

YOUNG SEEDS

Young Seeds Foundation Tasmania - PROGRAM UPDATE

September 2013

Welcome to our inaugural program update

Thanks to the generosity of our donors & supporters, our little grass roots foundation is growing up! As we continue to grow, we would like to keep you informed of our progress.

New to Young Seeds?

The Young Seeds Foundation is founded on the belief that education is a fundamental human right principle and that every child deserves a fair chance to acquire quality education to better their well-being. YSF strongly believes that education is the core pillar of a just and fair society which will enhance human dignity & freedom and enable young people to achieve their dreams. We all benefit from this progress.

The Young Seeds Foundation raises funds via child sponsorship and other fundraising initiatives to provide residential education scholarships to at risk children living in South Sudan and northern Uganda.

If you would like more information about our work, child sponsorship or to make a donation please contact us via email, phone or post.

“ we can bring a heart of understanding and compassion to a world that needs it so much ...”

- Jack Kornfield



Star Education - Bweyale Uganda

In This Update

- Welcome from the team
- Our 2013 mission to Africa
- Current conditions in South Sudan & Northern Uganda
- Autumn Fundraising
- Our Progress



Road to the capital of South Sudan, Juba

Date set for 2013 mission

Following our successful fact finding and student recruitment mission in 2012, Susan Neighbour will set course again for South Sudan & Northern Uganda on November 12th this year.

Susan will spend some well deserved quality time with her sponsor children Musa & Bishop in Kampala before hitting the road to visit our participating schools and partners across the region.

We wish to thank Susan for making this often dangerous journey again this year and we all pray for her speedy & safe return.

On the ground in Africa

We employ local co-ordinators who are jointly responsible for monitoring the progress and wellbeing of our students throughout the year.

One of our Tasmanian based team members make the journey to Uganda & Southern Sudan once a year to assist the co-coordinators in the allocation of donations to our participating schools and to provide an overseeing mechanism to ensure that funding is completely transparent and used for the right cause.

Enrollment drive

Due to a spike in support from our sponsors we are pleased to announce that we are now able to enroll an additional 20 students into schools for the academic year commencing in February 2014.

Our team will visit local communities in November to provide information to parents and guardians who wish to register their child with Young Seeds.

Selecting children for enrollment can be a heart breaking experience. All children deserve the opportunity to create a better future for themselves and their families by obtaining a good education. The need is so great and our resources are small but we always remind ourselves of the philosophy that states, **'I may not be able to change the world but I can change the life of one child'** and that is a precious gift.

Home away from home

Being away from our loved ones can be difficult, especially for children. It is an unfortunately reality that most of our students need to be enrolled into residential schools due to the absence of any educational facilities in their local communities. The road infrastructure in Uganda and South Sudan is also very poor and security whilst traveling remains as a significant issue. Our coordinators escort our students home to their families during semester breaks but we would also like to try and make their stay at school a little more comfortable. As part of our 2013 visit, we are assessing the options for improving school dormitory facilities and will keep you updated with any developments.



Susan Neighbour

The Hard Truth

2.4 million

people in South Sudan are food insecure and require assistance

230,000

Children are impacted annually by malnutrition including during strong harvest seasons

4 %

of arable land is cultivated

10%

of children complete primary school despite high enrolment rates of 1.4 million

84%

of women cannot read or write

1/7

children will die before their fifth birthday

10%

of deliveries are attended by skilled birth attendants

40%

of people are estimated to have access to health services

32%

of the population does not have access to clean drinking water

3:4

ratio of girl to boy primary school enrolment

South Sudan country profile



Arial view of Juba

Population

8,260,490 (2008 census)

Area

619,745 km²

Capital

Juba

Population aged < 30

72%

Rural population

83%

A brief history

Modern Sudan became independent from Anglo-Egyptian administration in 1956 but faced long civil wars in the decades that followed. Between 1955 and 2005, north and South Sudan experienced conflict and war for all but a few years to devastating effects for the people and land.

Between 2005 and 2010 fragile peace agreements were made and broken by the leaders of the north and south. These initial agreements granted partial-autonomy to Southerners, and a new Interim Constitution.

On 9 January 2011, Southerners voted on whether to become an independent nation or to remain part of greater Sudan. This referendum was provided for by the peace agreement, and Southerners opted to separate from the north by more than 98 percent of the vote. Six months later, on 9 July, the Republic of South Sudan was born.

Current conditions

Decades of war have left the country with very little infrastructure to support the population. A vast proportion of the population have limited or no access to electricity, safe drinking water, sanitation, health care facilities or schools.

The security situation remains tenuous with high incidences of armed conflict & violent crime. Border areas between South Sudan and Sudan remain particularly vulnerable to civil unrest and military activity. There have been direct military confrontations between South Sudan and Sudan since early 2012 in border regions. There have also been attacks between rival tribal groups throughout South Sudan, especially in, but not limited to, Jonglei state.

Tens of thousands of South Sudanese people also remain in refugee camps in neighbouring countries whilst waiting for the security & development situation to improve.

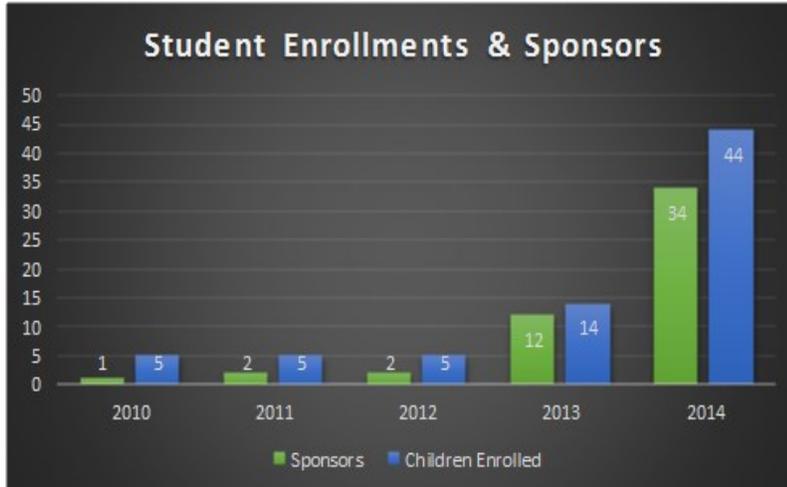
**source (UNMISS) United Nations Mission in South Sudan.*



Settlement - outskirts of Juba

Progress summary

From humble beginnings, our little foundation is growing up. In 2010 we commenced the project of sponsoring one amazing little man who captured the hearts of our founding members. Come January 2014 we are on track to enroll a **record 44 students**.



Thank You

Thank you for taking the time to read our progress update.

Your ongoing support is having a very real and positive impact on the lives of the children of South Sudan & Uganda.

The Young Seeds Team

Fundraiser results

Young Seeds is proud to announce that we raised over \$2000 from our Autumn fundraiser held at St Fin Bars School, Invermay in May of this year.

Thank you to all who attended, it was heart warming to see the level of community support for our little cause. Young Seeds directly funds students in addition to our sponsorship program, without your help we wouldn't be able to offer our 10 new direct funded scholarships in 2014.

A big thank you also to our organizers Jane Orasio and Susan Neighbour for their hard work.

And not forgetting Jane and her team of industrious women from the Sudanese community for cooking up an amazing South Sudanese feast.

Young Seeds is always on the lookout for motivated persons with fundraising knowhow. If you would like to volunteer for our next initiative please feel free to register your interest via our contacts below.



Classroom, Northern Uganda

Contact Us

Give us a call for more information about our work or to become a child sponsor

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