Dedication

Cosmos

(the late Director at the Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare)
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Forward

Word of appreciation upon the presentation of the first South Sudanese Sign Language Dictionary

As the World's youngest nation South Sudan is starting to find its own way among the peoples of the globe. LIGHT FOR THE WORLD is delighted that this dictionary of a national South Sudanese Sign Language is among the very first expressions of own identity of the new nation. This important work would not have been possible without the firm commitment and cooperation of the Ministry of Child, Gender and Social Welfare of South Sudan, as well as the efforts of representatives of the South Sudanese Deaf Communities. On behalf of LIGHT FOR THE WORLD I would like to express our gratitude for that. We believe that in this spirit of cooperation further development of the South Sudanese Sign Language will also take place and this will enable further participation of the Deaf People in their communities.

Matthias Nederveen,
Interim Director LIGHT FOR THE WORLD Netherlands
How to use the dictionary

In the table below is referred to expressive arrows of sign entries in the Basic dictionary of South Sudan Sign Language. These arrows expresses the movement of the hands (sometimes also head and body) in the sign pictures of the Basic dictionary of South Sudanese Sign Language. Readers of this dictionary are advised to read the following instructions on how to use and apply the dictionary signs.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Arrows</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><img src="image" alt="Path made by hand or part of a hand" /></td>
<td>the path made by hand or part of a hand (sometimes by head or body)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image" alt="Normal movement" /></td>
<td>normal movement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image" alt="Rapid movement" /></td>
<td>rapid movement (see entry on page 20)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image" alt="Transitional movement" /></td>
<td>transitional movement (the path along which the hands move to the starting point of the next movement within a sign), (see entries on page 42)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image" alt="Hand closes" /></td>
<td>hand closes (= the extended fingers close, the resulting handshape may be: fingertips contacting the thumb, loose fist or fist), (see entries on page 39)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image" alt="Thumb and one finger close" /></td>
<td>thumb and one finger close (see entries on page 44)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image" alt="Hand opens" /></td>
<td>hand opens (compare to &quot;hand closes&quot;) (see entry on page 50)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image" alt="Thumb and one finger opens" /></td>
<td>thumb and one finger opens (see entry on page 27) or two parallel fingers separate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image" alt="Small and quick or trembling movement" /></td>
<td>small and quick or trembling movement (see entry on page XX)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image" alt="Repeated movement" /></td>
<td>repeated movement (usually the movement is repeated once, but this symbol is also used if the movement is repeated twice) (see entry on page 27)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image" alt="Bidirectional movement" /></td>
<td>bidirectional movement, the movement starts to the direction of the double arrowhead (see entries on page 19)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image" alt="The tip of a finger rubs repeatedly against the thumb" /></td>
<td>the tip of a finger rubs repeatedly against the thumb (see entry on page)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image" alt="Forearm rotation" /></td>
<td>forearm rotation, the arrow shows the direction of the rotation (see entry on page 42)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image" alt="When used around a wrist indicates forearm rotation" /></td>
<td>when used around a wrist indicates forearm rotation (see entry on page 33)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image" alt="The hand or part of the hand does not move" /></td>
<td>the hand or part of the hand does not move (see entry on page 63)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image" alt="The hands move together to the direction shown by the arrow" /></td>
<td>the hands move together to the direction shown by the arrow (see entry on page 61)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Dictionary Process

This dictionary was produced in three phases. The first phase was designing the project plan and securing funds. While doing so, an effort was made to gather basic information about the issue of sign language, deafness and Deaf people in South Sudan. At the second phase, the official launching of the project took place in Juba. At the same time, there was a sign language data collection process. The third phase included the signing language data editing, layout and publication.

The project has designed and developed by Light for the World in collaboration with the Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare of the Republic South Sudan to address the key educational challenges of the Deaf community in South Sudan.

In order to collect a representative sign language corpus for the dictionary, an interactive session was held during the opening event by which the participating Deaf community were made aware of the following important issues:

- basic understanding about sign language and related topics
- the importance of documenting sign language dictionaries for the Deaf people and their parents
- sign language variation and influence from sign languages of other countries

Approximately 15 South Sudanese Deaf community members were involved in the dictionary process. They were representatives from Equatoria State Association of the Deaf and Dumb (ESADD), National Association for the Deaf, delegates from Mundri and Yei and some deaf delegates from Western and Central Equatoria States took part in the data collection.

The participants were categorized into three groups, and assigned to work on three semantic themes: Family, Education, Food and Drinks. There are also additional categories such as Numbers, Months and Days, Manual Alphabet, States and Cities, and Aesthetic signs.

Prior to the data collection session, trainings were given for the Deaf role models on how to collect and categorize sign language data. Each group placed the signs that are in current use of each signs under the three categories. The South Sudanese Deaf community members presented the categorized signs in a workshop. In addition, each group nominated a presenter and model signers for recording and photographing. Most of the listed signs are indigenous to South Sudan. The selected model signers also practiced before the actual documentation started.

Recording and photographing of each sign took place after the data collection process was completed. A total of 200 sign entries were photographed and recorded. Then the selected sign entries were analysed in Adobe Photoshop software for cropping, colour selection, adjustment and arrow insertion processes. After the editing of the pictures was completed, final evaluations of the pictures were made at Juba with the presence of many stakeholders in South Sudan. The feedback from the stakeholders' workshop helped to improve the picture qualities, arrows and other important components of the dictionary. The layout design was developed for the dictionary includes all the necessary information and put it in a dictionary format. The layout was designed in Microsoft Publisher application. Eventually, after taking the feedback on the draft designed dictionary, it was sent to the printing house.
South Sudanese Sign Language Dictionary

In many African countries, one of the challenges of the education of Deaf children is lack of reference materials. Preparing such a dictionary which is the first of its kind in the history of South Sudan has multifaceted benefit including educational, social, cultural and political significance. This is the first of its kind in the history of South Sudan to publish a sign language dictionary. It can be used at schools as a basic reference for the Deaf. Parents and teachers of the Deaf can also benefit to learn a new language.

The basic South Sudanese Sign Language Dictionary. It consists of 141 basic and daily signs, 26 manual alphabet plus 33 signs for numbers i.e. a total of 200 signs. All the signs were categorized thematically into eight groups. These are Arithmetic, Cities and State names, days and months, Education, Family, Food and Drink, Manual Alphabets and Numbers. There were a total of 337 pictures taken to produce this dictionary. Each single sign consist of a maximum of 4 pictures. There are also some signs represented by a single picture. Arrows are inserted in each pictures using Adobe Photoshoph to show the movement of the hands and the head. The application of these arrows was gained a full permission of use from Finnish Association of the Deaf FAD.

There is a wide range of sign language variation among the South Sudanese Deaf Community. The dictionary tried to accommodate signing variation as a resource by putting 2 or 3 variant forms in the dictionary. The variations are shown as “option 1” and “option 2” i.e. if the sign took more than one picture. However if the sign consists of only one picture, then the variation is shown in one row by putting “or” in the middle of the two variant signs. It is very useful to keep the variations and document them for further use and analysis.

Light for the World, Juba, South Sudan
<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>B</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
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<td>I</td>
<td>J</td>
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<tr>
<td>K</td>
<td>L</td>
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1 Basic South Sudanese Sign Language Dictionary

2 Basic South Sudanese Sign Language Dictionary
### Manual Alphabet

<table>
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<tr>
<th>M</th>
<th>N</th>
<th>S</th>
<th>T</th>
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<td>O</td>
<td>P</td>
<td>U</td>
<td>V</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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*Basic South Sudanese Sign Language Dictionary*
### Manual Alphabet

| Y | Z |

### Numbers

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
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<tr>
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<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
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<td>Numbers</td>
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<td>---------</td>
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<tr>
<td><img src="image1.png" alt="Image" /></td>
<td><img src="image2.png" alt="Image" /></td>
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<td><img src="image3.png" alt="Image" /></td>
<td><img src="image4.png" alt="Image" /></td>
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<td>70</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image5.png" alt="Image" /></td>
<td><img src="image6.png" alt="Image" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80</td>
<td>1000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Basic South Sudanese Sign Language Dictionary*
Numbers

10000

Arithmetical related signs

ADDITION

DIVISION (option 1)

DIVISION (option 2)
Cities and State names

CITY

AWEIL

OR

BENTIU

BOR

KUJOK

MALAKAL

South Sudanese Sign Language Dictionary
Cities and State names

RUMBEK
TORIT
WAU

CENTRAL EQUATORIA (state)

YAMBIO
STATE
Cities and State names

EASTERN EQUATORIA (state)

JONGLIE (state)

LAKE (state)

NORTHERN BAHR AL GHEZAL (state)

PIBOR (state)

SOUTH SUDAN (option1)
DAYS AND MONTHS related signs

MARCH

APRIL

MAY

JUNE

JULY

AUGUST

29 Basic South Sudanese Sign Language Dictionary

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DAYS AND MONTHS related signs

SEPTMBER

OCTOBER

NOVEMBER

DECEMBER

YEAR

WEEK
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DAYS AND MONTHS related signs</th>
<th>DAYS AND MONTHS related signs</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>DAY</strong></td>
<td><strong>WEDNESDAY</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>MONDAY</strong></td>
<td><strong>THURSDAY</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TUESDAY</strong></td>
<td><strong>FRIDAY</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Basic South Sudanese Sign Language Dictionary*
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DAYS AND MONTHS related signs</th>
<th>Education related signs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SATURDAY</td>
<td>BOOK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OR</td>
<td>CHANCELLOR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SUNDAY</td>
<td>CLASS</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Basic South Sudanese Sign Language Dictionary
Education related signs

COLLEGE

EDUCATION

HEAD-MASTER

HIGH SCHOOL

HIGHER EDUCATION

LEARN

37 Basic South Sudanese Sign Language Dictionary
**Education related signs**

**LESSON**

**MECHANIC**

**NURSERY SCHOOL (as an alternative, a combination**

**PRIMARY SCHOOL**

**PUPILS**

**READ**
Education related signs

SCHOOL

TEACH

TEACHER

TECHNICAL SCHOOL

TERTIARY SCHOOL

UNIVERSITY
Family related signs

CHILD

CHILDREN (option 1)

CHILDREN (option 2)

Family related signs

COUSIN

FAMILY (option 1)

FAMILY (option 2)
Family related signs

MOTHER-IN-LAW

SISTER

SISTER-IN-LAW

UNCLE

WEDDING

WIFE
Food, drink and related signs

BEER

BREAD

CABBAGE

DURA (South Sudanese name for Sorghum)

FISH (option 1)

FISH (option 2)
Food, drink and related signs

FOOD (option 1)

Food, drink and related signs

JUICE

KISER (sorghum made flat bread)

GROUNDNUTS

MAIZE

57 Basic South Sudanese Sign Language Dictionary

58 Basic South Sudanese Sign Language Dictionary
Food, drink and related signs

MEAT

OKRA (type of green vegetable)

PORRIDGE (option 1)

MILK (option 1)

PORRIDGE (option 2)

MILK (option 2)

Basic South Sudanese Sign Language Dictionary
Food, drink and related signs

**POSHO** (a dish of)

**POSHO** (option 2)

**RICE** (option 1)

**RICE** (option 2)

**SIMSIM** (SESAME)

**SODA**

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62 Basic South Sudanese Sign Language Dictionary
Food, drink and related signs

SORGUM

OR

TEA

Index

Manual Alphabets- A-Z (Pages 1 – 5)
Numbers- 1- one million (Pages 6 – 15)
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2. DIVISION-1
3. DIVISION-2
4. EQUAL-1
5. EQUAL-2
6. MATHEMATICS
7. MULTIPLICATION
8. SUBTRACTION-1
9. SUBTRACTION-2

CITIES AND STATES (Pages 19 – 27)
1. CITY
2. AWEIL
3. BENTIU
4. BOR
5. CITY/TOWN
6. KUJOK
7. MALKAL
8. RUMBEK
9. TORIT
10. WAU
11. YAMBIO
12. STATE
13. CENTRAL EQUATORIAL STATE
14. EASTERN EQUATORIAL STATE
15. JONGLE
16. LAKE STATE
17. NORTHERN BAHR GHEZAL STATE
18. PIBOR
19. SOUTH SUDAN-1
20. SOUTH SUDAN-2
21. UNITY STATE
22. UPPER NILE STATE
23. WARRAP STATE
24. WESTERN BAHR GHEZAL STATE
25. WESTERN EQUATORIAL STATE
26. PARLIAMENT
27. PRESIDENT
28. PRIME MINISTER

DAYS AND MONTHS (Pages 28 – 35)

1. MONTH
2. JANUARY
3. FEBRUARY
4. MARCH
5. APRIL
6. MAY
7. JUNE
8. JULY
9. AUGUST
10. SEPTEMBER
11. OCTOBER
12. NOVEMBER
13. DECEMBER
14. YEAR
15. WEEK
16. DAY
17. MONDAY
18. TUESDAY
19. WEDNESDAY
20. THURSDAY
21. FRIDAY
22. SATURDAY
23. SUNDAY

Education (Pages 36 – 42)

1. BOOK
2. CHANCELLOR
3. CLASS
4. COLLEGE
5. EDUCATION
6. HEADMASTER
7. HIGH SCHOOL
8. HIGHER EDUCATION
9. LEARN
10. LESSON
11. MECHANIC
12. NURSERY SCHOOL-1
13. NURSERY SCHOOL-2
14. PRIMARY SCHOOL
15. PUPILS
16. READING
17. SCHOOL-1
18. SCHOOL-2
19. TEACH
20. TEACHER
21. TECHNICAL SCHOOL
22. TERTIARY SCHOOL
23. UNIVERSITY

Family (Pages 43 – 53)

1. AUNT
2. BABY
3. BROTHER-1
4. BROTHER-2
5. BROTHER-3
6. BROTHER IN LAW
7. CHILD
8. CHILDREN-1
9. CHILDREN-2
10. COUSIN
11. FAMILY-1
12. FAMILY-2
13. FATHER
14. FATHER IN LAW
15. GRANDFATHER-1
16. GRANDFATHER-2
17. GRANDMOTHER-1
18. GRANDMOTHER-2
19. GRANDMOTHER-3
20. HUSBAND
21. MAN-1
22. MAN-2
23. MOTHER IN LAW
24. MOTHER-1
25. MOTHER-2
26. MOTHER-3
27. SISTER-IN-LAW
28. SISTER
29. UNCLE
30. WEDDING
31. WIFE
32. WOMAN-1
<table>
<thead>
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</table>

**Food and Drinks (Pages 54 – 63)**
Basic South Sudanese Sign Language Dictionary

It consists of 141 basic and daily signs, 26 manual alphabets plus 33 signs for numbers i.e. a total of 200 signs. All the signs were categorized thematically into eight groups. These are: Arithmetic, Cities and State names, days and months, Education, Family, Food and Drink, Manual Alphabets, and Numbers. There were a total of 337 pictures taken to produce this dictionary. (Taken from inside the dictionary)