

Chapter 2: At home

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

UN CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD: ARTICLE 16 *Right to private- and family-life*



2: At home

ARTICLE 27 *Standard of living* ARTICLE 16 *Right to private- and family-life*

NAMI, 4 YEARS OLD SAYS:

” Our home consists of several huts, we all them tukuls. We made the huts ourselves of clay and the roof is made of long straws. My brothers Taban and Odrande share a hut with two of our cousins and Uncle John. In one hut my Mum and my Dad live. In the third hut Grandma Rachel lives with me and my sisters Buywa and Bukala. On the outside of our hut, Buywa has painted a beautiful picture of an angel. She is a very good painter and the picture of the angel guarding our hut makes me very happy. The fourth hut is our kitchen, but sometimes my mother cooks outside. A short distance away is our toilet behind a fence of sticks. The toilet consists of a big hole in the ground.

In the huts where we sleep there are beds, but we don't have one bed each. I and my sisters share one bed. Sometimes it is very hot and sometimes we tickle each other, but most of the time it is just nice to have someone close. On a string from the wall to the opposite side some of our clothes are hanging. The rest of our clothes are stored in suitcases. Above our bed there is a mosquito net hanging and at night we fold it out over us. The mosquitoes are dangerous here and you can easily catch malaria. That is a disease that makes you very sick.

Bukala and I wake up in the morning when the cock starts crowing. Then we know that it is time to get up and start doing our morning

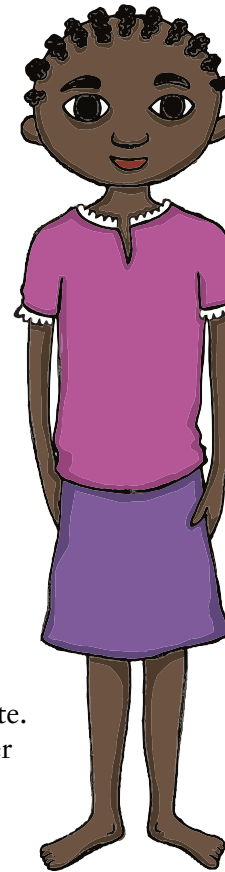
jobs. My mum Oboya is already up and she has started boiling water. When we come out of the hut, we can smell a fire. It is our neighbor who has already started burning rubbish. My older sisters and brother always have jobs to do before breakfast. My sister Buywa sweeps the whole yard between the huts. Taban has to walk to the market and buy maandazi. That is a kind of bun that we often eat for breakfast. Bukala feeds the chickens. Sometimes I am asked to help her. Odrande's job is to go to the water pump by the church to fetch water. Today I have the opportunity to go with him. It is really heavy to pump up the water, but after a while we have filled the cans. When we come back with the water, we wash by filling a mug with water and pouring it over us. That is our shower. We cannot waste water, because it must be used by everybody.

After breakfast, tea and maandazi, it is time to get dressed to go to school. Everybody must wear a school uniform and at our school, Lunjini School it is blue and white. Our friend Lilibeth lives with her

aunt. Aunt Joy is very good at sewing. She has made the school uniforms for all of my family.

When my sisters and brother have left for school, I feel sad because today there is no preschool. But my mum cheers me up and says that I can go to the market with her. First I help Mum to wash some clothes. After that we walk to the market to do some shopping. On our way to the market we pass the high telemast located in the centre of the town. We stop at the shop where you can hand in your mobile phone battery to be charged. My mum leaves her battery and says that one of her children will come and fetch it in the evening. In the market there are many mothers that I know selling durra, corn, earthnut/peanut paste and other nice things. We also see Lilibeth's Aunt Joy, the lady who made the school uniforms for my older brother and sisters. Aunt Joy has a small hut in the market and it is exciting to watch her sew on her sewing machine. She pedals very fast and the needle jumps up and down on the cloth. She must be careful not to prick her finger on the needle. Now my mother pulls me away. We have more to do at the market, so we go to the man with the mill. Mum has brought some durra (grain) to be ground. On our way home we stop at a stand where my mother buys a new hairbrush for me. I am very happy because it has a mirror on the back.

After our visit to the market we go home.



Now it is the middle of the day and it is very hot. We see the men sitting in the shadow under the big tree talking. It is so hot in the middle of the day that you can't work. My mum is going to start plaiting a basket, so we sit down in the shadow of our hut when we get home.

Later I go with my mother to the Savings and Loan group. I think that is exciting. My mum belongs to a group where she saves money every week. She wants to save money so that all her children can go to school as long as possible. Mum says that everyone in the group dreams about things they want to do. One mother wants to open a small shop and sell peanut butter, and another one dreams about being able to buy a tin roof for her hut. All the mothers sit in a circle and then each one is called, almost like in my preschool. The mothers have a number each that they speak in the right order. My mum has number three. I learned that the other day, so I know what it looks like. After the register everyone hands in the money that they are going to save and it is written in their savings book. Even though it was exciting to visit, I got tired because the meeting lasts a long time, so I went outside for a while. I found a lollipop stick and put a flower on it. When I blow the flower it spins very fast. Finally the meeting is over and we must hurry home, because now mother has to work in the field where we grow durra and cassava.

When my sisters and brother come home from school they change their clothes. Everybody does their homework. They read and read because they must learn by heart all that is written in their notebook. By the end of the term they have tests and they must know the

right answers for all the questions. If they get too many wrong, they have to repeat the year and of course you don't want to do that!

Buywa has to look after us younger sisters while Mum goes to the market to sell the durra she has harvested in the field next to our huts. Taban goes with Lillibeth to the bush to fetch wood. She is very smart in finding good wood. When they come home they tell us that when they were to pick up a branch from the ground, they heard a rustling next to them. They got scared and jumped when they saw a snake wriggle away. Maybe the snake was just as afraid as they were.

Taban and Odrande have enough time to play some football with Bennet and some other friends before Mum calls out that Dad is back home from work. Our dad is a carpenter. He makes beds, chairs and a lot of other nice things. Now it is time to eat. As usual we have durra porridge with vegetable stew.

After dinner Buywa goes to fetch the battery for Mum's mobile phone. I play with Taban and Bennet. We play with their charcoal kiln. They have made a little kiln themselves that works exactly like the real ones!

Darkness comes fast and early so now I must hurry up to wash and go to bed. The sky is all black and the stars shine bright when we go inside our hut, it looks like hundreds of small lamps. When in bed I lay and listen to the adults sitting and talking by the fire. Just when I am about to fall asleep the frogs start making sounds outside the hut. "A frog sounds just like an alarm clock" is my last thought before I fall asleep.



Facts



HUTS

In Lui the huts are called tukuls. The tukul is often made from sundried clay mixed with some grass. You start building by putting thick poles in the ground. They are put in a big circle in the size you want the hut to be. Then bamboo sticks are cut lengthwise in two halves. They are used to plait together the thick poles. Into this plait-work the clay mixed with grass is forced and then the walls are smoothed. If there is a cow in the neighbourhood, cow poo can be used to strengthen the walls of the hut. The floor in the hut is trodden down clay. The roof truss consists of big branches covered with long grass. Inside it is covered with plastic. If you can afford it, the grass roof is replaced with a tin roof for better protection against the rain. To get light inside the hut, the roof is held up by branches put into the clay wall. Into that you can put chicken wire and added to that mosquito net to keep the insects outside. The door is usually made of tin. On the clay wall it is possible to paint with watercolours. Water mixed with plant colours or colour powder is used.

Inside the hut there are wooden beds. Often many people sleep in

one bed. There is usually room for two beds in each hut. Nowadays it is usual to use mosquito nets to keep the insects away. The mosquito net is hung over the bed and is bundled up in a big knot during the day. There are no wardrobes in the hut, but the clothes are hanging on a rope tied from one side of the hut to the other. The clothes can also be kept in a suitcase.

The toilet consists of a 30 cm/12 inch long hole in the ground. Around the hole a simple fence is made of grass. A similar fence is also put up around the place for washing. There is no shower, but you wash yourself by using a mug to wash off the soap.

MALARIA

See Facts in chapter 4, *Hospital*.

MORNING DUTIES

Every morning a lot of things need to be done around the huts. It is not unusual that the mother gets up at 5.30 to start preparing the cooking and the washing. Wood and water need to be fetched. The chickens must be fed and the whole yard between the huts needs sweeping every morning. Parts of this work can be done by the children.

Facts about domestic animals and eggs can be found in chapter 9, *Nature*.

There is no sorting of rubbish. All rubbish is put in a pile outside one of the huts. In the pile there is a mix of paper, plastic and food waste. A constant smell of smoke covers the town, since all waste is burned.

COOKING

Traditional fireplace

The traditional fireplace consists of three big rocks. Between the rocks bundled grass and wood is put. The temperature is regulated by pulling out or pushing in the grass or the wooden sticks. The fire can be made outside as well as inside a hut. When the fire is placed inside it gets very hot and smoky.

Wood saving stove

1. Ashes, clay and shortcut grass are mixed with water through treading by foot.
2. Bricks are put in a bottom layer and built in with the clay mixture. Some bricks are cut round to fit the hole for the pots, formed to fit the pots that will be used on the stove. You need approximately 50 bricks.
3. A hole for the chimney is made. Corrugated tin is bent and used for the chimney.

4. When smoothening the surface you use cow poo mixed with water.
5. The stove is left to dry for 21 days before it can be used.

Firewood is put in the stove from the front, you can use an iron-grating or you can pull the bricks to make the pot stand steady. The advantages of these stoves are that they use less firewood, keep the heat longer, you get no smoke inside the hut which makes it more healthy both for children and adults, and it is easier to avoid children getting burns.

Charcoal stove

Nowadays there are stoves made of tin where you use charcoal to be bought in the market. Charcoal is used more and more for cooking.

Meals

Porridge made from durra used to be the most common food, but now you can go to the market to buy bread. You may also bake your own bread from wheat flower mixed with baking powder. You can buy the flour mixture in the market. In the market you can also buy maandazi (like donuts) and deep-fried bread (like chapattis).

Facts



For breakfast it is usual to drink tea without milk.

A mixture of durra flour, water and salt is used as a base for different dishes:

Linial/Porridge in a pot. Start by boiling water. Pour flour little by little while turning the darin (ladle, spoon) back and forth between your hands. Work the darin away from yourself in the beginning, then change and work it towards yourself. The more flour, the thicker the porridge gets. When the porridge is pretty thick you eat it with your fingers together with cooked vegetables and beans.

Idi/Thin porridge. If you like you can stop the cooking before the porridge is thick. When it is still running, like pancake batter, you can drink it.

Darin (ladle, spoon) is the Moru name for the thing you use for stirring. It is made of wood and it looks like an arrow.

Konjo/ Bread on a plate. Using the same ingredients as in the porridge you can bake konjo. Start by heating up an ordinary baking-sheet on the stove with some fat. Pour out some of the batter on the plate and spread it out with a spatula. Fry it for about one minute. Loosen it from the baking-

plate and turn it up on a plate. Clean the baking-plate and grease it. A konjo is folded in a special way. Start folding the short sides to the middle, then the long sides and finally the whole cake in the middle. You eat it with cooked vegetables and beans.

Vegetables. You often eat cooked vegetables made of green leaves that look like spinach with the basic meal. Peanut paste can be added to give it some more taste. Different kinds of beans are also used.

Meat. It is not very common to eat meat, but if you do it is usually chicken or goat. For big parties a cow is killed.

Most of the time no knives, forks or spoons are used for eating. You use your fingers to form small balls with the help of a piece of bread. Most families do not have cutlery.

WATER

In the past the women had to walk to the nearest river to fetch water. Nowadays there are several wells drilled in Lui. That is where the women go to fetch the water needed for the household.

A water system has recently been constructed for Lui mainly financed through the World

Bank and built by the German organisation GIZ – Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit. A large water reservoir has been dug out connected to the River Yei. From there water is pumped to a mountain in the neighbourhood and through self-pressure it is distributed to a number of pump-stations and water-tubs in the town. You can read facts about carrying water in chapter 4, *The Preschool*.

CLOTHES AND WASHING

Most people have three sets of clothes. Two sets are worn for working. While you wear the first set, the second set is washed. The third set is used for best when you go to church on Sundays.

There are no washing machines around. You wash by hand in big bowls. To get the clothes clean you have to rub them. You always have to think about not using too much water. The washing is done the same way it was done in Britain less than 100 years ago.

COMMUNICATION

Telephony

In Lui there are two telemasts. The development is rapid. In 2009 there was no signal in Lui. In 2010 it came to the neighbouring town

Mundri and in 2011 to Lui. Most adults have a mobile phone, but only a few children own one. A telephone costs 150 – 300 SSP.

There are very few computers and most of them are in an office.

Radio

South Sudan Radio is located in Juba. There is a South Sudanese, an Arabic and an English channel. It is possible to own a radio and listen to the news, but it is not very interesting since there is no local news for Lui. It is possible to hear Marai FM but when the sun rises, the sound disappears!

TV

South Sudan has a national channel, SSTV but only accessible in Juba.

SCHOOL UNIFORM

In school all children wear a school uniform. Different schools have different colours. The girls wear a dress with a collar. The boys wear a shirt and shorts. More facts about the school uniform can be found in chapter 6, *The school*.

THE MARKET

In the past women ground the flour at home by hand. They put the

Facts



seeds on a big stone and ground the seeds to flour. Nowadays most women go to the market where you can get your durra, cassava etc. ground by the Mothers Union mill and that way you save a lot of time to do other things. You can read more about durra, cassava etc. under Facts in chapter 9, Nature. There are more facts about the market in chapter 3, *The market*.

SAVINGS AND LOAN GROUPS

In Lui there is a group organized for women to save and borrow money. It is called the Village Savings and Loan Association, VSLA.

The difference between VSLA and micro-loan groups, which many people know about, is that you save before you borrow. There are about 20 members in the group and they meet every week. There are two parts, a save-and-loan part and a social fund. In the social fund every member puts 2 SSP (South Sudanese Pounds) every week. This is counted and saved for an emergency situation. The group takes a mutual decision, when someone asks for money from the fund. The social fund is a kind of member insurance, not to be repaid.

The save-and-loan part consists

of shares. When the group is formed you decide how much a share costs. You can buy up to five shares per week. After three months you are eligible take a loan if you want but you must be able to repay it. The interest rate on the loan is 10%. Every member holds a membership book and a membership number. The chairman registers all transactions by stamping in the membership book and the person puts the money in a bowl in front of the cashier. When the savings are done and the money in the bowl has been counted over again and added to the money saved before, the money is put in cloth bags, a green for the social fund and a purple for save-and-loan money. It is all put in a tin-box with three locks. The keys for the locks are kept with three different people and the box with the membership books and the money is kept by the chairman.

OCCUPATIONS

Some jobs in Lui are carpenters, tailors, dressmakers, drivers, car and motorbike mechanics, teachers and hospital staff. In the market people run roadside cafes and shops of different kinds.

CHARCOAL

Charcoal is made by burning wood slowly in kilns built on the ground. The wood is covered to keep air out so it will burn very slowly and turn into charcoal.

In South Sudan charcoal is used a lot for cooking and big parts of the forests around Juba have been devastated for production of charcoal. Along the roads and streets you see people selling charcoal that they have made. You can see how people load three big sacks onto motorbikes and drive away. Some people buy big sacks of charcoal and divide it into smaller plastic bags to sell and that way they can make some money.



SUGGESTION 1
Conversation

CHILD RIGHTS CONVENTION

Article 27, Standard of living and Article 16, Right to private- and family-life. Talk about what makes you feel at home. What do you need to feel good?

Sometimes you need to go aside and be by yourself. Are you able to do that? How do you think it is for Taban and his family?

BASIC FEELINGS

Nami feels sad when she cannot go to preschool. What makes you feel sad?

Taban and Lillibeth get scared by a snake when they are in the forest to fetch wood. What scares you?

Nami gets a new hairbrush and that makes her happy. Have you got something special that made you happy?



SUGGESTION 2
Prayers

BIBLE WORDS

Abraham and Sarah get visitors (Genesis 18:1-8)

At home with Martha and Mary (Luke 10:38-42)

You can also talk about how it could be in a home in Nazareth when Jesus was young. What would you do and what occupations were common.

SONGS

A naggy Mum (CJP 302)

God made a boomerang (KS 82)

Jesus' love is very wonderful (KS 208)

Wide, wide as the ocean (CJP 292)



PRAYER

God, we pray that everyone will have a home to live in and food to eat every day. Let all children grow up in a safe environment together with people who love them. Help and be with everyone who lives in dangerous environments. For every child let there be an adult who cares about them. Amen.



SUGGESTION 3
Baking bread

BUNS

Bread made in an oven: 2 tsp salt, 2 kilograms flour, 4 cups of water, 2 tsp baking powder, ¼–½ cup of oil. Let the dough stand for an hour before you make 30 buns of it. Bake in an oven 225–250 degrees until the buns have a nice brown colour.

MAANDAZI

Beat one egg and 250 ml milk, mix with 11.5 ml sugar, ¼ tsp salt, 500 ml milk and 2 tsp baking powder. The dough should be thinner than bread dough but much thicker than batter for pancakes.

Heat oil in a saucepan, at least one litre. Don't heat it so that it steams. Use a pair of spoons, make a ball of the dough and put it into the hot oil, put in a few at the time and let them stay until they are brownish. It takes a few minutes. Break the first one you take out in two and



check if all the dough is baked. If the oil is too hot the bun will be burnt on the outside before it is ready inside. In that case you lower the heat. If the oil is not hot enough it gets sucked into the bun instead of making a crispy shell. You get 30 – 35 buns from this recipe.

Note! Be aware that there always is an adult around and a lid for the saucepan. If the oil takes fire, don't use water but be quick and cover the saucepan with the lid.

CHAPATTI

Same ingredients as for maandazi. Roll out thin cakes with a rolling-pin on a cutting-board. Fry it in a saucepan with oil. Alternatively the bread can be shallow fried in a frying-pan with no fat.



SUGGESTION 4

Pin-wheel

Nami blows on a flower to make it spin. You can also make a windmill. Use a piece of paper, size A4, a thin stick and a pin.

1. Fold an A4-paper so that the folding makes the diagonal of a square.
2. Cut off the piece outside the square and fold paper along the other diagonal so you get a cross.
3. Make a hole in the middle and one in each corner to the right of the diagonal. Make a cut a bit more than half way on each diagonal.
4. Fold the corners and put one pin through all the holes. Fasten the wheel on the top of the stick.



SUGGESTION 5

Play a relay with clothes (Changing clothes)

The participants are divided into two teams. Each team has a suitcase with clothes, i.e. big shorts, a big t-shirt, a cap and flip-flops. The first person in the team puts on all the clothes, shuts the suitcase and runs a certain distance and back again, then takes off the clothes, puts them back in the suitcase and closes it. And so the whole team does the same, one by one. What team is finished first?

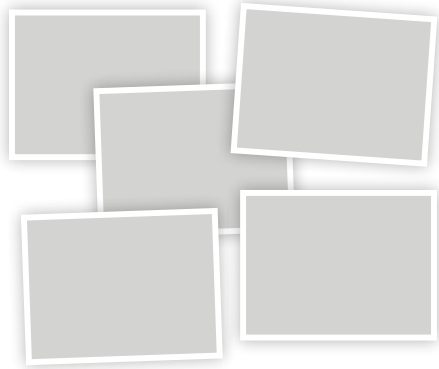


SUGGESTION 6

Draw your dreams

The mothers in the Savings and Loan group dream of doing different things with the money they save. Do you have a dream about something to achieve? Make a painting or drawing of it!

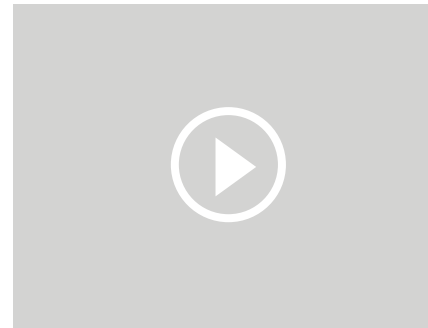
Resources



PICTURES

- Walls of clay
- Walls and roof truss
- Roof is built
- House with tin roof
- Huts for storage
- Outside the hut
- Painting on hut
- Bedroom
- Shower
- Morning duty, sweeping
- Morning duty, goat and baby siblings
- Breakfast
- Cooking porridge
- Kitchen with a traditional stove

- Wood-saving stove
- Baking buns 1
- Baking buns 2
- Chapatti
- Eating with your fingers
- Green leaves
- Cooking a cock
- The water-reservoir
- Telemast
- Batteries to be loaded
- Charcoal for sale
- Coal-mine play
- The mill
- Savings and loan group 1
- Savings and loan group 2
- Savings and loan group 3
- Blowing the spinning flower



VIDEO-CLIPS

- Cooking porridge
- Blowing the spinning flower

