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Control of infectious diseases in developing countries: field studies on visceral leishmaniasis and meningitis

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It is late afternoon and the two brothers are being registered at the kala-azar clinic in Duar, southern Sudan. They are febrile and severely marasmic - just skin and bones, with the huge spleen and dull eyes so common in kala-azar patients.

They are unable to say who their subchief is and in frustration the staff asks for their mother. Finally a man tells them the boys were found that morning on a path leading to the clinic, sitting beside a mosquito net that covered their dead mother. Her other children and husband had died already that year, so in desperation she had set out to the new clinic in Duar, to see if there was help...

Source: MSF-team
Duar, southern Sudan, 1996

