

# Abyei Information & Radio Service, (AIRS)

Newsletter: July 14<sup>th</sup>, 2020

Issue: 349



ABYEI TODAY

**ON AIR** EVERY TUESDAY:  
9:30 PM ON ABYEI 102.3 FM

## Program Highlights

### Abyei women demand freedom of movement

Women in Abyei have called for freedom of movement and to working beyond their hometown. The Peace Secretary for Abyei Women Association, Aluel Dholic, said women like men, have the right to work in any place whether far or near without any restrictions. *“Trust is the most important pillar in building a family,”* Aluel said. Men who spoke in the program had split views on the matter with some in support saying *“a woman is a partner and having a job will help her family”* but others insisted that they would not allow their wives to work away from them. Women criticized men’s negative attitude towards them. *“It is my right to work anywhere,”* one of the women told ***Abyei Today*** while another one said, *“our husbands don’t trust us,”* reflecting on the restrictions from men.

## Program Highlight

### Athony residents lack health service

People in Athony village located south of Abyei town have been complaining about limited access to health services, saying they are suffering. At Malual Aleu health center, ***Abyei Today*** caught up with Aluel Kondok who said she walked about one and half hour from Athony village in search of treatment. She appealed for establishment of a health center in their place. The medical assistant at the facility, Malual Ajak Malual, said about 50 to 60 patients from the neighboring villages are being treated there. Encouraging people from Athony to be going to the nearby health centers, the acting director-general of health administration in Abyei Administrative Area, Kon Thon, said they could not deliver the much-needed health services to all villages because of financial constraints.

## Program highlight

### COVID-19 impacts send children away from foster home

Before the closure of schools due to the coronavirus pandemic, Episcopal Church of the Sudan, and South Sudan compound in Agok was a home of about 120 children including orphans and street children but now, less than 50 of them have remained. The Bishop of Episcopal Church of the Sudan and South Sudan in Abyei, Michael Deng Kutpiny said the suspension of child friendly activities such as playing in group and dancing due to COVID-19 has forced some children to return to the street where they could play at their will. The pandemic seems to have come to swallow the dreams of young people like an 11-year-old orphan, Bol Barach who said he wanted to get education, so he would be helping the needy in future. Uncertain of the future, another orphan said, *“the good life we were living is interrupted, there is no education”*. Worried about the life of the children in the street, the church leader urged people not to mistreat them saying, *“these are future leaders, treat them like your own children.”*

For more information and news, visit our website at <https://www.abyeiradio.com>. You can also listen to AIRS’ own radio station, Abyei 102.3 FM online.

### **AIRS PSA Rates**

**30-seconds | \$50**

**45-seconds | \$75**

**60-seconds | \$100**

**Broadcasting | \$25/minute**

### **About ‘Abyei Today’**

Abyei Today is a radio program focusing on humanitarian news, informative features and entertaining stories for the people who live in the disputed region of Abyei. It brings together the community with the organizations and agencies that seek to make life better. While the program gives useful and beneficial information to the people of Abyei, it also has features to inspire listeners with entertaining items about daily life, from cookery shows to uplifting flower gardens. Internews’ research shows that radio continues to be the most trusted and influential form of information in the region. In addition, it is the most accessible: more than half the men and two thirds of the women surveyed cannot read. Abyei Today is produced with the support of Internews, an international non-profit media development organization.

### **AIRS Event Coverage**

**30-minutes | \$100**

**1-hour | \$200**

**2-hours | \$400**

**3-hours | \$500**

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## About AIRS

Abyei Information and Radio Service (AIRS) is a South Sudanese, not-for-profit organization based in Abyei that provides critical news and information about and to the communities of the Abyei territory. With the support of Internews, AIRS was first registered in March 2017 by the South Sudan Relief and Rehabilitation Commission (RRC) under certificate #596 and was renewed in 2018. AIRS is the “Voice of Abyei” and through a team of journalists provides a platform for communities to share experiences; engages with the government, official bodies and community groups in a collaborative dialogue; expresses the needs and issues affecting the community in Abyei; and fosters balanced discussions that allows listeners to form their own opinions and thoughts.

### Contact Us

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If you are interested in supporting the work of Abyei Information and Radio Service, please reach out the above contacts.

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Please send your comments and suggestions to: [ss-abyeithisweek@airs-ss.org](mailto:ss-abyeithisweek@airs-ss.org)

Visit our office in Agok: Juoljok between the football playground and Catholic Church  
Abyei Area, South Sudan

