

Editorial: Juba College of Nursing and Midwifery

Everyone working in the health services in South Sudan knows that there is a serious shortage of well-qualified nurses and midwives. For example, the following numbers of staff, and the ratio of staff to population, who are presently known to the Directorate of Nursing and Midwifery are:

Registered Nurses (Diploma in Nursing)	40 (0.4/100,000)
Registered Midwives	02 (0.02/100,000)
Certificated Nurses (equivalent to 'British Enrolled Nurses')	~1000 (10/100,000)
Traditional Birth Attendants (no formal qualifications)	2000 (20/100,000)
Nurses and Midwives of Southern Sudanese origin working in Kharoum	Unknown
(The population of the Southern Sudan was 10,000,000 at the last census two years ago.)	

More accurate data are presently being collected – but there is no doubt that the numbers fall far short of those needed, particularly for midwives. This presents a big challenge especially as the new constitution of Southern Sudan specifically highlights women's health as a priority for the country's well being and future success.

So the opening of the Ministry of Health's new **Juba College of Nursing and Midwifery** is an encouraging step forward on the road to improving health services. The first group of trainees are enrolled and in preparatory classes. Plans and funding for a purpose-built college, and the resources needed to equip it, are in place. The Principal, Ms Petronella Wawa, and some tutors have been recruited. As well as the Ministry of Health, other stakeholders include United Nations Population Fund, Real Medicine Foundation, World Children's Fund, the World Health Organization, St. Mary's Hospital, Isle of Wight-Juba Hospital Link, the United Nations Development Programme/ Global Fund and the Japan International Cooperation Agency.

We would like to thank all everyone who is supporting the new college; we will give updates on the progress trainees in future issues of this journal.

Janet Michael
Director of Nursing and Midwifery
Ministry of Health
Government of Southern Sudan

For more information on the new college see the article on page 56.

The SSMJ team is pleased to welcome Dr Edward Eremugo Luka to the Editorial Board.

The **Southern Sudan Medical Journal** is a quarterly publication intended for Healthcare Professionals, both those working in the Southern Sudan and those in other parts of the world seeking information on health in the Southern Sudan.

It aims to offer education and information in all specialities, and to identify research that will inform the development of Health Services in the Southern Sudan. We plan to include reports of original research, critical/systematic reviews, case reports, clinical photographic materials, letters to the Editor, use of drugs, medical news of public interest, and nutrition and public health issues.

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We encourage readers to print copies and pass them to colleagues.

Editors

Dr Wani Mena

Department of Ophthalmology
Juba Teaching Hospital,
PO Box 88, Juba
Southern Sudan
wanimena@gmail.com

Dr Eluzai Abe Hakim

Department of Adult Medicine & Rehabilitation
St Mary's Hospital
Newport,
Isle of Wight PO30 5TG, UK
Eluzai_hakim@yahoo.co.uk

Editorial Board

Professor James Gita Hakim
jhakim@mweb.co.zw

Dr Louis Danga
wedanga@hotmail.com

Dr Ronald Woro
ronaldworo@hotmail.com

Dr Marcelina Morgan
Muyamarcelina@hotmail.com

Dr James Ayrton
james.ayrton@gmail.com

Dr Edward Eremugo Luka
opikiza@yahoo.com

Editorial Advisor

Ann Burgess
annpatriciaburgess@yahoo.co.uk

Editorial Assistant

Madeleine Linington
madeleine.linington@iow.nhs.uk

Chief Reviewer

Dr David Tibbutt
david@tibbutt.co.uk