

# CASE STORY

**NAME** Ajok  
**AGE** 17  
**COUNTRY** South Sudan  
**THEME** Child Protection  
**STORY** Separated children - Fighting in South Sudan caused Ajok to get separated from her parents for years



## Summary

When fighting broke out in South Sudan in 2013, many families were separated from each other. Many separated children were stressed from missing their parents and siblings for years, meanwhile others have no hope for the future.

Ajok is among thousands of children separated from their families. The fighting in 2013 caught her at Malakal market alone. When she returned home, she found her parents were not there. She then joined relatives at the UN Protection of Civilian site. At the age of only 11, Ajok thought her parents were dead, meanwhile her parents thought Ajok had suffered the same fate she thought they had.

Through partners, Save the Children traced Ajok's family's whereabouts and were found in Akobo East. This year, Ajok was reunited with her family. It was a moment of pure joy for Ajok to finally be able to see her parents and siblings again. She is now hopeful for her and her family's future because of the support provided by the DANIDA funded programme.

## In her own words

"Fighting got me in the market and when I reached home, I couldn't find my parents. I got my aunt and then I fled with her to the UN compound in Malakal. I then continued to stay at the UN protection of civilian site with my aunt".

"I was stressed because I didn't know the whereabouts of my parents since 2013. I missed the love my parents showed me, and often wondered what had happened to them".

"After staying for about five years, they then told me that my parents are around. So, when I heard that I will be reunited with my parents, I felt very happy to feel again the love of my parents".

"From Malakal, they then transferred me to Juba. From Juba, I was brought to meet my father, mother, brothers and sisters. I feel blessed to see them again".

"I just want to say "thank you" for reunifying me with my family. Now I'm in Primary five. I want to continue with my education and become a doctor".

## Quotes from her mother

“It took us 20 days to walk from Malakal to Akobo here and settle. I never thought I would see my daughter again, since we fled in a difficult moment. I thought she was dead or had been abducted by people from the armed conflict”.

“When I received a message from Save the Children that my daughter is alive and will be brought soon, I was very happy. I appreciate the hard work that you (Save the Children) is doing”.

75% of the total target has been reached so far.



## Project information

The intended child protection intervention through a DANIDA-funded Project in Akobo was to revolve around three main components i.e. 1) support to vulnerable children and separated children through the provision of case management services including family tracing and reunification; 2) provision of community based Psychosocial Services activities through capacity building of community based protection committees to undertake psychosocial support to children and community awareness around child protection issues; and 3) influencing behavioral change on violence against children/youth and gender based violence. The estimated project target is 2,587 and