Interview with AJ

- **What are some common girl names?**
  - **AJ:** Some common girl names are Achol, Adang, and Adut

- **The journey to get water, is it dangerous/what are the dangers?**
  - **AJ:** Usually in South Sudan, girls and ladies are the ones in charge of collecting the water so when they are traveling long distances they are attacked by wild animals like monkeys. Not normally, but they can be attacked by a lion as well. It is still going on and when some houses are by the forest and they are traveling some long distance and some travel for two hours and if they go before the sunset more likely when they come back in the evening hours they will see animals. The roads are for walking, no cars.

- **How young are the girls when they start walking for water?**
  - **AJ:** Normally started when like 6-7 or whenever age they can start working they start learning how to get water and cooking with their mother. If mom only has boys and no girls or sisters then she is in trouble because she’s going to be the one cooking cleaning, collecting firewood and she won’t have time to collect water.

- **What do the boys do?**
  - **AJ:** The job for boys is so take care of goats, sheep, and cows. To make sure no cows gets lost, they have to make sure to maintain them.

- **How do animals drink water?**
  - **AJ:** They take them long distances sometimes, for 4-5 hours sometimes, and then they come back in the evening hours or they have to drive them to stay there and they come back when the season stops, can’t bring water back from the village when they come back with the animals because they cannot carry it. They have containers for water while they are there for some months. They can spend some time there with the sons, fathers, uncles and then they come back when the rainy season stops.

- **Common boy names?**
  - **AJ:** Deng, Chan like the Chinese name, Agok.

- **What is the situation for boys and school?**
  - **AJ:** Boys aren’t going to school either because they are tending to the sheep. That’s why water is so important. That’s the reason why water is so important in South Sudan, you can see that the girls walking long distance until when they are around 10 they can stay and tend to the children. So then the children don’t go to the
school because they need to get the water and make sure the cows are getting water. The parents and the Dinka culture don’t allow boys to go to school that much when they are taking care of cows so that they can take the cow to get water and feed the cow. The time that boys went to school previously was in August, studying in May till November then they stop then they have to take care of the cows

- **When do girls go to school?**
  - **AJ:** In previous years they take care of water and kids, and now south sudan being independent from the north, it is now policy for young girls to go to school, with agencies there, they are working with the girls to make sure they pay them money to make sure they get their own apartment for their school, they also make it easier now for the whole family, the mother, the father, the girl, with a well nearby, then the girl has an opportunity to go to school and the mother takes care of the children

- **Boys work with the fathers?**
  - **AJ:** Boys follow the fathers, unless your mom has only boys, one of the boys might choose to help his mother, maybe the youngest, usually the eldest one goes with the father

- **How heavy are the containers?**
  - **AJ:** when they walk back with the containers with water, they are 20 liters. They carry that for about 50 min to 3-4 hours home so it take them a long time and the heaviness that they are carrying also would make them feel tired, some of the woman don’t even have hair from carrying the water on their heads

- **Where do they get containers?**
  - **AJ:** From cities, such as in Wau, that are far away from some villages, they walk 1-2 days unless you are lucky you can get a transport car that goes to Wau, but you have to pay for that, but most of the villagers choose to walk because they don’t have money

- **Where do the containers come from in Wau?**
  - **AJ:** They came from Khartoum from northern country, Sudan and some from Kampala in Uganda, and some from Nairobi in Kenya. They don’t actually make them locally, they come from long distances and some of them make local ones from the mud and they look great, it cools the water, which makes the water cold, some women use that if they don’t have the capital to get the Gerry cans
- Are there any other occupations that villagers do? Or are striving to do?
  
  - **AJ:** All they do, the ladies take care of the cooking, collect water, collect firewood, they are very focused on food and stuff. The man and the boys focused on the cows, taking cows to go get water and walk back in the late evening if the area doesn’t have water, they walk even farther and spend 2-3 months until the raining season start. On the other hand, they have to do a cultivation also, that cultivation, they have to clear the plants during the drying season and prepare and cutting the trees to just clean it up, that’s the man job to clean it up, to do that and so whenever the son they have to make sure the man has to come back to clear where they are going to cultivate, sorghum, cow grass, that another occupation that they have but other than that they don’t have any other thing that they do.

- Regarding hygiene education, what are some specific things that surprised you?
  
  - **AJ:** What they did find very interesting is when you go squat in the bush that you have to make sure you wash your hands when you come back and when you go to eat they were really surprised for that, how many times you have to wash your hands, how many times you have to use soap, and we even had to tell them that squatting in the bush can turn into diarrhea in the future when the flies are going to sit there and come back and sit in the food and eating that and contaminating the food they didn’t even know that that would make them sick and so they were very interested that they were learning this and also they were wondering how do they get sick especially how many times they are washing the dishes and it was very important for water for South Sudan to indicate to them how people get sick and how important it is not to squat in the bushes where the flies would come and sit there and make you sick and they were all interested to hear from us and learn from us.

- Do you think they were using the information you gave them? Did they have trouble adapting?
  
  - **AJ:** Some of them are using it but are having a little trouble adapting to the system and the change and generally in South Sudan there are things that people are having trouble changing the system to adapt to a new system and so for them we need to keep up with them and make sure we go back and follow what we taught them and make sure they are implementing that and so for them there is a little bit of difficulty for them to do that.

- How is bathing practiced? Without a well and with a well?
  
  - **AJ:** Without a well it’s very difficult in the villages, some of them even spend like 7 days without taking a shower, you can’t even imagine someone spending 7 days without taking a shower, they might even eat like once a day because there is no water, collecting water is long distances that might not even get them time to do things like cook, if they get lunch they are going to sleep without eating again then...
they will wake up and each lunch and not eat again depending on when the woman cooks and collects the water and so they have to wait or they have to sleep because they don’t even have the machine that grinds the sorghums so she has to do it by hand, the traditional way, so it affect them if there is no water around, good thing when there is a well nearby, it make it a lot easier, it changes their whole life, they would not sleep without even taking a shower, so they take a shower every day, whenever they want to, cows won’t go so far away (sheep, goats) boys don’t go far distance, they can do some other stuff to help their parents, whatever is needed to help, it change a lot of lives when water is nearby it transforms a lot of lives the woman can cook when they feel like it, so it changes a lot of lives
  - Spend more time on sorghum
  - They clean sorghum with the water, and soak it in water to make it not as hard so the water helps in so many ways

- **What does a shower look like?**
  
  o **AJ:** That is very interesting, I hope u would come there and watch it, some of the local systems there, the women they just pour the water on their hands as well as men also but the women are not allowed to take shower openly they have to go home to take shower but if they want to take shower near the well they don’t have to take off their own clothes and the girls can take off as long as you’re not married as well as men there, just by hands, come with own container collect water and take shower near the well there

- **Do villages build a shower house?**
  
  o **AJ:** Usually some of the villages they don’t make that kind of stuff so in the evening hours or very early in the morning when it’s a little dark they shower

- **How often do they wash their clothing?**
  
  o **AJ:** Wash their own clothing, some of them in the night when they shower, around 7-8 and hang them there or if normal clothes hang them during the day time they wash them in the morning when they take the shower

- **Do they have one set of clothing?**
  
  o **AJ:** Some part of the country it turns out that a woman can wear one clothes unless it becomes bad completely than her husband have to sit down and figure it out if they’re going to sell goat or cow whatever they have to do to figure it out, so when they wear only one it’s another reason to take shower also at night so they can hang that clothes and in the morning hours put it on

- **Where do they get these American clothes?**
- **What are the dangers of sexual violence with collecting water walks?**
  - **AJ:** I have not come across things like that, like raping, I think most of them people in south sudan respect the culture if they were to get married they would talk to the parents and agree and get married immediately. Unless there is a war, if broke out, things like that can happen, war between north and south sudan there was raping but it was not intended by civilians, it was between the soldier and the civilian but the civilians don’t do that they respect the culture for example in water for south sudan we have women girls work with us and what we do first of all is we have to get authorization from the parents and we will take care of their wives and girls and we will sign the paper and when the contract is finished we have to hand them over and say this is your girl we return to you she is healthy and everything and you now have to take care of your girl and so they are very careful about that they are so worried about as much is monkey and lion that’s why they are very careful to do that before it gets dark

- **When we hire, are they the same women?**
  - **AJ:** We hire them specifically when we do for the field seasonally and then we hire them then when the contract is over we let them go back to their houses and if we call them and they are married or change we go to the parent’s house and we have to bring the father and the mother to see where we are drilling then we go there and if they are married the parents is going to tell us and we have to talk with the husband and her and if they agree its ok if they are not its ok if she say I want to work for water for south sudan that’s ok if she says she has another job or find another business we say ok we have to look for another person, other than that some women are full time employees they come and work then go back to their families and they are mostly in Wau and they have phones and everything, cell phones, husbands and kids have cell phones, some of the villages have close to town you can see 2-3 people with phones but not everyone, if send someone for a some few hours to go to bring someone or one day then someone might come back

- **Are there any wild horses? Giraffes?**
  - They have horses in town in Wau, but not in the villages, not wild
  - There is giraffes but it’s very rare, I have never been across since I’ve been back but during the war I did come across some on the border of Kenya and Sudan
- **What’s it like to not have shoes? Is it a huge concern?**
  - AJ: lot of kids, women, men don’t have shoes especially in the villages they just walk like that and believe it or not its fine, their feet are already strong to stand on that hotness and they’ve been walking on it, it can be extremely hot, 120 degrees, extremely hot

- **Do they make their own shoes?**
  - AJ: In the city there are some shoes in the cities but in the villages they don’t think about it because they don’t have income, so to get the shoes or clothes you have to sell out something, whether it be the goats or the cows, sorghums, baskets, or some other stuff, handmade so u can do to make money and then you buy the shoes , but if you don’t then you won’t be able to get shoes for a while and some of the villages don’t even think about getting shoes because they getting used to that getting used to walking without shoes so they think why would I sell my goat for just getting shoes, they ignore it and just call it that are some places in Wau and there is a little bit of changes but before that they didn’t let the girls go to school so during my time they only had the boys go to school but now they are changing coming in the independence of the country, the government is doing their part and the GNOs is doing their part to make sure the girls are going to school and its very important to make sure the girls are in school and even now some GNOs are funded from the western world to have the girls go to school so that if the parents say we have fees or uniform , it don’t matter and so it become a program and it’s a collaboration with the government and those other NGOs

- **Women have training in domestic tasks, do they ever get training in other things?**
  - AJ: Not quite happening yet unless those girls are following school but women particularly the ones in the villages, I don’t think they are thinking that, they aren’t even thinking about changes they’re thinking about their children going to school, that’s what they’re thinking about

- **Is having water for a well helping hygiene for labor and pregnancy?**
  - AJ: It helps to have water nearby for when a woman giving birth, traditionally they have to have a lot of water and then boil that water and make sure the baby has to be taken the shower in hot water as well as mother and they have to do that in a month and they have to make sure that the mother has to have food in the morning, day time and the evening hours so having water nearby helps in so many ways it helps in hygiene by itself in cleanliness by the woman giving birth has to take a shower twice in a day that’s the importance of hygiene itself in that case, changing their whole lives by having water nearby, cook on time, make sure u have
enough time you’re not going to be looking for the water because it’s nearby, it makes life easier

- **AJ:** Having water nearby does help because if you don’t have water nearby then you have to look for someone nearby to collect water for you because you won’t be able to collect water and so what they normally do when I ask them, if you have parents before you give birth, you have to make sure your mom, or your sisters, or your cousins, has to be around you to collect the water for you for at least one to two months before she has to go back to the family so the help of having the water nearby you might just even be there if you have your own daughter even if she is like 6 years old she can collect the water for you and you can cook and stuff even like your mother collect for you because it isn’t going to be long distance not taking about 4–5 hours to come back so it helps a lot if you have water nearby, it helps in hygiene and to cook and other stuff like that

- **What are some specific village names?**
  - **AJ:** Name of the village where I met with the lady I have here, I don’t remember the name of that but it’s well number
    - (War Ding, county of Kuac North in the Gogrial state)
  - **AJ:** What was happening actually in that area, I was going to take photos from that area and what happened I went there and the well caved in, they put the soils on top of that because there was no water and they were trying to take the person out and they had to cover it completely because the smell was coming out so they had to make sure that they covered that so what happened in that village that was in quite north county so what happened they used not only that area lots of area does this, they hand dug the well to collect water there so what I think that happened is dry season come it dries up so when the rainy season the water come up very high so when dry season come it dry up so much so they decided to go and make it reach farther in the ground so when they did that one person went down and they actually almost managed that and when they went into that soil it wasn’t strong enough or stable because there is no water so it just start caving in so when he started to come out it collapsed on his head so he dead on that case and then the whole village decided are not going to do that anymore so they decided that they were going to call someone else so they were going to walk
  - **AJ:** So this lady had girls and her girl used to go to school for 5 years and then she had to stop her in order to go get the water so they take a turn with her daughter so when she get water then come back she take care of the kids then she has to take care of collecting the fire food so she can sustain the kids and then when we come there we drill the well and “now we have the well my daughter will continue to go to school and we will collect the water nearby”, so when we look at it, it’s really helpful, thru WFSS providing clean water to some other villages it helps it helps and not only a place that those kind of things happen in south sudan in
previous years I drilled a well, and actually I wasn’t intended to drill a well there, but I did drill a well to an old lady, with another village, I had a conversation with this lady, I was just walking, I didn’t have a car, I just went for a walk, so I talked with this lady who was all by herself and I think she was like 60 years old, no one with her, she has all girls and they all got married and she doesn’t want to leave her house so I asked her where does she get the water and she said well I went over there across that forest and that’s where I collect the water and I come back here and I asked how did you manage it and she said I’m able to do it it’s just the problem is the animals, she said she was being attacked by a lion and there was another man walking on the road and came and rescued her, and I said ok how about now you have a well nearby here and she said where are you going to get a well, I’ve been here for all these years and I’ve never seen a well, I said ok I’m just going to bring you a well in a week and she was like ok but didn’t believe me. There was population near there but people were gathering there so it was a huge village, so when I drilled a well nearby her house there she couldn’t believe it she was excited to have the well nearby her so she didn’t have to walk long distances so she was like the lion is not going to get me now but maybe it could come to the house but that’s the only way we will have a problem but other than that it helped my life. So there is a lot of the villages that have the problems that are lacking, there is the problems of caving in, that’s a big problem, I’ve had that in several problems. Well the only way I can tell them to stay away is when I’m drilling the well but if I don’t provide them the well for that village I can’t tell them to stay away I can only tell them to be careful so what I tell them is to be careful when I drill that and that when it dries don’t even attempt to drill that just leave it and we will begin to assess somewhere else to see if it can be drilled there.

   - AJ: The water issue in south sudan is a big problem, water, sanitation, hygiene. Most likely I can say like 90% are squatting in the bush they don’t have toilet, that’s what they’re used to but when u tell them we are going to have toilet for you that is going to take time for them to believe that. They go to the forest and the toilets that they have set up are set up from other NGO’s and there is no water it is just a temporary one where they dig the hole and whenever you want to squat you sit there and drop it and just leave

   - We know people can be attacked by a lion, do the lions ever go to the village?
   - AJ: Yes they do, they can come to the village, sometimes when it’s so dark you can hear the sound of the hyena at night, it’s like when I was there Andrew was telling me that that was the sound of a lion and I said yes it is and especially when there is a forest near the area, sometimes they hide themselves and then at night they look for the stuff, I have been near hyenas and they are just as scary cat, even if you don’t have anything in your hand and you do your hand like this they will run away, they get scared
AJ: When I am drilling the well in the villages, that’s the one of the relaxed place I ever had because village is safe and doesn’t have a lot of troubles and you have people associating with you a lot, they are socializing with you and giving you things because they need the well if you see me when I’m there I have an office and I have people coming to me and I line them up one by one to see what are their needs and stuff and explain to them what we cannot do, what procedures we can do and how it works because the villages sometimes, think that we just come and give the well but there is a process that we have to go through so drilling the wells in the villages is one of the places where you feel like nothing will happen even with these things about lions that you hear and hyenas they normally happen but they don’t just come and attack just like that, there is people around, even if anything happens it’s when they see you walking alone at night, they might try and attack you there is a way they try and attack you, he might try and come walk around you and see whether you are a scary person or not and if you act normally he will walk away and if he knows you are scared that’s where the problem come from, but the thing about the villages, are very careful if they hear that something is a problem they come together and that helps a lot but for us as a drilling team we safe and everything is good we know how to do our thing and we know all our stuff

- Most places that things like that happen are in the forest
- Some part of the country there are no forest it’s just plains and you don’t see a tree or anything so there are no lions or anything, seems like a desert
- Meals like: Beans, local breads, maize, locally made spaghetti, macaroni, local chicken
  - Breakfast: rice and milk