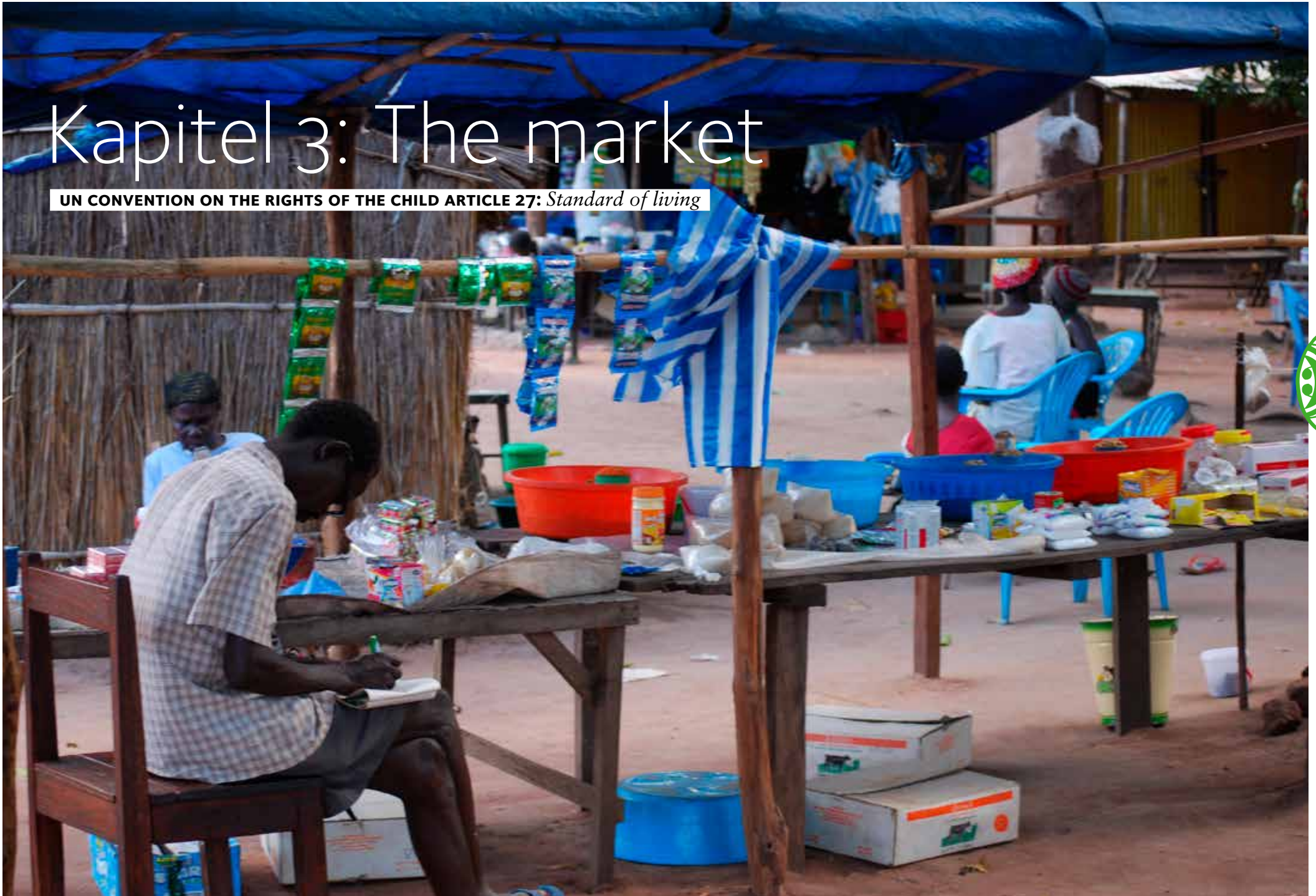


Kapitel 3: The market

UN CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD ARTICLE 27: *Standard of living*



3: The market

ARTICLE 27 *Standard of living*

TABAN, 10 YEARS OLD SAYS:

“Today is my favourite day. After school Bennet and I will hurry home, because then we are going shopping in the market. The market is located in the centre of Lui. It is an exciting place, there are lots of things to look at and there are always a lot of people.

We are going to shop for some things for our mothers, but then we are also going to buy new note-books for school. I hope I can find one with a picture of Manchester United because that is my favourite team. Bennet prefers a book with animals; he loves animals, especially dolphins. His uncle has told that dolphins have a language of their own and that they are smarter than people. But there are no dolphins in South Sudan.

Time usually passes very quickly when I am at school, but today it drags even though we have my favourite subject, that is Sport and we practice running.

Finally the school-day is over and we can start walking home. We walk together with Michael, who is in my class and lives quite near us. When he hears that we are going to the market he wants to come along. I get some money from my Mum. I have to buy beans, oil, peanut butter and hibiscus tea. Bennet has to buy flower, honey, dried fish and sewing-thread for Aunt Joy.

Our mothers nag us to be careful with the

money. My Mum checks my pocket several times to see if there is a hole in case the money could fall out.

Michael has waited for us at the road-crossing. He shows his new catapult which he has made of a rubber-glove from the hospital and a forked branch. Both Bennet and I want to have a go with it and shoot and hit. We stop by the petrol sellers and ask if they have some bottles we can use as targets. Bennet puts them in a row and Michael starts shooting. At the same time I look for good pebbles and finally I have both pockets full of them. It's fun playing with the catapult but it is good to practice to shoot and hit because Michael uses his catapult to shoot birds for his family to eat.

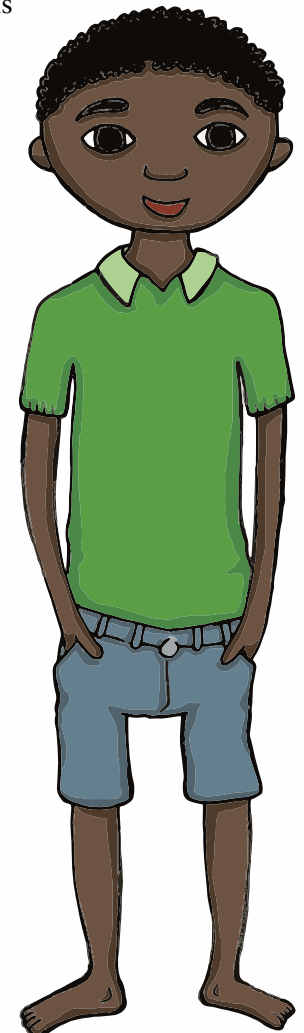
Now we must hurry up or we will be late for dinner. When you get to the market you almost get all dizzy because of all the exciting things there are to watch. But anyhow we decide to start buying the sewing-thread and the food. It does not take too long and we get plastic bags to carry everything home in. Bennet had to be very careful when he bought honey. Flies and other insects like to eat sweet things and can easily crawl down into the pot.

After that we go to the stall for note-books. There are quite a lot of nice ones to choose from and Bennet finds one with dolphins right away. Last term he did not have a note-book of his own. He got one from a neighbour who had

finished school and had a note-book with empty pages. Now he is stroking the dolphins with his hand as if he is patting them. He has a big smile on his face.

I look over all the books with football-motifs, but there is none with Manchester United. The seller helps me look and finally he walks over to another shop and asks. How lucky, they have one left! Now we must hurry up because this has taken a long time. I only have to pay for my book. But - What now! In my pocket there is only some gravel from the pebbles! The money is gone, I feel cold. How did this happen? What shall I do now?

We look through the bags but find no money. Bennet stays with the bags and I run back to the food-market. I ask everyone we have bought from but no one has seen



my bank-note. Now I am almost crying. Must this happy day end so badly? Then Bennet thinks that maybe I dropped it when we were doing the shooting. We hurry up back to the petrol-sellers and how lucky! As soon as they see us one of them starts shouting and waving my bank-note. I am so happy; I give him a hug, even though he finds it a bit embarrassing. Then I run all the way back and pay for my note-book.

When we are about to leave the market we hear someone play. It is the man with the kudi. We stop for a while and listen to him singing love-songs. A kudi is an instrument he made himself from a tin-box, a goat-skin and some wooden sticks. Then he has tied strings and tuned it so that it sounds beautiful when he plays.

When we come home our mothers are cross with us. They probably think it took much too long to go shopping. They threaten that the next time they are going to send our sisters instead, so we will have to stay at home and do the chores. We apologise and tell them about the catapult and the music, but we say nothing about the lost bank-note.



Facts



THE MARKET IN LUI

In the market-place everything that is available to be purchased in Lui is sold and bought. There are about 6 – 7 000 inhabitants in Lui and the market-place is located in the middle of the town, close to the main road going to Juba.

If you, for instance, have some extra durra (a common kind of corn in South Sudan), you sell it in the market. Since this is the harvest season for this crop, everybody else is also selling their extra crops and the trading is slow. What is for sale is put on pieces of cloth or on a tarpaulin on the ground. Honey is sold in pots with sweet-loving bees and wasps around. If a goat is in milk, the milk is sold in the market from a can. The sellers sit on the ground hoping for customers to come. Many of them do embroidery on cloth for sheets and pillowcases and some plait baskets or mats.

There is a market-hall, a house with one big room, where different kinds of vegetables are sold. Goods are put on a benches made of cement and the sellers stand behind them. Beans are put in big plastic bowls and measured cups ready to be sold. You pay per cup. Outside the market-hall there are small stalls selling ready-made food,

cooked on an open fire. You can also buy a cup of hibiscus-tea.

Some women make peanut butter and put the paste in plastic bags. At some stalls fish is sold, both dried and smoked and the fish are both large and small. At another stall you can buy live chickens.

In another part of the market people sell things that they make. Tailors and dressmakers are sitting outside their shops sewing, carpenters are making woodwork. There are mills, where you can get your corn ground. On a flat piece of rock some women have divided a sack of charcoal into plastic bags to be sold.

Some shops sell medicine, everything from cough syrup and aspirin to antibiotics. There are some medicines for domestic animals as well. In bigger shops there are things made from plastic, canned food, oil, washing powder, cloth, clothes, underwear, writing utensils, brushes, soft drinks and also the

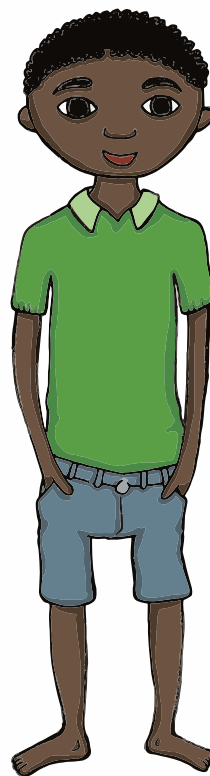
possibility to exchange money.

A bicycle-mechanic has opened a shop where he sells spare tyres, diesel and motor oil. The fuel for motorbikes is sold in bottles that earlier contained water and the bottles are filled with different amounts of diesel. The town's motorbike taxi is also based here.

Behind a dark curtain there is a shop showing English football games. The ones coming up are advertised on a black-board outside. Along the wall a man

with a string instrument, a kudi is sitting, playing, singing and telling stories.

Plastic bags have come to Lui as the market has grown and people move around more than during the war. Plastic bags are a growing problem in all of Africa, because they are thrown on the ground and easily blow away. Many animals, like the goats eat the plastic and get big problems in their stomach.



PRICES

Prices on some items (Nov 2013)

A piece of soap = 1 SSP

A bar of soap = 4 SSP

1 kg washing powder = 20 SSP

1 kg rice = 4 SSP

3 ltr oil = 45 SSP

A pencil = 1 SSP

A thin note-book = 2 SSP

Watching TV for one hour = 1 SSP

SSP – South Sudan Pound

4 SSP = 1 UK pound

Measurements:

kg (kilogram)

ltr (litre)





SUGGESTION 1

Conversation

CHILD RIGHTS CONVENTION

Article 27, Standard of living

What is necessary for a good standard of living? Do you think Taban and Bennet have what they need? If not, what do you think they miss?

Do you have everything you need?

Do you think there is something Taban and Bennet have that you don't have?

BASIC FEELINGS

Talk about the different feelings appearing in the story.

Happy – Bennet gets really happy when he finds the book with dolphins, he had actually been waiting for a whole year. Have you ever longed for something for a very long time? And if so, what was it and what were your feelings when you finally got it?

Afraid – Sad – Happy. Taban gets both afraid and sad when he doesn't find his money for the note-book. Then he gets very happy when gets the money back. Have you ever experienced a similar situation, when you have become afraid, sad and happy, all three? Please tell! How does it feel when your emotions change rapidly?



SUGGESTION 2

Prayers

BIBLE WORDS

When the Israelis travelled to Egypt to buy corn from Joseph (Genesis 41:57 and Chapters 42 & 43.)

The feeding miracle (Matthew 14:13-21)

The parable of the lost coin (Luke 15:8-10)

Zacchaeus – about sharing (Luke 19:1-10)

The widow's gift (Luke 21:1-4)

SONGS

Thank You Lord For This Fine Day (CJP 232)

Oh Lord, All The World Belongs to You (KS2 673)

PRAYER

God, thank you for all that we can grow, so that we have food to eat. Also thank you for all the shops where we can buy things that others have made.

God, we pray that all people who don't have food on the table every day will not be hungry. Help us share our with others. Amen.





SUGGESTION 3

Money

Talk about money. Compare between South Sudan and other countries.

What is the price for different things? How much is 1 SSP (South Sudanese pound) worth in your currency?



SUGGESTION 4

In former times

Compare the story to how it was in your country in former times. Read stories about children in your country in former days (pre-decimal currency 1971) eg those by Enid Blyton.



SUGGESTION 5

Produce or import

Compare what is available to buy in your town to what is available in the market in Lui. What can we grow ourselves and what do we have to import?



SUGGESTION 6

Play shopping

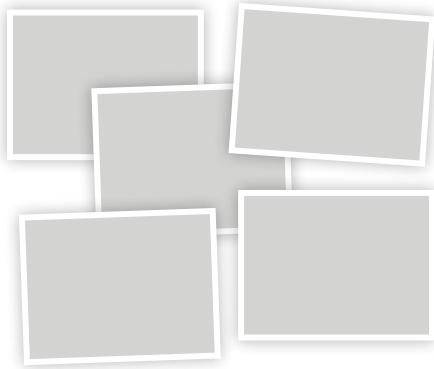
You will need: four shopkeepers with four 'shops' each bearing a placard describing a selection of wares (eg shoe shop, grocery shop, clothes shop, toy shop). Also slips of paper with names of commodities that are in the shops and some counters or beans.

Give each child a slip of paper with the name of a commodity on it (eg pair of shoes, tin of beans). The children must take their slips to the correct shop and receive a counter or a bean in exchange. On showing this to the leader they are given another slip of paper to go again to shop.

The winner is the one with the most counters at the end of the game. Children can take turns to act as shopkeepers as well as being shoppers.



Resources



PICTURES

Shop

Sloe bugs

Sloe bugs 2

Ready-made food

Green leaves

Green leaves 2

Okra, whole

Carry groceries

Hibiscus-leaves

Cassava

Cassava in pieces

A mill

A mill, advertisement

Lentils

Local beans

Corn/Maize

Corn/maize, cassava, durra, and
cassava

Corn-cob

Okra in pieces

Restaurant

Smoked fish

Carpenter

Sugar

Dressmaker

Dressmaker Joy

Sweet potato

Sweet potato and peanuts/
earthnuts

Dried fish

Dried small fish

Bags of charcoal

Cloth shop

Market, outside

Market stall

Selling fish

The market

Loading batteries

Loading battery, receipt

Selling petrol

Shop 2

Shop, inside

Kudi-player

