

## **SUCCESS STORY**

### ***IHO SAVED A LIFE OF A NEW BORN BABY IN WATHMOUK PAYAM, AWEIL SOUTH COUNTY, A STORY THAT MUST BE TOLD.***

Being in the county with a fragile health services, women in Wathmouk Payam, Aweil south county have poor access to health services. Adut Thomas Garang, a mother of 4 children (Gravida 4 para 0) was confused when her 1-month old baby became severely sick. A case that was reported by a community leader Deng Chan who is an executive chief of Wumcum Boma during the community meeting. Deng said his neighbor's child had been sick just after a week she was born and no formal medications were provided to the poor child.

When IHO team suddenly visited Adut's home, she narrated that the traditional birth attendant who helped her during delivery put ashes on the umbilical cord of the child with the aims of protecting the child's umbilical cord. Adut added that, her child had persistence fever, general body weakness and refused to breastfeed as the mother continued to give her local herbs without improvement.

IHO health team then tested the child for malaria using Rapid diagnostic test, but the child was negative. The umbilical cord was cleaned and bandaged. Antibiotics and antipyretics were dispensed for treatment due to bacterial infection at the umbilical cord. Health education messages were passed to Adut Thomas Garang on the importance of the child's hygiene in the prevention of childhood sickness and disadvantages of traditional belief.



Figure 1. Photo when the health worker was examining the child and during follow up respectively.

When the IHO health team visited her at home for the follow up programs, the child had improved and in good health condition breast feeding and playing well and the umbilical cord had healed well.

***” Now I will not accept ashes to be put on the umbilical cord of any of my child, this cultural believes are too bad. IHO has now educated me and now I know how to keep my baby healthy”. For long we have been misled by these mothers (TBA) that charcoal is the best, when IHO is not there better I deliver at the hospital because without IHO, my child was going to die, I am sincerely happy with IHO” Abuk Thomas added.***

Adut Thomas and the husband who never went through any formal education and living under economic distress are among the mothers in South Sudan who do not have access to health services at their time of need or even health education messages on disease prevention however 11990 women of Aweil South County were reached through health education messages during project implementation and they promised to make the best use of it in order to prevent diseases.