

## Success story from Leprosy patient



Aner Akej is a Dinka woman who lives in Agok. She arrived here in 2009 from Tonj. One day, she says, she felt her skin burning and noticed red patches all over her body. She also noticed that she lost the sensation in her hands. “I was farming in Tonj,’ she says “and I felt joint pain.

When I was cooking I couldn’t feel the heat, if I held something in my hand it fell off my hands. I knew I was developing leprosy as I saw many people suffering from it in Tonj. I felt I would be an outcast as leprosy is a taboo.” Aner went straight away to Agok hospital. Lawrence

examined her.

He discovered red patches and loss of sensation in both feet and hands. In 2009 Aner started treatment and finished in 2010.

After 2 months of treatment, she felt much better, her left hand is still paralyzed in a claw but the right one is fine. “I’ m grateful to AAA for their work. I now help others who suffer just like I did.” Primary health care worker Lawrence says quite often people rely on traditional healers to treat leprosy.

The healers generally ask for one cow from the patient, who’s given the roots of the tree. “In the end they lose many cows,’ Lawrence says.”and their leprosy only gets worse.” Lawrence himself was five years old when he developed leprosy: unfortunately he stayed without treatment for 8 years until he came to Agok in 1989. He lost his left finger while he was making a fire.

By ARKANGELO ALI ASSOCIATION - AAA