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IFC
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Via email

Questions and Answers

Q: How did you come to work in South Sudan?

A: I wanted to contribute to poverty alleviation and South Sudan was the best place for me to achieve this goal.

Q: How long have you been working in Juba?

A: Two years (moved December 18 2011)

Q: Is South Sudan what you expected?

A: Yes, it is exactly what I expected. Poverty and suffering, no infrastructure, high unemployment, returning refugees and insecurity.

Q: What is life in Juba like?

A: Juba is a small town but the fastest growing city in Africa. There are lots of business opportunities, as everything must be built from scratch

Q: What are the people of Juba like?

A: People in South Sudan are very friendly and patriotic. They love their country a lot.

Q: Have you seen any changes in Juba/South Sudan over the time that you have worked and lived there?

A: Juba is growing with lots of construction work. I have seen new roads and hotels come up.

Q: How are the life and people of juba different or similar from that of your home? And where is your home?

A: My home is Chevy Chase Maryland but I am originally from Tanzania. The difference is huge in terms of culture and infrastructure. Tanzania is also very table.

Q: Do you feel that you are/have been able to positively influence/change the lives of the people of Juba, and how?

A: I have helped with few changes. Strengthening the central bank through training, helping the government improve investment climate and increase private investments.

Q: I have read that Juba is a very crowded and disorganized city, do you agree, and if so, can you give me a specific experience of yours related to it?

A: Juba is not so crowded yet, but it will be with time as it is growing quickly.

Q: Do you think South Sudan will be able to untangle their economy from that of Sudan's and gain more independence (even they have already gained official independence)?

A: South Sudan is independent and economically they are free from Sudan. The oil is flowing again and exports are helping the country earn foreign currency. The economic outlook is good.

Q: What do you think the future of South Sudan looks like?

Q: I read that you are working with small business owners of South Sudan to improve their businesses and contribute to the growth of the overall economy, what specifically do you do and how are you able to implement your methods and ideas in a successful way?

A: We train small and medium businesses to strengthen their skills and help them get access to finance from banks. We partner with private trainers and corporate clients. The program is very successful.

Q: Are people in Juba willing to work with you to improve their businesses?

A: We have very good partnerships with the government and the private sector. They like our work and the way we do it ..which is very collaborative and participatory.