**Enabling two South Sudanese female Social Workers to Attend a 3-week Training on Women Empowerment in Israel**

Judith and Lily are two female social workers - some of the first Social Workers in the World's newest nation, South Sudan. In their countries, they are perceived as significant role models for many women and girls, and are powerful actors of social change. They were offered a three-week training on women economic empowerment in Israel organized by MASHAV, the Israeli Aid Agency, and UN Women. Although the 3 weeks are fully funded, they need support to be able to buy their flight tickets and attend this once-in-a-life-time opportunity.

**Who are Judith and Lily?**

Judith and Lily are active social workers, role models, and leaders in their communities and in their workplace. Committed to bring positive social and economic changes in their communities and society as a whole, they work tirelessly to fight injustice, violence, and discrimination, whiling supporting the most vulnerable members of society.

Judith is a dynamic social worker, with 4 years of experience in social work. She is currently working for the gender department of the State Ministry of Gender and Social Development of Central Equatoria State in Juba. She is both a program coordinator and a case manager at the same time. Fully trained by IsraAID since 2012, she has been developing and implementing programs to address Gender-Based Violence (GBV) in the communities and to empower women and girls. She showed particular skills in organizing and facilitating women group activities, discussing issues such as GBV, maternal health, and women empowerment with the groups, and helping the women make and sell handicrafts. Judith has the kind heart of a social worker; she can identify cases, providing much-needed counseling and continuing support to the most vulnerable, including survivors of sexual violence. Judith also presents fantastic skills in raising awareness in communities, bringing people together across gender, ethnicity and religion. Her work in camps for Internally Displaced People in Juba has brought conflicting tribes together through women’s groups and awareness raising mechanisms. Judith has also recently become a trainer: she trains other service providers to effectively work with GBV survivors. She actively brings positive social and behavioral change in society. She would greatly benefit from a training on women empowerment as she will be able to bring her new skills and knowledge back to South Sudan and integrate it into her existing projects and her work in general.

Lily is a charismatic and inspiring female leader, with years of experience working with communities and in gender advocacy. Until 2013, she was the director of gender at the State Ministry of Gender and Social Development in Juba. She is now working for a Church-Based Organization on women and governance. Lily has also been fully trained by IsraAID and, until 2013, led all joint programs between IsraAID and the Ministry, ensuring their full success and sustainability. Lily is an excellent trainer and leader with the ability to bring political and institutional changes. Her voice has a strong positive impact on people and institutions, who look to her as a key leader in gender affairs in South Sudan. She is well respected across all sectors of society in South Sudan, and can therefore be an excellent advocate for human rights, gender equality and peace.

The training will add to her already vast experience. At the same time, it will allow her to strengthen her knowledge on women empowerment, exploring new areas of activities championed by Israel (e.g. women and agro-business).

**The training**

The training takes place at the Mount Carmel Training Center in Haifa from April 20 to May 7th, 2015.

See program attached.

Per week their reach more than 200 people, through women/youth empowerment activities, Awareness raising and other prevention related activities - those activities help women be prevented from further harm in their communities and also give them the tools they need to be self-reliant, make their own businesses, and play a stronger role in society. Women in South Sudan and elsewhere play a significant role in bring peace at home and in the communities, and it is threrefore important to enhance their voices twith such activities.