

Handover of the Grinding Mill to Diel Community, Pigi County

On 23rd July 2023, UNHCR-Field Office handed over a grinding mill installed in Diel to provide milling services to the community largely affected by conflicts and flood disasters. The Andy's Grinding Mill donated through Catholic faith organisation, Maryknoll Fathers and Brother came after a request by community through UNHCR 8 months ago. The occasion was graced by representatives from the Church, community chiefs, payam representatives and the leadership from the organized forces in the area.

The Grinding mill being the only one in the community was received with much excitement from both the community members the local authorities in the area. A dedication prayer was organized by the religious leaders to ensure smooth operation of the mill.

Speaking during the handover session the head chief in area appreciated the coordinated efforts made by UNHCR in engaging the catholic faith agency to lobby for such assistance for their community. Diel being an isolated area, two hours drive by boat from Malakal is only accessible by river. The area is equally recovering from three years of continuous floods which displaced half of the population before the Toba crises of August 2022 swept away the remaining population in the area.

Floods and conflicts IDPs population are now returning home to rebuild their houses which were either affected by floods or destroyed by conflicts that erupted in August last year between the Agwelek forces of General Olonyi and forces affiliated to Simon Gatwech which escalated to Western Upper Nile and North Jonglei.

According to the local authorities, the milling service will encourage returns to the area as it's one of the most essential services required in the area. "Our women use stones for grinding grains, now they can rest and pay small milling services to turn their grains to floor," one of the chiefs noted.

Management of the Mill

- The Grinding meal will be managed by the community, a 5-member committee has been formed to manage and sustainably ensure that it serve the needs of the vulnerable population -Both men and women will be represented in the committee.
- UNHCR through its partner HDC will provide start-up fuel to run the mill thereafter the community will take over its maintenance and running cost.
- Monitoring visits will be carried out by both UNHCR and HDC to ensure continuous operation of the Mill.
- The community will provide milling services at subsidized rates to make it accessible by the vulnerable population.
- The money from the milling services will be used for maintenance and fuel to run the grinding meal.

Challenges raised by the community.

- Accesses to spare parts for maintenance will be limited due to lack of proper market services.
- Fuel shortage in the market will create irregular milling service.



Figure 1: A section of grinding mill branded with Andy's Grinding Mill in Diel



Figure 2: Church leaders lead a dedication prayer during grinding mill handover in Diel.



Figure 3: UNHCR team join community leaders & local authority during inspection.



Figure 4: First trial take place after the handover session for the grinding meal