. Elsheikh Alsir Mohamed, expressed delight and thanked the three partners for providing the essential facility to the people.

“We are grateful to World Vision, UNICEF and Pan Care. Now this centre is ready to receive the sick from all villages around this area and provide them with much-needed services. We have been suffering due to lack of health facilities and poor health care, but now we are in a better position due to the efforts of the three organisations” said Mr Mohamed.

A representative from the government, Mr Elsadig Alamain, lauded the work done by the three partners, terming it a positive step in support of the government.

“The rehabilitation and equipping of this clinic is great support to the government. I also would like to thank World Vision and its partners for the mobile clinics that they have provided in several villages around Blue Nile,” he said.

World Vision in collaboration with Pan Care with funding from UNICEF has also launched six mobile clinics in Giessan locality. The clinics aim to support vulnerable and hard-to-reach communities through improved access to free medical services, including basic laboratory services.

Fatima Mohammed, a nurse at Alliona clinic, said this was a major lifeline for the community. “I have been working here since 2010 supporting the community with very limited resources. The launch of this project is like a dream come true for me, because we have been suffering a lot and now we have a lifeline. I am very grateful to World Vision, Pan Health Care and UNICEF for bringing these vital services closer to the people,” Ms Mohammed said.

World Vision and its partners remain committed to improving health care services for vulnerable communities in Blue Nile through support to preventative, promotional and curative services at existing primary health care clinics and complementary mobile clinics. ▲

World Vision Sudan In Pictures



We work to ensure children live in an environment where they are cared for, protected, and loved. We work to prevent and respond to abuse, neglect, exploitation and violence against children and youth, to ensure they are nurtured, and live in a safe environment.

Economic and agriculture development is essential for poverty reduction as it helps families and communities give children the best start in life. We support interventions that improve communities' access to food and improved economic status. We also support communities to have access to clean and safe water and to practice good hygiene and sanitation.



Health With A Difference: Positively Impacting Our Environment



▶ *Manal, a patient attendant at Dearing Primary Health Care clinic in Bau locality (Blue Nile) joins clinic staff to plant trees*

Deforestation and desertification as well as scarcity of water are some of the main environmental concerns facing Darfur states, including South Darfur where World Vision is operational. According to the Environment tip sheet for 2014 Sudan Humanitarian Work Plan (www.unep.org), North and Central Darfur have lost 70% of their forest cover. The reduction of forest cover in the Darfur states is mainly as a result of human activities.

A team of World Vision Sudan health staff under the auspices of *Club-Tameen Al mostagbal* (لبق تسملا نيمأت) has gone the extra mile to invest time and resources to plant trees at the Primary Health Care centres where they work. The staff have committed to go beyond the call of duty and plant a total of 200 trees within a period of two years. By this quarter, the club had managed to reach 50% of the target they set when the club was launched in May 2014.

In Blue Nile state, World Vision staff in partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture and Pan Health Care a national health NGO have planted 70 trees at six Primary Health Care centers. In South Darfur state, the club members have planted 27 trees bringing the total in both states to 97 trees planted in 10 primary health care centers in one year. The species that have been planted include fruit and shade trees such as mango, guava, brazilia, lime, neem, willows (*dignabasha*), *fiscus* (*figis*) and mahogany.

"I believe planting trees is an act of worship and charity," says Nour Eldin a medical assistant at Manawashi Primary Health Care clinic in Mershing locality of South Darfur state. Manawashi clinic is under World Vision management

funded by USAID and World Vision US to provide lifesaving essential health care to communities.

"Ordinarily, this would be beyond my job description, however, working with World Vision, has encouraged me to plant trees at my work station. As health workers, we have so far planted twelve trees at this clinic including lime, neem, *dignabasha* and figs. Working with my colleagues at the health centre in planting and nurturing the trees has enhanced our social interaction as a team across our diverse roles in the facility. We jointly ensure that the trees thrive. Most importantly, these trees will in future provide shade at the clinic, nutritious fruits, preserve the environment as well as secure our wellbeing as a community," Eldin adds.

Dr. Ibrahim Mohammed, World Vision health Supervisor in Blue Nile Programme says the planting of trees will contribute significantly to securing the health of Sudanese children in the future. This is in addition to appropriate awareness raising, medical waste management, solid waste management, use of fuel efficient cooking techniques and use of Stabilized Soil Bricks for clinic construction.

World Vision Sudan remains committed to step up the 'environmental marker' by integrating environment into humanitarian programming; working with communities to improve outcomes, create multiple benefits but more so to save the future for generations to come.

In 2015, World Vision health staff pledge to plant 103 trees at the various Primary Health Care centres. We shall also encourage communities that we work with including children to plant trees at the household level. ▲

The family is the fundamental element of any society and the natural environment for the growth, wellbeing and protection of children. For 15-year-old Refaat, like many other children earning a living on the streets of Khartoum, they do not have the luxury of growing up in a nurturing family environment.

“My father died when I was five years old and my mother re-married. My five siblings and I lived with my mother and stepfather until I was 12 years old. My mother decided to relocate with my stepfather and my younger siblings to another residence. My brothers and I were left under the care of my grandmother,” Refaat begins recounting the story of his life.

“My brother and I were forced to drop out of school due to lack of school fees. I was in class 7 when I dropped out which was right before I could sit my final primary school examination,” he says.

Having dropped out of school, Refaat began working in the local market assisting his grandmother who sells vegetables.

“I would leave home at 8.00am and return at 4.00pm. My daily income averaged at Sudanese Pounds 14-20 (approximately USD3). Life as a child earning a living on the street is difficult. I would move from street to street searching for odd jobs, so that I am able to provide for my brother and I. Sometimes pedestrians were helpful but at times they would abuse and harass us. The biggest challenge of living on the street was the constant harassment from the police. They often would claim we were criminals,” Refaat recounts.

From a Street Vendor to a Skilled Motor Vehicle Mechanic

By *Nosiba Mahamoud Adan*

Project Officer, Child Care & Gender Development

A chance meeting between Refaat and a WorldVision social worker would become a major turning point in his life.

“After meeting the World Vision social worker who took an interest in my life and met with my caretaker, I was enrolled at Abu Zaid Centre where I begun to undertake a vocational course in vehicle mechanics,” he says.

Refaat is now one of the 1,800 street children who are benefitting from the ‘Khartoum Street Children’s Project,’ which is being funded by World Vision Australia. The aim of the project is to ensure that street children are able to contribute positively to their own lives and that of their family.

“I am very happy and grateful to WorldVision for giving me this opportunity. I am now in the last stage of my training and I am very hopeful about my future. When I go into full-time employment after my training, I will save money and go back to school to complete my studies. I want to achieve my dream of becoming an engineer,” an optimistic Refaat concludes. ▲



Refaat at the Abu Zaid Training Centre

Supporting Children to Fulfill their Dreams

By Adam Yahia

Child Care & Gender Development Officer



Fourteen-year-old Khalifa

Fourteen-year-old Khalifa and his family of six siblings and parents have been living at the Al Salaam camp for internally displaced for the last six years. Conditions at the camp are tough and Khalifa and his siblings are forced to work to supplement their mother's meager earnings.

"My father suffers from polio which has affected his leg and arm and thus he is not able to walk. My mother is the only breadwinner in the family but what she makes is not enough. Two of my elder brothers recently sat for their final exams and were to join secondary school but they had to go and work in El Fasher, the capital city of North Darfur, to make money for school fees," Khalifa says.

Al Salaam camp is located near Nyala in South Darfur and is home to about 60,600 internally displaced persons. According to statistics from UNICEF, majority of persons living in the camps in Darfur are women and children. Most of the families in the camp have been left under the care of women and in some extreme cases there are children-led households. Due to these factors, there is a high rate of child labour in South Darfur, which currently stands at 60%. This means that majority of the children in the camps are not going to school or are forced to work after school. According to UNICEF 13% of children in Sudan are involved in child labour.

Khalifa is one of the 500 children who have been enrolled at the child-friendly space operated by World Vision in Al Salaam camp. The facility offers an environment for children

to come and learn basic numeracy and literacy skills as well as get an opportunity to play and interact with other children.

"With my elder brothers gone, I have to help my mother in the farm during the rainy season and after the harvest go to the market to sell some of the produce. There are times I have been forced to work in restaurants to help support my family. However, since I enrolled at the World Vision centre I spend more of my time here learning and playing with my friends," he says.

"The centre has helped me very much because now I have a chance to play my favourite game of football with my friends and the animators. I also get to learn and participate in other activities at the centre. My parents are very happy with what we are doing at the centre and they keep encouraging me to come," Khalifa says.

Besides playing football, Khalifa says he enjoys drama and acting at the centre since it gives him a chance to tell jokes and laugh with his friends.

"My friends who are not enrolled at the centre keep asking me to speak to the leaders and help them join us," he says with delight.

As he concludes, Khalifa says, "at least now my dream of becoming a doctor is not dead. I know one day I will qualify as a doctor." ▲

Our Staff: Focus on those behind the scenes

Ali Ibrahim is in charge of World Vision Sudan's work in Blue Nile. Among staff he is respected for his passion, dedication and responsive nature, which makes working with him a great joy. We ask Ali to explain what inspires him to keep working to reach the most vulnerable in society.

What exactly is your role at World Vision Sudan, Blue Nile Office?

I am the Blue Nile Programme Coordinator. My current responsibilities entail ensuring the implementation of sound performance management and that programme risks are effectively managed. I am also required to ensure that all the staff in Blue Nile programme are well equipped to meet their obligations. I ensure staff roles and responsibilities are clearly defined and that they are able to perform their respective roles without conflict. I also have to ensure that World Vision assets in Blue Nile are secure and that policies and procedures are followed at all times.

For how long have you worked for World Vision?

I have been with World Vision for exactly six years and ten days now.

Your role in Blue Nile is one of leadership, what vision do you have for the programme you manage and World Vision Sudan in general?

My vision is aligned to that of the World Vision Partnership, which is, "Our vision for every child, life in all its fullness; our prayer for every heart, the will to make it so.

It is my hope that we shall have stability, expansion and success in order for us to achieve our country strategy, and in turn contribute to the well-being of children in Sudan.

What are some of the challenges you have encountered in your work and how did you overcome them?

The main challenge has been operating in a very difficult environment and context due to the conflict in Blue Nile. The repercussion has been we

experience difficulty in accessing target areas due to restrictions on staff movement. We also lack up-to-date information which in turn affects programme management. However, with support from the National Office in Khartoum, we have been able to develop appropriate procedures and tools to work within our current context.

The other challenge that I face is trying to strike a balance between work and my family life. This is often difficult and more often than not, you find yourself more focused on work than the family. I am grateful to have a very supportive family

who understand the nature and demands of humanitarian work and the sacrifices we have to make to ensure we deliver our promise to the communities that we serve.

What motivates you to come to work everyday?

My deep belief that I am performing a mission and not just doing ordinary work.

What is your source of encouragement?

The deep feeling of happiness and internal assurance that what I do



▶ Ali Ibrahim

decreases the suffering of the most vulnerable people including children in my society.

What is your greatest source of inspiration?

The greatest source of my inspiration is my father's teachings and advice to me. He taught me that according to our religious teachings, 'the good of you is the good for others'. So in order to be a good man or a good woman, you have to devote all or most of your time, effort and money for the good of others who are in need.

Is there a life event or experience that has shaped who you are or how you work?

During my early days in school I was assigned to do a presentation during a cultural occasion organised by the school. Initially, I hesitate and expressed unwillingness to make the presentation. My class teacher did not express anger at my lack of zeal, instead he took me to his office and quietly told me that since I had been assigned the responsibility, it was a sign of confidence in my capabilities and so I had to respect that belief they had in me. He told me that in order to be successful in life, you have to respect the confidence that people have in you and do all you can to deliver on the assignment you are given. He encouraged me to always endeavour to do the best I can and surpass expectation, and at the same time suppress fear and any doubt I might have. This event and the advice I received from my teacher was a

major turning point in my life and served to shape my life into adulthood.

What would you describe as your success formula?

Desire backed up by faith. I consistently push aside feelings of doubt and reasons not to do something, and inspire myself to soldier on.

Please give us a quote you live by?

Knowledge is only a potential power, it becomes power only when and if, it is organised into definite plans of action and directed to a definite end.

Who are the people that inspire you?

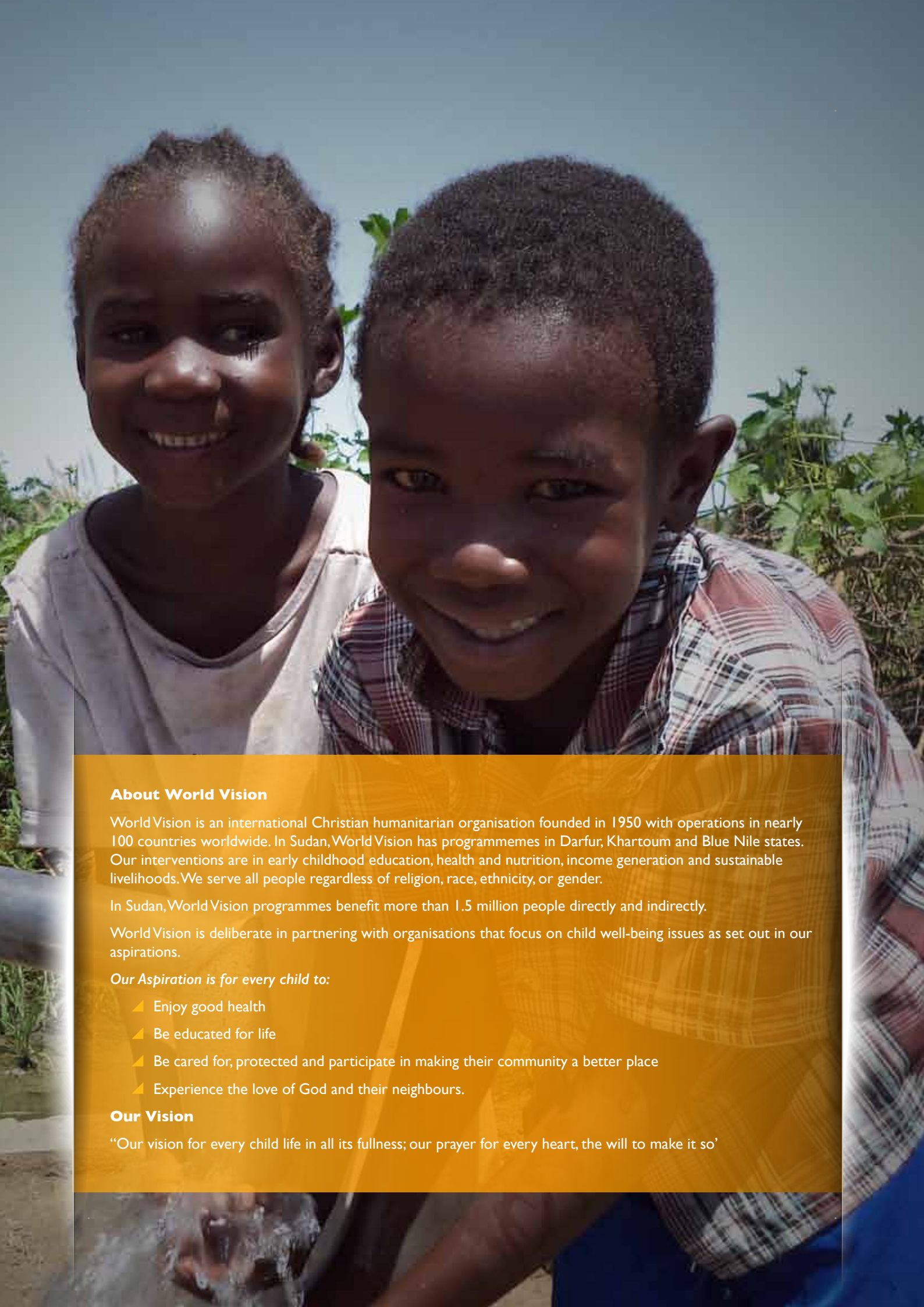
There is an array of managers I have worked with, who have inspired me throughout my career. In addition, my wife is my role model because she has been by my side through it all and shared in my success and failures and has kept encouraging and supporting.

Tell us about your family?

I have a relatively small family according to Sudanese standards. My wife and I have three children, a boy aged 12 years old and two daughters aged nine and six years respectively. My wife is a teacher. We are a simple and happy family who enjoy good relations with our extended family, friends and neighbours. ▲



▶ Ali Ibrahim and colleagues during a seed distribution fair



About World Vision

World Vision is an international Christian humanitarian organisation founded in 1950 with operations in nearly 100 countries worldwide. In Sudan, World Vision has programmes in Darfur, Khartoum and Blue Nile states. Our interventions are in early childhood education, health and nutrition, income generation and sustainable livelihoods. We serve all people regardless of religion, race, ethnicity, or gender.

In Sudan, World Vision programmes benefit more than 1.5 million people directly and indirectly.

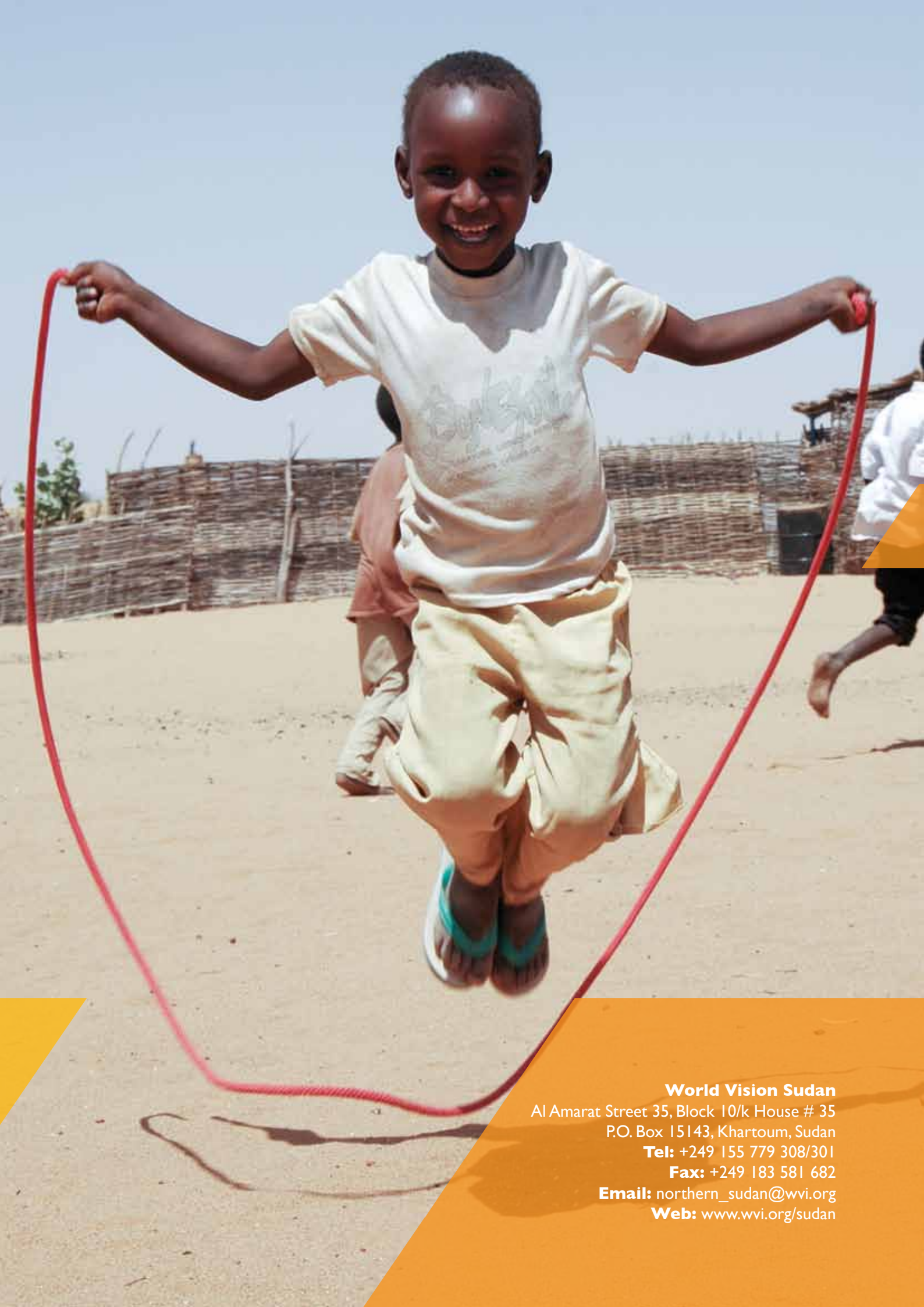
World Vision is deliberate in partnering with organisations that focus on child well-being issues as set out in our aspirations.

Our Aspiration is for every child to:

- ▲ Enjoy good health
- ▲ Be educated for life
- ▲ Be cared for, protected and participate in making their community a better place
- ▲ Experience the love of God and their neighbours.

Our Vision

“Our vision for every child life in all its fullness; our prayer for every heart, the will to make it so”



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