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 **World Renew S. Sudan**
@worldrenew_ssud
Lord thank you for changing Edna Doruba's story and giving her hope
bit.ly/1UjF7Ng #praymonday
@Foodgrains



  22 Feb

 **World Renew S. Sudan**
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Lord be with those who have experienced trauma from the extreme violence in South Sudan
bit.ly/1Sc1x2P #pray #praymonday

  15 Feb

Faith Shines in South Sudan

A Story of Transformation



By Hedd Thomas
Country Representative
South Sudan Team

Edna Doruba moved slowly through her small farm and stopped under a shade tree.

"Let's pray before we talk about the farm," she said. "Dear lovely God you are our care-taker, in all these times we praise you for your goodness, thank you for taking care of my family, I pray that you continue to bless us in these difficult times, in Jesus' name I pray, Amen."

She paused for a moment and looked at the field. "This has been a good season for us here in Pukuka, we have seen progress, and God has been gracious," she began.

Her gratitude may come as a surprise to some people. Poverty levels in South Sudan are shocking. The region has suffered from over 25 years of civil war. Thousands of families were displaced for decades and this has greatly reduced farming knowledge and skills.

Even though South Sudan is currently experiencing a time of peace, most farmers only produce enough food to last them eight months of the year. The other four months, families survive on very little – scavenging, hunting, and gathering wild plants.

The war has also left physical side effects. This includes mental health issues caused by trauma, blindness, amputations, and many other disabilities.

Like so many of those who survived the civil war, Edna has a disability that makes farming difficult. She was also abandoned by her husband and struggles with chronic poverty. To make matters even worse, her



Mrs. Edna Doruba in her kitchen

husband raises livestock and sometimes brings his goats to graze on Edna's property. Last year, they destroyed some of her crops and left her with even less to eat.

If faced with similar circumstances, many of us would feel anger or despair, but Edna is a determined farmer with a strong faith.

In 2015, Edna joined a World Renew agriculture recovery program. This program is funded through World Renew's Canadian Foodgrains Bank account and is aimed at working with poor, disadvantaged, and disabled men and women who are supporting their families by farming. One of the key strategies it uses is Farmer Field Schools.

Farmer field schools are groups of farmers who meet for one day every month to learn from each other and participate in practical training sessions. World Renew is working with 27 farmer field schools - about 700 farmers - across South Sudan. This includes Edna and 23 other farmers in Pukuka.

Edna has received seeds and tools from World Renew. From her Farmer Field School she has also learned new tech-

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niques such as crop spacing for improved growth and easier weeding.

She is already seeing results from these lessons. "I planted 20 pounds of peanut seed and harvested over 400 pounds. I also harvested 400 pounds of corn in that same season, which is much more than before," she said. Edna also keeps ducks and she grows millet and sorghum.

World Renew will continue to work with Edna and the Pukuka farmer field school in 2016, and stand with Edna as she solves these family problems to prevent further crop damage. In the coming year, the Farmer Field School will learn about ways to improve the quality of the soil.

For now, however, Edna is grateful for what God has provided. "I encourage my friends and neighbors to praise God more and more for the blessings He is giving us."



Some of the discarded weapons of war recovered by demining teams in recent months. The Yei area where we work is one of the most heavily mined areas in South Sudan. These are the kinds of explosives that caused Michael Wani to lose his leg.

On March 6, many churches across Canada will be holding a Canadian Foodgrains Bank Sunday offering. Your gifts towards World Renew's account at the Canadian Foodgrains Bank will make it possible for programs like this to continue so that more people such as Edna can be helped.

Please give generously.

Those in the United States can also support this ministry through your gifts to "South Sudan" or "International Disaster Response - Where needed most."

Michael Wani, another member of the Farmer Field School, shows the new thatched roof on his family kitchen. A successful harvest means home repairs can be done.

International Women's Day in South Sudan

Today the determination and energy of the women who set off to celebrate International Women's Day in Tore, about 24 miles from our Yei office, was wonderful. Women here need to celebrate and have their high status affirmed. South Sudan has long ignored or under-valued women. Not today.

This is the team of women from World Renew and local church leaders just before they set off.

