

Sorghum for South Sudan: Grinding Mill and Building Project

Total Cost
\$20,000

Michael's House has committed to fund the installation of a grinding machine and construction of supporting buildings in Wau, South Sudan. They are counting on your support. This is a continuation of the support of food, cookware, construction of huts, and repair of hut roofs which we have provided to support the most vulnerable elderly, disabled, and their dependent grandchildren.

THE PROJECT

The project will fund purchase of a commercial, 18-horsepower, dual grinding stone mill, along with the construction of a building to house the grinding stone mill. The construction of a rakuba (building without walls) to shelter the needy people from the sun while awaiting food distribution will also be built.

The grinding machine will grind dura (sorghum), the grain staple of South Sudan. A strong building is needed to withstand the vibrations from the machine and reduce noise. Food distribution often takes hours and the sun is very hot. Each person who receives food aid must "sign" for their rations with their fingerprint. This makes the rakuba an essential feature for the orderly distribution and health of the needy, many who are in poor health.

WHY THIS PROJECT IS SO IMPORTANT

Grinding sorghum manually by pestle and mortar or pounding on a tree stump takes hours and is extremely hard work. It is virtually impossible task for the elderly and disabled. Currently, sorghum for the approximately 1,200 destitute elderly and their dependent grandchildren is ground by commercial mills. It is costly and reduces the total funds available to support the elderly with food, clothing, healthcare, and shelter.

The grinding mill will enable grinding to be done "in house" without paying the fees for commercial grinding. The mill will also be used to grind grain for others and revenue will be used to maintain the mill and provide for the needs of the destitute.

The project will be managed by our care partners in Wai and the structures built on donated land approved by the local government and with the cooperation of 12 different tribes. The cooperation of the tribes in Wai, who have a long history of working together for the good of the needy, is notable and should be supported.



Left: Needy elderly, disabled and their dependent children await food distribution at a location where the rakuba will be built. The building to house the grinding machine will be built nearby.



Right: Sorghum, for the impoverished, it remains the principal source of energy, protein, vitamins and minerals.