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 **World Renew S. Sudan** 18h
@worldrenew_ssud
#AdventEvenings #ChangingtheStory
from conflict to peace bit.ly/1OiuSSm
#Peace #PeaceOnEarth
pic.twitter.com/2Bu5pLHRkm



 **World Renew S. Sudan** 31 Aug
@worldrenew_ssud
President has signed a peace deal
with rebels. Pray that this will indeed
lead to a more peaceful nation.
#praymonday bbc.in/1NBBS15
Show Summary

 **World Renew S. Sudan** 27 Jul
@worldrenew_ssud
A fervent prayer against the
#NubaMountain bombing.Sudan
gov. is bombing civilians to keep
resources out. nyti.ms/1SAiilK

Tweet to @worldrenew_ssud

Healing Slowly A Story of Transformation



By Hedd Thomas
Country Representative
South Sudan Team

Many people ask what the healing of trauma looks like. The trauma we face here is the emotional and spiritual damage caused by warfare and violence. In our context, healing starts with recognising trauma, praying, and working towards healing and reconciliation. Then, it's time to start a new life without fear, pain, and resentment. This healing is a process that some can complete in a matter of days, while for others it can take a very long time. Listening, counselling, prayer, scripture, and encouragement are the tools we use. Healing takes people from a very negative and extremely destructive mind-set to the harmony that God intends for us.

Since last year, World Renew in South Sudan has worked with several local partners to train new trauma healing guides who can facilitate this process. That training takes 22 days and was spread out over about 3 months. The guides are volunteers from various churches. The church, and us as individual Christians, have a God-given role to bring peace and healing to others. The Bible provides all the guidelines, as well as inspiration. Addressing widespread trauma, revenge attacks, and the violence it breeds, has taken us onto a path that runs parallel to our agriculture program. South Sudan has multiple challenges; food shortages and conflict are only two of those, and we have made them a priority due to the urgency. In 2014, it was estimated that 40% of people in South Sudan live with high levels of conflict-related trauma. In most countries, the figure would be well under 10%.

Healing trauma takes time. People who've been brutalised, seen family members murdered, raped, or maimed, along with losing their homes and livelihoods, live with images of horror and despair in their damaged mem-

Rose Reja is one of our pioneering volunteers in the ministry of healing trauma among conflict affected people.



ories. They often have a powerful urge for violent revenge which perpetuates

conflict by starting another cycle of violence. Recovery requires gentle and carefully placed Biblical assurance, Christian love, and an effective healing process.

After honing our skills in Yei, our main program area, we've now started providing training for 63 new trauma healing guides at two churches in Lainya, about 40 miles from Yei. In September 2015, that area became a new conflict zone in a civil war that is now affecting every state. Just outside Lainya, communities became involved in an armed rebellion caused by land grabbing, violence against civilians, and xenophobia. The trained guides will facilitate healing among 1,500 families in the first year, of those displaced in Lainya, most of whom are women and children. Due to the profile of the displaced community a large percentage of our newly trained guides are women.

Please pray that God will heal our land, and pray for our volunteers as they offer a process of healing to the thousands of women emerging from horror and devastation. Please pray for us as we use the Bible to encourage and facilitate reconciliation. Healing takes women and their families from anger, despair, and a spirit of revenge into a place where reconciliation and new-found harmony eventually bring peace.