Today in the village of Dhoreak, South Sudan, children are drinking clean water. The Alaska Sudan Medical Project is thrilled to report that we successfully completed two boreholes in this remote village near Old Fangak. It was perhaps the most logistically challenging water well project we’ve faced. But with persistence and hard work our Southern Sudanese drilling team from Old Fangak, led by our lead driller Patrick Kamanda, from Kenya, made clean drinking water in Dhoreak a reality.

The heaviest materials were flown to Dhoreak by Cessna Caravan. But much of the drilling supplies and equipment were carried first by boat and then overland by foot. Villagers from Dhoreak assisted every step of the process. They walked 90 minutes carrying 50lb bags of gravel. They moved drilling supplies, dug the pits, and the women of Dhoreak filled the mud pits one bucket at a time. The community completed any task asked of them because they were grateful for the gift of clean water for their village. One well site was across a swamp. No problem! Our team made floats, used dugout canoes, improvised, and all the heavy equipment and supplies made it safely across.

Imagine the difference for this village. Clean drinking water is the foundation of good health. Two wells for Dhoreak are now “Mission Complete.” But the need in this area continues. We ask you to join in supporting ASMP so we can bring clean drinking water to another village. Please consider a donation today. It’s only through your gifts that we can do the good work. Thank you.

“Our Southern Sudanese group, called the “Alaska Team” is widely known in the region as a group of people who want to help their community through providing fresh water and agricultural knowledge, and is recognized wherever they go. One lady in Dhoreak was so touched by what the drill team did for the village, that she named her newborn boy “Alaska!” I felt honored to be part of such an awesome crew, and as an “Alaska Team” supporter you should too - together we can help bring forward this area that was left behind.”

Robb Kulin was born and raised in Alaska, and recently spent his first season in South Sudan helping drill the first fresh water wells in Dhoreak. Robb is an aerospace engineering consultant with experience working for SpaceX, NASA and Firefly.

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Every day in Old Fangak, South Sudan, several dozen men, women and children gather for their daily observed tuberculosis therapy. The shade of a few trees gives some shelter from the sun and rain as they wait for their names to be called. Dr. Jill Seaman, who runs the clinic in Old Fangak, along with her Southern Sudanese national staff, estimates she will treat up to 250 people with tuberculosis in 2019. Some of these patients also have HIV. This TB/HIV co-infection is more likely to be fatal if undiagnosed and untreated.

In recent months 50,000 refugees, fleeing civil war violence, have come to Old Fangak. These internally displaced people, IDP’s, will stay with family in their small mud huts. Some have arrived with TB and other infectious diseases. Due to the close proximity of these living conditions the spread of disease is inevitable.

In this area of South Sudan there is not a single treatment facility for tuberculosis patients. Contagious transient or critical TB patients currently spend their time in an outside tent or open areas for their treatments. But that condition is about to change with the help of the Alaska Sudan Medical Project. Our goal is to fund and construct a TB clinic by February 2020.

The need is not new. Almost 10 years ago the community of Old Fangak dedicated a piece of land for the new clinic. With the help of Rotary clubs in Alaska, ASMP drilled a borehole to provide clean water for patients. But before construction could begin, civil war broke out. The transportation corridor along the Nile river, needed to bring the construction material, was closed. The project was put on hold.

With a new peace accord signed in 2018 the river corridor is open. It’s time to begin.

ASMP is working with Eco-Steel Africa, based in Nairobi, for the design and prefabrication of the clinic. Plans are underway to purchase the needed diagnosing equipment, beds and a solar electric system.

Your help is needed to make this vital project a reality. In a few weeks you will receive more information as we launch a capital campaign to fulfill our promise to the people of Old Fangak.

Please consider a donation today for all of our ongoing projects: clean water, agriculture development, vocational training and the new TB clinic. Thank you. Together we’re making a difference!

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