

Boruboru

Youth and community empowerment, development, and
peacebuilding through sports and play



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Preface

Boruboru is a traditional South Sudanese ball sport, revived and implemented as tool for community empowerment and peacebuilding by Help a Child.

Help a Child is a Christian, international relief and development organization, founded in 1968 in the Netherlands Help a Child provides a future for children in need, their family and their entire community. By empowering vulnerable communities, we help them to change their own living conditions and opportunities in a sustainable way. With this brochure, we want to explain the revived Boruboru game and demonstrate how it can be used as a way to raise awareness about girls' rights, to build peace and to empower youth and communities.

Boruboru; youth and community empowerment, development, and peacebuilding through sports and play



How to play **Boruboru**

Origins

Boruboru is a traditional South Sudanese sport similar to dodgeball. Children and youth played Boruboru in their schools, churches and neighbourhoods. Because sports materials were often limited, children had to use their creativity and resorted to making balls out of banana fibres and old clothing.

Rules of the game

- A Boruboru pitch is 12mx8m with the inside box being 6mx3m.
- A full game lasts up to 100 minutes with each team playing up to 50 minutes.
- Team A throws for twenty minutes hitting the dodger from Team B, takes a five-minute rest and gets alternated by Team B. Team B then throws for twenty minutes hitting the dodger from Team A, followed by a five-minute rest. This cycle is repeated twice by each team.
- Each team has 9 team members, including a team captain and their best throwers and dodgers. Each team also has a team manager and coach.
- For the throwing team, usually two throwers are in the pitch and they can be substituted at any time depending on their performance, by other team players. For the dodging team, there will be one dodger in the field. The dodger plays until they are tired and can request substitution through raising their hand. It is up to the team manager and other team players to decide how long their dodger can dodge.
- When the game starts, the throwers have to pass the ball twice before aiming and throwing at the dodger. This allows the dodger to take her strategic position within the pitch. If a thrower hits the dodger before passing the ball over, any hit will be invalid.
- You can gain a point by hitting the opponent from the shoulder down to their feet.
- It is prohibited to hit the dodger on the

head. Any violation of this rule results in a reduction of 1 point from the scores of the throwers. Any unintentional head hit, however, will not be counted. If a dodger turns the head to be hit deliberately, 1 point will be subtracted from their team's accumulated scores.

- Points will be deducted after a foul such as a head hit (also known as a dead score) or sideline crossing. If one player repeatedly violates the rules, she will be suspended from play up to a maximum of two tournaments.
- Throwers are not allowed to hit the target when she has unintentionally fallen down within her dodging area, because she won't be able to dodge when down.
- Players are not allowed to communicate with people outside the field while playing

to prevent chaos and avoid confusing the referees.

- A referee's main task is to make fair decisions on playing rules.
- A committee of judges consists of 3-5 members, including a chair and secretary. They oversee and judge the play process.
- All players should be in jerseys, and each team should have different colours for their jerseys.
- Each team has their own team based referees, lineswomen, first aiders and judges. They practice their roles during the training of the players. During official matches and tournaments, however, they will not administer the matches of their own team. Other neutral referees, lineswomen and judges will be present.

Taking of the dust

Oliver Marub'u Michael, Program Manager of Help a Child South Sudan, was one of the initiators to revive and integrate Boruboru in 2015. More importantly, the new way of playing Boruboru is aimed at using the sport to promote peace among South Sudanese. Fair play is advocated and more focus is put on capacity building. Now elaborate guidelines exist on procedures, rules and processes, as well as defined roles for managers, coaches, referees and team members. Since 2015, Boruboru has become increasingly bigger and has its own registered Boruboru National Association (BNA). BNA coordinates and facilitates the activities of the member peace clubs to organise and participate in sports events for raising awareness.

Help a Child

Boruboru is now used by Help a Child as a powerful tool for mobilizing children and communities, building peace, girls' empowerment, increasing women's participation and confidence building, and for campaigns such as the "End Child Marriage" campaign. So far, only Help a Child has integrated and implemented Boruboru as a development tool in South Sudan.



Three questions for Oliver Marub'u Michael: initiator of the revived Boruboru game

Why Boruboru?

'Boruboru caught my eyes because it is the only exciting girls' played sport in the country that carries many opportunities for girls to play and helps them to grow up as responsible citizens of a nation. It is a powerful tool for development and also reduces the existing gender gaps in sports and recreation.'

What is Boruboru's strength?

'Boruboru is very strong in mobilising communities, specifically women and girls as it creates a platform for active participation for girls and women in social life. It also provides life skills in leadership, team building, time management, facilitation, public speaking, tolerance and peacebuilding, justice and fairness.'

What do you hope for the future of Boruboru ?

'I am very hopeful that Boruboru will be further assimilated into humanitarian and development approaches especially in conflict and post conflict countries like South Sudan. Secondly, I am also optimistic that one day, Boruboru will be adapted and used in many countries world-wide and ultimately be included into the Olympics to create employment and exchange opportunities for young people.'



Oliver Micheal, Program Manager for
Help a Child South Sudan

"The majority of today's players are teenage mothers whose babies need their full attention. Surprisingly, the players performed in the match beyond my expectations! They applied all the skills they obtained in the training." – Mr. Kefa Samuel, Boruboru trainer



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"End Child Marriage" Campaign tournament pictures (20-11-2020)



"I love Boruboru. I used to play when I was a kid and that is from where I mastered my speed. I am grateful for Help a Child for bringing us this opportunity."



"On the first day, I could not make personal decisions about my choices in Boruboru. On the forth day after thorough training, I was able to identify my strengths and decided to be a referee. I thank God for giving me this rare opportunity," says one of the trained referees.



Before the final results of the tournament were announced, the girls from the competing teams displayed these important campaign messages to the audiences.



Mariam, the best referee:
"I am particularly delighted for being one of the few girls to have obtained this training and officiate this first large match today. Thank you, Help a Child."



Boruboru as **a tool**

for empowerment, development and peacebuilding

Boruboru has proven itself to be a powerful tool for empowerment, development and peacebuilding.

- ✓ Boruboru provides life skills in leadership, team building, time management, facilitation, public speaking, tolerance and peacebuilding, justice and fairness.
- ✓ Boruboru provides opportunities to vulnerable but talented girls to develop their talents, capacities and confidence, to become strong future leaders.
- ✓ Boruboru reduces the existing gender gap in sports and recreation.
- ✓ Boruboru creates an inclusive platform for active participation of girls and women in social life.
- ✓ Boruboru is very strong in mobilising communities, specifically women and girls.
- ✓ Boruboru increases peace and social cohesion in broken and divided communities.

Example of Boruboru as tool for empowerment: the End Child Marriage Campaign

On November 20th, 2020, Boruboru was used to promote the End Child Marriage Campaign during a large Boruboru tournament held in Wau. Teams were not only competing to find out who the best Boruboru playing team was, but to stand up for their rights and voicing the voiceless girls who can't stand up for themselves against forced early marriages and unwanted pregnancies.

Prior to the tournament, the audience could hear this message from Kelada James Saadalla, a Boruboru team player, who had received a public speaking training and who was now able to voice the voiceless girls. She said, *"I was too nervous and very scared at the beginning when my friends pointed at me to read the speech. I was not confident that I would make it through as a girl. But after getting training and rehearsing for eight hours, I was able to deliver the speech to the best of my ability and attracted the attention of all the audiences. Thanks to Help a Child and thanks to Boruboru. I am now a different person who can represent my fellow girls effectively"*.



Before the final results of the tournament were announced, the girls from the competing teams displayed these important campaign messages to the audiences; They ask for protection, peace, care, justice and education instead of marriage and pregnancy.

Angelo Paterno, Country Program Director of Help a Child South Sudan said, *"I am impressed. Boruboru has created a platform for the people and girls to come together. The girls' message about ending child marriage must be taken seriously by all those who practice this negative culture. Our daughters deserve more. Help a Child will continue to create this kind of platform not only for girls, but also for boys, youths, parents and all those entrusted to take care of our girls."*



Help a Child has integrated Boruboru in their programmes. For example, they contracted Mr. Kefa Samuel to train girls in how to play Boruboru as part of the "What's Up Girls?!" life skills program by Help a Child. He trained 60 girls on:

- Boruboru playing skills
- Teambuilding
- Conflict management and tolerance
- Confidence building
- Communication skills
- Leadership skills

Mr. Kefa Samuel also trained 6 referees, 4 coaches, 2 first aiders and 4 judges for both Lokoloko West and Centre.

About Help a Child South Sudan

Our mission

Help a Child provides a future for children in need, their family and their entire community.

Our vision

As a Christian non-profit organisation, Help a Child wants every child regardless of their social, political, religious, ethnic or economic background to have a life in dignity with love and with a promising future.

Our aim

Help a Child South Sudan improves community participation in child protection and development, while strengthening community resilience and access to sustainable food and livelihood security.



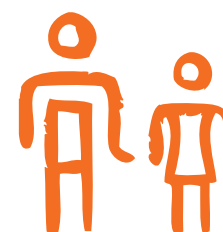
Lack of income



Joblessness



**Domestic/Gender
Based Violence**



**Leading to early
marriage and
unwanted pregnancies**

With its registered and established country office in Juba South Sudan since 2018, Help a Child is currently operating in five states in South Sudan as shown on the map below.



Our other **innovative approaches**

Help a Child South Sudan aims to provide a future for children in need, their family and their entire community. We do this through several of our innovative approaches, Boruboru being one of them.

What's Up?!



The 'What's Up?!' approach was designed by Help a Child International as a unique tool that enables communities to identify pressing needs, define solutions and plan actions for solving those needs. Help a Child is the only organisation in South Sudan applying this tool. Help a Child will support prioritised community needs that are within its mandate and refers other needs to other agencies.

Build your Own Buddy

Building your Own Buddy is a program for children age 5-7 to deal with problems they are facing in South Sudan. Through the story of Bob, they learn about all kinds of emotions and what to do with that. Parents are also supported to help their children (and themselves).

Colophon

Help a Child is a Christian, international relief and development organization, registered in The Netherlands and working in Asia and Africa.

 www.facebook.com/helpachild.intl
 <https://www.linkedin.com/company/help-a-child-international>

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