In Bentiu, Internews’ Humanitarian Information Service (HIS) implements a communicating with communities (CwC) program to increase information sharing. The program operates Kondial 97.2 FM, a humanitarian radio station inside the Bentiu PoC, conducting listening groups to gather community feedback. If you have information to be shared with the PoC or humanitarians, please contact: Humanitarian Project Manager Akiiki Tusiime (atusiime@internews.org) or Team Leader Pout Tuor (ptuor@internews.org).

Internews staff interviews DRC women who are producing soaps locally in Bentiu town. Photo© Internews

What We Heard This Week

Feedback from the Community

Pitch Looks Good!
Residents thanked IOM for flattening football pitch in Bentiu PoC.
   Youth, sector 4 Block 9

Thanks for Good Services World Relief!
Residents expressed their gratitude to World relief for good health services in sector 2.
   Adult & youth, Sector 2, block B

Thanks for Keeping Our Children Healthy
Inhabitants thanked nutrition partners for feeding the malnourished children to become healthy.
   Adult & youth, PoC

We Don’t Know What Causes Cough in PoC
Residents reported that they are wondering why many people have whooping cough. They asked health partners to raise awareness on what is going on.
   Adult & youth, Sector 1 & 2, PoC

Eye infection Among Children Reported in PoC.
Residents reported that eye problem is common among children in PoC, they requested health partners to educate them about what could be the cause and how it can be prevented.
   Adult & youth, PoC

Malaria! Why Again?
Residents voiced concerns about many people feeling unwell due to malaria. They requested health partners to increase working hours.
   Adult & youth, PoC

Awareness about STI’s please
Residents reported increase of sexually transmitted infections (STI). They requested health partners do education awareness about STI and its prevention methods.
   Adult & youth, Bentiu

Good That Road Maintenance Begins
Residents felt happy to see road maintenance has started in PoC. they directed their appreciation to IOM camp management.
   Adult & youth, PoC

Good Job Peacekeepers!
Residents thanked UNMISS peacekeepers for being on time when their help is needed by residents in PoC. they directed their appreciation to UNPOL and Monbat.
   Adult, PoC

New Latrines in Sector 2 Celebrated
Residents have expressed gratitude to WASH partners for constructing latrines in their block. The appreciation was directed to IOM WASH.
   Adults, Sector 2 block 2 & 17

This week Internews
collected 35 unique feedbacks:
   • Youth (18–35 years old) 11%
   • Adults (over 35 years old) 89%

Internews interacted with
300 people through:
   • Listening Group 31%
   • Informal Meeting 43%

Data collected from:
137 females (46%)
and 163 males (54%)
WASH PROGRAM: Floods Alert Education

After report about floods that displaced thousands of people in parts of greater unity. Kondial FM in collaboration with WASH partners produced and aired hygiene messages that alert people on how to prevent diseases that are prone during flooding. Kondial FM recorded a program with DG of state ministry of health and environment Dr. Duol Biem who raised concerns about prevalence of diarrhea, snake bites and animal diseases in floods affected areas of greater Mayom. Among the areas affected by floods include greater Mayom, Guit, Rubkona and Koch. During interview earlier the DG of state ministry of information Mr. Kang Bol reported that Bul west of Mayom were most affected by the floods. Humanitarian response team had flown to Mayom and Mankien to understand the situation and identify the needs for appropriate intervention.

EDUCATION SHOW: Girls Education Support

Schoolgirls in Bentiu PoC believe that traditional norms are reasons that led to some parents not to believe in girls’ education. While on weekly education program on Kondial FM, schoolgirls mobilize support from public –specially parents to allow them equal rights to education as boys. Nyapuot Kuol from Lich primary mentioned during the show that number of girls in school is less compared to boys due to norms that favor boys to girls’ education. Another girl said girls are given more work to do at home than to study. Several people who phone in during the program were in support of equal opportunity for both girls and boys to study without discrimination. Some feedbacks collected from elders after the program indicated that norms which discriminate girls from exercising their rights will be revised.

WASH SHOW: Community Leaders Carry Hygiene Awareness

Practice of poor hygiene triggers fear of possible diseases in PoC. Kondial FM mobilized community leaders to talk about their role to promote hygiene. While appearing on radio, Sector 2 leader Khana Gai thanked WASH partners for educating community about hygiene. He advised residents to keep their blocks clean and wash their hands with soap and water. Another community leader mentioned that they share information with residents not to misuse latrines and avoid practice of open defecation. Several feedbacks gathered after the show indicates that people get to know the importance of hygiene promotion. Kondial FM will continue airing PSAs about hygiene promotion from WASH partners.

YOUTH OF PEACE SHOW: Youth Talking About Peace and Respect

Kondial FM produced program that focused on peace and respect among people within PoC. This was after a feedback collected from listening group indicated that several youngsters show little respect to their elders and women. During the show, youth from church were mobilized to talk about how young people can behave. Appearing on radio, a youth leader from Presbyterian church in PoC told his fellow youth to respect elders and as they do to their parents. Another youth member encouraged youngsters to build the future by joining schools, attend church services and learn new skill for generating income. Many people who phoned in during the show thanked the youth for coming up with topic about peace and respect.

Community Feedback

Internews Bentiu 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

Girls Decries Lack of Sanitary Items
Girls in Ajuong Thok said, they have spent 6 months without receiving dignity kits. One girl said, we face challenges in dealing with menstruation, we request the protection partners to help us with dignity kits.
Youth, block 61, Ajuong Thok

Open Defecation can Stop if More Digging Tools are Provided
Refugees in Ajuong Thok requested WASH partners to provide them with latrines digging tools. One member said, “we could not dig latrines due to lack of digging tools, we request concerned agencies to provide us with tools to help in combating open defecation.”
Adults, block 39, Ajuong Thok

Community Leader Says Poor Coordination Causes Misunderstanding and Accusations
The deputy leader of block 39 in Ajuong Thok, requested from agencies to coordinate with them before any distribution to avoid blames and accusations between the beneficiaries and block leaders.
Adults, Block 39, Ajuong Thok

We Missed out from Receiving Cash
Some female learners in Ajuong Thok said, Windle Trust did not include their names in the list to receive cash as part of supporting girls education. “we want to be included in the next list to receive cash distribution, we want money like other girls to buy soaps and provide for other needs”.
Youth, block 61, Ajuong Thok

Students Asks for New Exercise Books
Learners in Ajuong Thok said the school exercise books are exhausted and need new exercise books, “we cannot buy from the local markets because we lack money, give us new books to take notes during our lessons”.
Youth, block 61, Ajuong Thok

Open Child Friendly Space Pose Danger to Children
Parents in Pamir requested LWF to make fence around Baankhy CFS because it poses danger to the lives of children.
Adults, block 27, Pamir

IRC Requested to Increase Numbers of Beneficiaries
Refugees in Pamir camp requested IRC to increase the number of beneficiaries who receive seeds annually. One member added that IRC only distribute seeds to 25 persons yearly which is not enough, we need IRC to increase the number of beneficiaries to help us improve our life through agriculture.
Adults, block 27, Pamir

Provide Either Salt or Increase Cash to Compensate for Salt
Refugees in Pamir said, they have been receiving food for several months without salt and they cannot afford to buy salt from market. They ask WFP to increase the grinding mill cash to enable them use some of the cash for buying salt.
Adults, block 26, Pamir
Repeated Traveling of Parents Affects Children Education

In children program, Jamjang FM produced a pre – recorded program about repeated travels of some members of the refugee community. Speaking on the program, the chairperson of Ajuong Thok camp said, “when parents travel often, it causes children to quit schools and this distracts their focus on education”. He went on to explain that when the family is stable at one location, it is good for children education, health, security and social integration. The chairperson urged refugees in Ajuong Thok camp to stop traveling randomly to avoid security risk along the roads.

Mental Health Counselor Explains Psychotherapy for People with Mental Problems.

In our health program, a psychologist from IRC helping people with mental health issues in Pamir explained on Jamjang FM in a pre – recorded program that, people with mental illness need support from family, friends and community; he stressed that “people with mental illness needs to be integrated within the community, to be shown love, respect and to be valued”. He added that; people with mental disorder need access to basic needs like food, shelter and medication. He urged the community to show respect to such vulnerable people, “engage them in the community day to day activities” he concluded.

Support Conservation Through Environmental Awareness

To sensitize the community about the importance of conserving the environment, DRC Food Security and Livelihood (FSL) manager spoke on Jamjang FM in a pre – recorded program to announce to the public that, DRC will conduct an awareness campaign starting 1st November 2019, explaining that the aim of campaign is to raise community awareness about the importance of protecting the environment by using alternatives like the use of fuel efficient stoves, benefiting from the woodlot projects and protect trees by marking them. He said during the program that, DRC will be distributing trees to the refugees and host community to keep the environment safe. In addition, he urged the community members not to burn the dry grass around the bush, explaining that the burning of grass cause the soil to be infertile and not useful for agriculture.

Community Feedback

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Feedback</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food Distribution</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FSL</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Food Items</td>
<td>31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nutrition</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peace</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Protection</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shelter</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WASH</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Detailed: Protection

This graph details the feedback on Protection that was received this week.

- Children: 13%
- Women: 6%
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What We Heard This Week
Feedback from the Community

Thanks for organizing handwashing competition
Winners of global handwashing competition appreciated IOM WASH for the well-organized questions for the competition. They said the questions and answers given will improve hygiene particularly before eating any food.

Youths & Adults, PoC & Malakal town

Providing school materials and cash support for girl education
Parents of school going girls have urged concerned agencies in education cluster to provide school materials and cash support for the girls. They said provision of school materials and cash support will keep girls in schools, consequently reducing early child marriages.

Adults, PoC & Malakal town

Elders asked for blankets
Elders in Malakal town said the weather has changed and is now cold at night due to the winter season. The elders request concerned agencies to help them with blankets so that they protect themselves from the cold weather.

Elders, Malakal town

Ongoing Mental health awareness to reduce suicide
Listeners of NILE FM appreciated IOM mental health department for the awareness campaign over Nile FM every week. IOM team said its encouraged to continue engaging the community to bring positive change on reduction and elimination of suicide among the population where Nile FM broadcast coverage reaches.

Youths & Adults, PoC & Malakal town

Thanks for organizing elections for sectors leaders
Residents in PoC thanked DRC, humanitarians, and UNMISS for conducting sector leaders’ elections. They said it is better to let others try their chances of helping their communities.

Youths & Adults, sector 1

Children appreciated Intersos for sports items provided
Children in PoC thanked Intersos for providing them with football and volleyballs. They said the sport item will help them play and live together in peace and harmony.

Children, Sector 4

Dancing square needs to be cleaned
The cultural dance groups representing different ethnicity in Malakal have called for the cleaning of the dancing square to allow resumption of cultural activities. The groups said they would like to pass on their culture to their children before adopting outside cultures. They said they are worried because the dance square needs in-depth cleaning as it was one of the locations the war in Malakal took place and it may still have unexploded ordnances. The cultural groups are asking any concerned agency to step in by providing T-shirts and cleaning tools for the group to undertake the cleaning exercise.

Youths & Adults, PoC & Malakal town

Ongoing Mental health awareness to reduce suicide
This week Internews collected 66 unique feedbacks:
- School Age (11-18 years old) 6%
- Youth (18-35 years old) 48%
- Adults (over 35 years old) 42%
- Elderly (Over 60 years old) 3%

Internews interacted with 622 people through:
- Listening Group 82%

Data collected from:
- 361 females (58%)
- 261 males (42%)

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Youths & Adults, PoC & Malakal town

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In line with South Sudan’s revitalized peace agreement, NILE FM peace & reconciliation producer asked some community members to propose ways on how different ethnic groups will maintain peace after the South Sudan conflict. A community member explained that when the war comes to an end, people from different ethnic groups must forget everything that happened in the past. He added that this first step will help open a new page that could promote peace between the different ethnic groups. Another person said that if people from different ethnic groups always mediate in solving various problems, they will help in avoiding the problems from being extended.

An elder shared his experience saying that a small problem is always made big if is not handled well. He said if a problem occurs between one or two people from different ethnic groups, this problem should be stopped at that early stage. It should not be allowed to become an ethnic problem but must remain a problem of two people.

NILE FM protection program producer mobilized some of the community members to suggest how everyone in the community can contribute to disciplining children. A community member suggested that parents and the family should guide their children to respect and accept help from mature person in the community, especially from the elderly. Another person said that the absence of parental care at home creates huge gap in child discipline at home. Another community member explained that for a family and community to have disciplined children, the question of discipline must be a collective responsibility. Finally, a community member added that the most important thing to enhance discipline in children is to send them to school where they can learn other aspects of discipline including working heard and being focused.

After DRC Camp Management announced the block and sector leaders’ elections on 1st November 2019, NILE FM CCCM program producer interviewed some community members from different blocks and sectors to express their preparedness for the elections. A community member explained that he welcomed the community leaders’ elections, and he urged the new leaders who will be elected to work hard in coordination with UNMISS and humanitarians to enhance service delivery. Another community member said that for the new elected leaders to have success on their work they must share meeting notes with all the leaders in the different structures including women, and youth, and the elderly. According to this member, sharing information widely with various leaders will avoid misunderstanding among the different community leaders and the agencies who provide services. Lastly, A woman suggested that the community should respect their former sector & block leaders by organizing an occasion to say thank you for giving their time in service of the community.

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Program Highlights

Questions and Answers on EVD
Internews team produced a pre-recoded panel discussion program hosting the Coordinator for World Health Organization (WHO), the Program Manager for Save the Children and the Project Officer for AAHi to respond to rumors and feedbacks on Ebola. The team addressed over 50 rumors to the health partners, the guests commented on rumors of EVD transmission, clarified some concepts of bushmeat, screening points at the border, and the experts provided some tips and advice to the listeners.

Causes, prevention and Effects of Malnutrition to Children or Pregnant Mothers
Internews Yei Community Correspondent interviewed some expectant mothers and breast-feeding mothers in Yei Civil hospital. They pointed out that they lack proper feeding leading to malnutrition cases in the hospital. The Health worker in Yei Civil hospital explains the kind of support they normally give to the malnourished children. The health worker said the give food including milk and cereal plus according to the wight but not treatment. The Nutrition officer for ACROSS said it is good for the expectant mothers to eat well. The same applies to the breast-feeding mothers to eat well and do not give water to the child up to six months. But after six months the child can then be given water and soft food. They are also advised to report any case to the nearest health facility.

Epilepsy symptoms, causes and treatments
Internews Yei community correspondent interviewed some community members living with epilepsy in Yei. A mother of two girls with Epilepsy, said that she suffers with her two daughters who are suffering from the disease before she get the pills from Martha Primary Health Care Center free of charged. But now she's buying the pills from the pharmacy. She asked the concerned humanitarian agencies to support them with food, medicine and transport, incase her children get epileptic seizure. While the Community Health Rehabilitation Supervisor for COED (community organization for empowerment and development) explained to the community the symptoms, causes and treatments of epilepsy. He added that the disease couldn't be spread from one person to another. COED supervisor advised those people not to segregate epilepsy patients and the community should treat them with respect and kindness.

Basic Rights of People Living With HIV/AIDS
Internews Yei community correspondent interviewed some members in the community who are HIV/AIDS positive in Yei Civil Hospital and cancellers in the same hospital. In the program, one of the women said that “the time I was tested it was in 2010 and I was in a fear and I was about to commit suicide” She appealed to people not to fear HIV/AIDS test. Another HIV/AIDS carrier said that “when I decided to go for the testing, and I was positive. So, if you have the virus don’t insulate yourself from the community”. Yei Civil Hospital HIV/AIDS counselor advised the community to turn up for testing “don’t stay home if the virus is still early it become very easy for us to handle.”