

## TB Treatment: Before and After



“My name is Deng Garang Bol. sometimes back, I developed a cough that went for more than three months and that’s when my elder brother advised me to seek help from a traditional healer. I

hesitated at first, but I wanted the cough to go away, I had also developed chest pain and so I acted on my brother’s advice and went to a traditional healer. The traditional healer required a payment in form of a cow for his services which my brother and I could not afford at that time so we had to look for support from family members. According to the traditional healer, the cause of my sickness was a bad omen from my father, supposedly because I had not slaughtered a goat for him in a long time, as is, usually a tradition in my community.

The traditional healer was invited home to perform healing and cleansing rituals, for which he later demanded three more He-goats and a bull to be slaughtered. After the rituals were done, my brother and I felt confident that my cough and chest pain will go away, and life would return back to normal for me. Many days passed and the cough persisted, with more chest pain. I started to loose weight. My body was always hot, and I had no appetite.

One morning, a certain gentleman noticed me from the back of my house, coughing while holding my chest in pain, He looked at my physical appearance and approached me.

He asked about how long I have been feeling that way and how long I have been coughing. I explained to him when these things all started, he wrote to me a letter saying that could be TB and he directed me to go to Kuajok Hospital TB unit.

I later found out that he was a community health worker in the neighborhood. At Kuajok Hospital TB unit, I was examined and tested for TB. It was found out that I had TB. At that time,

I was very weak and confused. I was admitted to Kuajok Hospital and started on treatment with some food rations to help me get better.

After I took the drugs for three weeks my body improved, the chest pain and cough subsided. I feel more energetic and happy. I can now smile because my life came back to me. My family and I have made a decision to seek health services from health facilities whenever we feel sick, and to encourage others to do the same. I now know that TB can be treated and cured.”

By ARKANGELO ALI ASSOCIATION - AAA