

# Abyei Information & Radio Service, (AIRS)

Newsletter: July 21<sup>st</sup>, 2020

Issue: 350



**ABYEI TODAY**

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

## Program Highlights

### Impatient but concerned learners, teachers in Abyei want schools reopened

As cases of the COVID-19 soar and the probability to reopen schools that were closed in March 2020, still half, the foreseen bright future of children dims. But with desire to get education resonating in them, some children in Abyei Administrative Area want classes to resume soon. Like many, Kuei Lal, a student at Abyei Day secondary school, said she resented being out of school. Bar Deng Bar, a teacher at Oxford Nursery and Primary school in Agok said it is possible to reopen schools in conformity to COVID-19 preventive measures such as at least 1-meter social distancing, wearing face masks and maximum hygiene practice. The acting director general of education in Abyei, John Ajang Kiir encouraged children to listen to lessons being delivered on the radio. Parents held divided views on the resumption of the schools; some support while others saw it as exposing children to risk of catching the COVID-19 which, in Abyei, has killed one out forty-six people who tested positive for it.

## Program Highlight

### Abyei Administrative Area Chief Administrator promises service delivery

During the welcoming ceremony of the new chief administrator of Abyei Administrative Area in Agok, on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> July, community leaders from Abyei presented several pressing issues with more emphasis on insecurity. Monytoch Monychol asked the new leader to mend the broken unity among Ngok Dinka while Dut Chol in Agok appealed for improvement of security so, they can return to their villages in northern part of Abyei they fled due to violence saying *“we want to return to our villages so that our children know their land.”* In response, Kuol Deim Kuol promised security, peace, unity, and other basic services to the people in Abyei. Kuol Deim Kuol also talked about improving relations with the neighboring areas as another of enhancing security, upgrading of roads and equal representation of women and youths in his yet-to-be announced administration.

## Program highlight

### Bishop Gassis Relief and Rescue Foundation delivers food to vulnerable families

Bishop Gassis Relief and Rescue Foundation, a Catholic Church based humanitarian organization through village committees is distributing food to 200 vulnerable families in Agok and 150 others Abyei town. The distribution has started in Agok, but some people who were not registered wanted to be included in the distribution. Nyanyar Chol Kur, a 70-year-old woman in Agok who said she could not work to earn a living, wondered why she was left out. *“As you see me here, I’m just like a dead person. If God has brought some assistance, it is not good to exclude others,”* she appealed. Chol Chow, chief of Maker Aniet village acknowledge the complaint but pushed the blame on the organization. On his part, the Projects Manager of Bishop Gassis Relief and Rescue Foundation, Kuol Deng Biong said the project was small as it targeted only three hundred and fifty households in the area.

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**

### AIRS Event Coverage

**30-minutes | \$100**

**1-hour | \$200**

**2-hours | \$400**

**3-hours | \$500**

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### 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.

## 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

