

4. WESTERN GAMBELLA BETHEL SYNOD

Western Gambella Bethel Synod continues to provide its Evangelism and Social and Development Services in Gambella Regional State. At present the Synod has 68,000 members, 140 congregations, 17 preaching places, organized in 3 Presbyteries and 9 parishes—ministered by 47 ordained pastors and 120 evangelists.

I. Evangelism Work.

1. Baro Bible School.

The Bible School is sponsored by Presbyterian Churches and individuals in USA. The school has currently 12 students, taught by 4 teachers. It has a one-year and a two-year program, the two year training aiming at training those to be ordained when called by their respective congregations.

1. Low Cost Church Building.

The synod has received Etb 179,419 from the Outreach Foundation, through BSCO. In the year 2006/2007 the synod launched on 12 church building projects, among which 9 are completed and 3 are in progress. The completed ones are : Thorrein; Makot, Wocam , Itang, Adura Pleck, Kuntanyi, Manguok, Kowkow, Teluth; and the one in progress are Nyinang, Mattom, Kongdekauch. All of the church buildings have the capacity to accommodate over 500 people at once.





Some of the Rural Church Buildings constructed in 2006 and 2007—All funded by Outreach Foundation.

2. Tent-Making Ministry Project.

The synod has received Etb 166,657:00 from the Outreach Foundation, through BSCO. At this stage the project is in a process of preparation. In March 2007 28 pastors attended a training workshop which was conducted by professionals from the government offices. The pastors are grouped into two—one group to engage in cattle-raising, and the other to launch on Horticulture projects (vegetable and fruit). Those who opted cattle-raising have already purchased animals that would fit in the area, but those who chose to do horticulture have to wait for the rain. In future these group will have to introduce micro-irrigation into their activities in order to produce fruit and vegetables all year round.

4. Money Ministry Project

There is a very high demand of trained professionals in Western Gambella Bethel Synod. Currently there are 4 students are on diploma level training—one in leadership and Management; One in Music; and two in Theology at Hossana Seminary. We are thankful to the Money Ministry for providing funds to send these persons for training. Of course the money from Money Ministry cannot cover all of the expenses required for four persons but the synod had to allocate some more money from other sources.

XI Development and Social Services

Introduction:

Western Gambella Bethel Synod has been rendering development and Social Service activities in its operational areas in western part of the Gambella Region. The Synod is basically operating in Gambella Nuer zone and its four woreda such as Lare, Jikoaw, Wanthoa and previous Akobo wereda. Most of these areas are marginalized with inadequate infrastructure. Road transportation is used frequently only during the dry season and often uses river transportation as mean to reach the communities.

There is limited personnel who could do effective development work in the Synod level and this has contributed to a limited development progress in the Synod Church structure. There were no many NGOs working in the region and this might be the effect of the Peace instability in the region which is now foreseen to be improved soon. However, through the establishment of the Synod' DASSC punctualities, attempt has been made to address social concerns of the communities living in the operational areas of the Synod. Major of the activities being done aim to rehabilitate the communities which were displaced due to existence of the repeated conflicts in the region.

Therefore; this reports comprises of the major activities implemented in Western Gambella Bethel Synod DASSC in the year 2006. The report briefly explains progress of the activities made during the year and addressed key areas of challenges that the Synod faced during the implementation and such problems are repeated conflicts, acute diarrhea

which has contributed to the lost some peoples' lives, lack of enough manpower and the flood which has affected the whole villages. The progresses of the activities are categorized as follow:

I. Micro Projects Activities Progress:

1.1 Grinding millstone: the Synod has been rendering the operation of the grinding mill which was installed since 1999 at Lare woreda. The millstone aimed at reducing the work loads of the Nuer women living in and around the area. It services as an income generating for Lare Bethel Presbytery women groups. The mill is operating under the management of the Synod DASSC and the women at Lare Bethel Presbytery. The Synod DASSC has opened an account where the income for the millstone is kept. This year the mill did not have enough income as it used to be due to over flooding and the scattering of some individuals as the result of the flood. A total amount of 12,000.00Birr was recorded and 80 % of this amount was used as an expense for the millstone.

1.2. Women Handicraft Production: as the result of good networking between East and Western Gambella Bethel Synods, the two Synods DASSCs have organized a joint project for women in Gambella. The project aims to bring the Nuer and Anywaa women together and produce handicraft materials such as decoration of beats, baskets, pieces of clothes and other handicraft production. Some of these products were sold internationally and some were sold locally. The women have already gained an income from the materials they produced. 70 women were organized from both Nuer and women. A total income of **7770.00Birr** was recorded from West Gambella women group. Small shop was constructed to be used for the sell of handicraft materials.

Sheep distributed to the community

Purchasing Cows for business

Synod' DASSC Office is doing monitoring work for the project. The project has a component of literacy program where 70 women were enrolled in the first cycle and 100 women were enrolled in the second cycle program. This time, a number of them claim to write and read. Incredible progress has already been observed. A number of the women are still joining the program.

1.3. Ochoum Vegetable Program: similar attempt was made in the beginning of 2006 in Ochom village which is about 15 kms away from Gambella where Nuer and Anywaa live. Vegetable program was launched as connector program between the Nuer women and Anywaa so that they could learn to work together and produce income from the vegetable. Forty (40) women were organized to work in the project. The project budget was donated by HEKS one of our potential partners after submitting the proposal. Orientation was conducted for 30 women who could do the vegetable production. The women started to plan different vegetables such cabbage, carrot, okra, sweet potatoes, tomatoes and onion. Their garden was beautiful with fruits and the women started to sell the income they had from the vegetation product. In March 2006, cattle intervened in the field and destroyed all the vegetation and the field was empty. However, though the field was destroyed, they were able to build relationship which had never happened since the conflicts days. We have a gain tried our best to renew the program hoping that they will learn from the previous mistake.

1.4 Establishment of small shops at the Presbyteries The Synod has established (constructed) three small shops from the three presbyteries namely **Akobo Bethel Presbytery, Nyinenyang Bethel Presbytery and Lare Bethel Presbytery**. The establishment of the shops aims at bringing income to the Presbyteries. These shops are placed in area where there is shortage of good suppliers during the rainy season. Initially the materials which were supplied to the shops were sugar, salt and soaps. The shops have brought incredible income to the Presbyteries. The Presbyteries progress report indicated that the shops are doing great job. Among the three Presbyteries, Nyinenyang Bethel Presbytery reported a total income of **5320.00Birr** with in the gap of three months. This indicates the progress of their small shops which contained fewer items like salt, sugar and soaps. The rest of the two Presbyteries would also fall in this track. This income is kept in the Presbyteries accounts.

1.5 Cow business trading scheme: The Synod had prepared a proposal for cow business trading scheme that was based on the demand of the Presbyteries. Thirty cows were purchased and the presbyteries selected people who would do the local trading business. The selected people were trustworthy people and elders of the congregations they belonged. Prior to the start of their work, three days business orientation was conducted.



Incentives were provided to these cow business traders and shopkeepers for about four months time as per the agreement between the Synod DASSC and the Presbyteries leaders. Some of the cows business traders tried their best to use the potential gift they have and have gained additional cows that will be for sale. Out of thirty cows they started the business with, the three Presbyteries are able to raise other 30 cows for three months times. Their business was interrupted by the over flooding of the area because they had no ways to bring the cows they bought to big market place especially in Gambella. Depending on the agreement, we have terminated the assistance given to the shopkeepers and the cows business traders. The three Presbyteries will take care of their incentives as long they continue through the business. After few months, the land will dry and they will move up to South Sudan to sell their cows with better price. We hope their small business will grow as they work harder

Literacy Program (Adult and Children).

The Synod has established literacy program in four places such as Nyinenayang Bethel Presbytery, Akobo Bethel Presbytery, Lare Presbytery and Gambella Bethel Congregation. In these places, there is high demand for literacy program. In the past only few schools were opened in the Nuer villages. Very few children not at all girls were able to get chance to attend the schools. Most of the Youth were looking after the cattle and became fighting men. Women did not get even a chance for school enrollment. It was through the Church schools in which some of the so called Nuer elites got education. Had it not been the Church schools, the Nuer would not have chance for education. Many children and adult people who did not get the chance of school enrollment have now attended literacy Program. Prior to the establishment of the Literacy Centers in the three Presbyteries, the Synod in collaboration with the Synod administration called up on the Presbytery leaders for two days orientation workshop for the establishment of the literacy centers in their respective Presbyteries. After the discussion with the Presbytery leaders the Synod sent delegates to monitor the implementation of the Literacy program. A total budget of 45,000.00Birr was allocated from PCUSA for the establishment of the literacy Program with in three months times and additional fund will follow.

Materials such as blackboards, exercises, Pens, and other school materials were purchased and sent to the Presbyteries literacy centers. Three teachers were recruited for the Literacy Program in the three Presbyteries. These literacy programs are located in far places except Gambella which is near.

A. Lare Bethel Presbytery Literacy Program

S/N	Grade one	No students	Ages	Classes	Place	Remark
1.	Male students	34	7-16 years	According to the age groups	Lare Bethel Presbytery	
2.	Female students	37	6-45 years	✓		
3.	Sub total	71				
II.	Grade two class	No of students	Ages	Classes	Places	Remark
2.1	Male students	45	5-20	Ages groups		
2.2	Female students	52	6-35	✓		
2.3	Sub total	168				
II.	Total of students	239,				

A. Nyinenyang Bethel Presbytery Literacy Program

S/N	Grade one	# students	Ages	Classes	Place	Remark
1.	Male students	40	5-13	group classification	Nyinenyang	
2.	Female students	26	7-30	✓		
3.	Sub total	66		✓		
II.	Grade two					
2.1	Male students	30	6-25	✓		
2.2	Female students	50	4-40	✓		
3.	Sub total	80				
4.	Total number of students	146				

B. Akobo Bethel Presbytery Literacy Program

S/N	Grade one class	No of students	Ages	Classes	Place	Remark
1.	Male student	40	5-43	Classified in to age groups	Akobo	
2.	Female students	27	7-38		✓	
3.	Sub total	67				
II.	Grade tow class					
2.1	Male student	73	6-30	Classified in to ages groups	Place	Remark
2.2	Female	70	8-28		Akobo	
2.3	Sub total	143				
3.	Total of number of students in Akobo	210				

C. Gambella Congregation Literacy Program.

S/N	Grade one	No of students	Ages	Classes	Place	Remark
1.	Female	40	30-65	Classification in to age groups	Gambella	
2.	Grade two	45	25-60			
3.	Total # of students in Gambella	85				

Water Program:

The whole Gambella Region lacks potable water even in the main capital town. 98% of the total populations in the Region get drinking water from the river. In the villages, women are the ones who fetch water in distance of 7kms to 10kms depending on the location of the water. The main water source for drink is river and small streams located in the villages. Before the construction of the hand dug well in the Synod compound, there was no single well being dug in the Synod structure. The Synod staff some times used to get water from East Gambella Bethel Synod compound. In 2005, one hand dug well was constructed. The construction of the well was completed in March 2006 and has contributed a lot for the communities living around. This was much seen during the acute water diarrhea that had affected communities in Gambella. Had it not been the well, most of the lives would have been lost in the Newland community. To complete the well construction, the total cost was **43000.00Birr in which 30,000.00Birr** was allocated from the EECMY DASSC and the rest was raised by the Synod. After finishing the construction of the hand dug well the DASSC Office had handed over the well to the community under the administration of the Synod Administration. Here is a picture of the well.

II. Health Program:

2.1. Adura clinic: the clinic has been out of medicines and staff working in it since the destruction made as the result of Low Nuer invaders from South Sudan. There is only one health assistance left in the area with insufficient of drugs available. The Synod planned to rebuild the clinic and the building has reached the top level beam. Due to lack of personnel working to the clinic, the Synod sent two students to study nursing and laboratory technician. We have made an agreement with the constructor to finish the building after two years since we do not have the available to complete the construction work. We have paid **90,000.00Birr** from the Rehabilitation Project funded by NCA/E and the rest of the payment will be done by the Synod. The contractor agreed to finish the construction work with the total amount of **373,000.00Birr**.



Hand dug well picture (community fetching water from the well in WGBS Compound)

Recently, we have signed another financial amendment with the Gambella line departments to ensure the completion of the construction. The Synod has allocated **100,000.00Birr** from the remaining fund in the Rehabilitation Project.



ADURA Clinic Construction located in a distance of 210 kms from Gambella town. The clinic used to service community living around since there was no government clinic. It serviced the total population of 25000 living around and beyond. It is one of the historical clinic in the Nuer area in Ethiopia.

2.2 Polio Eradication capacity building: In September 2006, we have undertaken Polio capacity building training for Church leaders and community representatives. Three days training was conducted with a total number of 60 participants. The Synod invited the resource persons from Gambella Regional Health Bureau. The training topics were the importance of surveillance, EPI, Missile vaccine, social mobilization, reporting system and the importance of Polio vaccine to the children, family planning; Environment Protection (Personal hygiene) Family health and the effect of birds flow in the community were addressed. Participants were invited from three woredas, Gambella, Lare, Akobo and Jikoaw. Many of the participants were invited from kebeles and some of them were leaders of their respective communities. This training was conducted in Gambella under the supervision of the Regional Health Bureau. Similar training was made in Lare woreda for Polio campaign community volunteers. 25 participants were invited for the training. The training was conducted by Lare woreda Health Office experts. In implementing this project, a total budget of **55000.00Birr** was allocated for Polio Campaign capacity building from the EECMY DASSC Central Office.

2.3 HIV/AIDS Program: the growth rate of the HIV/AIDS epidemic in the region is very high due some unwanted practices among the native people living in Gambella. However the main mode of transmission in the region is through unsafe sexual behavior and other cultural practice that contribute to the acceleration of the HIV/AIDS. Such cultural practices are taking over the dead person's wife by the nearest relative, the practice of polygamy marriage and the marking done by local experts on the foreheads of a Nuer boy. Drinking alcohol becomes one way for HIV/AIDS to attack the Youth in Gambella. Our intervention area focuses on awareness raising program, capacity building program, and care and support program for PLWHA and Orphans.

Review of the achievements of HIV/AIDS Program in 2006 with the help of indicators

S/N	Activities	Indicators	Planned / no of persons	Achieved	Place	Remark
1.	Church leadership seminary	Participant number	60	60 persons	Gambella	20 volunteers were tested after the meeting
2.	Youth training workshop	Number of participants	60 persons	65Persons	Gambella	
3.	Women sensitization workshop	Participants number	45	45	Gambella	
4.	Community awareness training	Number of participants	65	65	Akobo	Kebele leaders were invited
5.	Youth & Community training in Itang	✓	50	50	Itang	The training was conducted to three Parishes in Itang woreda
5.	Community training in Nyinenyang woreda	Number of participants	70	70	Nyinenyang	
6.	Church leaders and Community conversation training	Number of participants	65	65	Lare Bethel woreda	
7.	Volunteer counseling and testing	Number of person	200	145 people	Gambella Hospital & Clinics	
8.	Support for Orphans	Number of participants	30 orphans	30		
9.	Anti club formation	Number of clubs	3	2	Gambella & Lare woreda	
10.	Sunday service program	Number of churches attendants	Different churches in Gambella	7500 people benefited	Gambella town	
11.	Jinina Congregation training on HIV/AIDS PCP	66 persons	66	66	Gambella	
12.	Amiskilio Nuer Congregation training in AA	Number of participants	50 people	50	Addis Ababa Nuer Congregation	



Women Training on HIV/AIDS



Youth training on HIV/AIDS PCP in Gambella



Leadership training on HIV/AIDS in Gambella.

XI Emergency Relief Rehabilitation Program:

Gambella experienced repeated ethnic and cross border conflicts which has resulted in the displacement of many people, lost of lives and massive destruction of properties including cattle raiding. As the result of this deteriorated destruction, the Synod appealed to PCUSA for assistance to provide the most conflict affected community with necessary rehabilitation materials. A total amount of \$ **25000 US dollar** was allocated to both Synods (East and West Gambella Bethel Synods). The West had received a share of **107,000.00Birr** and was utilized as follow:

Review of the achievements with the help of indicators

S/N	Activities	Indicators	Planned	Households	Achieved	Place	Remark
1.	Purchase of cows	Number of cows	60	420	60	Lare, Nyinegnag, Akobo, Wanthao	Cows distributed to the community
2.	Purchase of goats	60 goats	60	✓	60		
3.	Community leaders orientation	25	25		25	Gambella	Oriented for fair distribution
4.	Total number of cows distributed	60 cows 60 goats					

VI. Rehabilitation Project:

In 2006, the Synod launched an operation of Rehabilitation Project for the conflict affected villages in Gambella Region. This project came in to being as the result of the needs and the demand from the community in which the Synod is operating. This project was funded by NCA/E and implemented in Western Gambella Bethel Synod in its operational area especially in Nuer zone and its woreda such as Akobo, Lare and Jikoaw. There were repeated ethnic conflicts and cross border conflicts in Gambella that has resulted in the displacement of many people, destruction of massive properties, raiding of livestock and lost of individual lives. As the result of this tragic, West Gambella Bethel Synod appealed to EECMY DASSC Central Office for Rehabilitation Project in 2005. The request was

forwarded to NCA/E and approval was made in January 2006. A total budget of **2,085,377.00Birr** was allocated by NCA/E to WGBS via the EECMY DASSC Central Office.

The Project agreement was signed in February 2006 by Gambella Regional Line Bureau such as Gamebella Regional Agriculture and Rural Development Coordination Bureau, Gambella Disaster Prevention, Preparedness and Food Security Office, Gambella Health Bureau, EECMY DASSC and NCA/E.

The main objectives of the project was to increase access of the basic needs to the conflict affected villages in the Nuer zone through the provision of the household materials assorted seeds, farm tools, mosquitoes nets, blankets, renovation of Adura clinic, capacity building and promotion of the local peace building among the Nuer communities in Ethiopia.

The target villages to the project area were Batodole, Adura, and Badhiel (Pilual) from the previous structure in Jikoaw woreda which is currently divided into two districts. Tiregol, Teregol and Malual villages from Akobo woreda.

The total beneficiaries of the project were **18,400 people** who were estimated as the conflict victim population. The actual number of the household was **2,675**.

The major project components were **none food items** such as household materials (cooking utensils and water canes). Purchase of blankets (2,675) and mosquitoes nets (2,675) were undertaken.

The agricultural inputs include provision of assorted seeds, maize & sorghum, and the provision of farm tool (machetes & hoes).

Basic infrastructure rehabilitation includes Renovation for Adura clinic, community capacity building on basic agricultural inputs, training on conflict transformation and management, staff training and community training on HIV/AIDS PCP. There was one car purchased from the project.

Review of the Project achievements with the help of indicators

S/N	Activities	Indicators	Planned	Achieved	Remark
1	Household Provision				
1.1	Purchase of Blankets	No of blankets	2675	2675	3 rd quarter reported
1.2	Purchase of utensils and Jerry canes	No of utensil materials	2675	2675	First quarter reported
1.3	Purchase of mosquitoes nets	Number of nets purchased	2675	2675	2 nd quarter
II.	Agriculture Inputs				
2.1	Purchase of assorted farming tools such as machetes 2,675, & Hoes 2,675	Number of tools purchased	2675	2675	2 nd quarter reported
2.2	Purchase of assorted seeds maize and sorghum	Number of quintals purchased	2675	2675	2 nd quarter reported
III.	Basic infrastructure Rehabilitation				
3.1	Adura clinic & Furniture	Constructed	1	Under construction	First quarter & 2 nd quarter report
IV.	Capacity Building				
4.1	Community training on the basic of agriculture inputs	Number of participants	120	150	In three woreda
4.2	Community training on HIV/AIDS	Number of participants	120	120	
4.3	Local Peace building	Number of	50	50	2 nd quarter

		participants			
4.4	Office supplies and furniture	Number of materials supplied			1 st quarter, 2 nd & 3 rd quarter reports
4.5	PC with printer	Number of PCS Purchased	2	2	2 nd quarter
4.6	Transportation of materials				All quarters
4.7	Baseline survey study	Conducted			3 rd quarter
4.8	Staff and line department training	Conducted	10	10	3 rd quarter
4.9	Car procurement				
4.10	NCA/E technical support , Evaluation, Monitoring and Field work supervisor	Conducted			3 rd quarter
V.	Audit			Under way	4 th quarter
VI.	Personnel cost	Number of staffs	10	10	All quarter implemented



Seed distribution to the community

V. Joint Peace Program

Because of the existence of the repeated conflicts in Gambella Region, the two Synods have established joint Peace program which aims in building relationship and restore trust among the conflict communities in Gambella region and its woreda. Joint peace choirs were formed and are doing their best. Consecutive Peace dialogues and conferences were conducted this year at Itang, Lare, Abobo, Pinyindo, and Gambella town. Peace conference will be in place soon in December. Number of the participants will be invited from different woredas and Church members. All these peace initiatives were made to bring the ethnic community in Gambella together and live in a peaceful coexistence.

However, there is foreseen conducive stability in the whole region this is because of the two factors such as the contribution made by the South Sudan Government to make control over their citizens and in general the peaceful establishment of the South Sudan government. The return of some Gambella Youth who have fled to the border of South Sudan and became rebel against Gambella government as the result of the 2004 incident in Gambella town.

Peace Choir

Peace conference in Gambella

Conducted by NCA/E



VI. Human Resource Capacity

The Synod DASSC has limited human resource capacity. There are few people working in the DASSC Office who can do effective services. However, the manpower is now better compare to the previous years. There are 7 staffs working for DASSC Office currently in Western Gambella Bethel Synod. The Synod has made incredible progress in sending 8 students this year to different colleges in the country. Similar attempts have been made to upgrade the existing staff capacity through short term trainings. We therefore have foreseen that the human resource capacity of the Synod will be enhanced in the coming years.

VII. Recent cases of serious cross border attack.

1. Bilim kuon village incident:

The Murlee cattle raiders groups attacked Bilimkuon village which is approximately 12 kms away from Lare main town called Kuergeng. This incident took place on March 2nd 2007. The communities reported that the Muree were well armed group. The attack took place around 12 pm in the mid night where every one was not aware of what had happened. The Murlee group shot their guns and killed 7 innocent people where 3 of them were children less than 5 years of ages. The Murlee took over **3, 936** herds of cattle from that village in Lare woreda. Among the cattle that the Murlee cattle raiders took, 57 of them were killed by them when they shot against the village. 17 people were wounded and 16 of them are now in Gambella Hospital in which some of them are in critical condition. The estimated population living in that village is **2,362** with families heads approximately **580**

1. 2. Adura Burnyang village

Adura Burnyang village is located in north part of Adura village. It is about 7 kms a way form Adura village. In Adura Burnyang village, the attacked consecutively happened on December 23, 2006 prior to the celebration of the Christmas. The Murlee attacked that village in the night and killed 12 people including children. 9 people were wounded where most the wounded victims were children. Most of these people were brought to the Gambella Hospital. A total of 250 herds of cattle were raided from that village. The villages had estimated total population of 240 house hold living there.

1. 3. Kuachthing village attack.

One month latter, the Murlee cattle raiders made similar attack against the community living in Kuachthiang village. The attack happened on January 16, 2007. Kuachthiang village is about 35 kilo meters south of Nyinenyang town which is estimated to be 185 kilometers to Gambella main capital town. The Murlee killed 4 (2 women, one man and one boy who is 12 years of ages) people from the Kuachthiang village and wounded 5 people in which 3 of them were children under 10 years old and 2 of the others were one women and one man. A total of **2,750** herds of cattle were raided from Kuachthiang village. The village is inhabited with the total number of **350** households living there. Goats were also taken by Murlee invaders. It is estimated that the number of goats taken by Murlee would exceed to 50. All of these people who were attacked moved to a place called Dualkuar (the old Jikoaw villages across the river at the side of Sudan because of the fear of Murlee).

Incident at Tiel village

Tiel is formerly Anywaa settlement area where the Nuer who lived in Puldeang settled there for the fear of Murlee attack. The Murlee attacked Tiel village on February 13, 2007. The Murlee killed 2 persons and raided about 2500 herds of cattle. There were total numbers of **150** family heads living there. There were 2 people who were wounded.

Current Situation of the area

Communities in these four villages, Bilimkuon, Adura-Burnyang, Kuachthiang and Tiel face chronic food shortage. Since the Nuer depends on cattle for survival, the situation is worse especial to those villages whose cattle were taken by the Murlee. These people are in desperate need of food. They do not have anything to eat. During the incident, the Regional Disaster Prevention, Preparedness and Food Security Office provided them with little food which was not enough for the conflict displaced IDPs. To make the situation worse, the harvest failed last summary during the flood which had claimed the whole area in Gambella.

Currently, most of the Nuer who have cattle fled to the border of South Sudan across the river. In sum, the displaced communities in four villages have no access to basic needs such as food and NFI which could help them to live. Therefore; provision of food and NFI to the cross border conflict affected communities will improve their living standard and will facilitate their returning back to their villages for cultivation.

The Murlee incident has now accelerated and becomes beyond the Gambella Regional Government control. Yesterday afternoon the Murlee attacked Jor district along the Anywaa side across the border of Puchala of Sudan. Jor is approximately about 180 kms a way from Gambella. There was Government forces at Jor such as Militia and few Polices who were deployed there to protect the communities living there. Yesterday afternoon at 8:00 Pm the Murlee attacked Jor district and ssistance the whole town for about three hours. They were pushed back by the defence force who jointed the fighting last. It was reported that the Murlee killed 10 people among the civilians and militia with police force. Many people were wounded and only two have now reached to Mettu Hospital by the help of MSF car. We sent our Car yesterday to Jor for the distribution of seeds to the community at Jor but our car returned safetely before the incident occurred.

In fact the Murlee thread is now becoming political affair than normal cattle raiding system they used to be. Many of us suspected the hand of the North Sudan Government which we think it is true because the Murlee could not have any supply source for guns and bullets. We would like your support in prayer and any assistance needed to the affected communities.

VIII. Conclusion:

Despite the existing fragile peace stability and the lack of manpower to do effective development activities in the Synod, the Synod DASSC has tried out what she could do in order to meet at rest the demand of the communities. The micro projects which the Synod DASSC has attempted to carry out at the Presbyteries has contributed to enhance the capacity of the Presbytery and opened a new way for income generating schemes. This has indicated positive progress for the Presbyteries development. The rehabilitation assistance which was implemented by the Synod in the operational areas met the felt needs of some communities who where displaced. Some of these communities have returned back to their respective places. With in the challenges we have mentioned earlier, the Synod DASSC made greater contribution in order to ensure effective implementation of the planned activities of the year. We thank God the Almighty for guidance and assistance provided to the Synod in the year 2006 and many thank to the EECMY DASSC Central Office for effort they made in facilitating our development work. We also thank Gambella Regional Government and Line Bureaus which have exerted their effort in getting the work easily for us. We also thanks all our partners who have paid their cost in raising fund for the development work of the Synod such partners are PCUSA, NCA/E, ACTS International, and HEKS.