



Young Seeds

Growing Hope from Despair



2017 REPORT

YOUNG SEEDS PHILOSOPHY

“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 fund-raising initiatives to provide residential education scholarships to at risk children living in South Sudan and Northern Uganda”.

THE HARD TRUTH – SOUTH SUDAN *(source (UNMISS) United Nations Mission in South Sudan).*

2.4 million People in South Sudan are food insecure and require assistance

230,000 Children are impacted annually by malnutrition

4 % of arable land is cultivated

10% of children complete primary school despite high enrolment rates of 1.4 million

1.6% of children in South Sudan enter secondary school

84% of women cannot read or write

1/7 children will die before their fifth birthday

32% of the population does not have access to clean drinking water

2017 Facts

February 2017 – United Nations announces a famine in South Sudan with an estimated 4.9million people in need of urgent help.

April 2017 - War and terror hit Pajok Village where the majority of Young Seeds children are from. It is estimated that 50 children were killed on the first day in a mass killing.

UNCHR state that an estimated 3.3 million people are currently displaced – 1.8 million within South Sudan and 1.5 million have fled as refugees. Over 60% of these are children and thousands of children are reporting as arriving in neighbouring countries unaccompanied.

ORGANISATION / ADMINISTRATION

Current Committee Members:

Current membership and roles are (these may change at the AGM to be held in December):

Director – Lowilla Okello

Chairperson – Susan Neighbour

Vice-Chair – Juma Piri Piri

Secretary – Kym Griffiths

Treasurer – Annette Strickland

Public Officer – Marg Dean

Fundraising coordinator – Jane Orasio

Committee Member – Rose Okello

Meeting Schedule: Depending on the need and the time of the year, we meet approximately 6 weekly, sometimes more often if we have important decisions to make.

AGM: As a legal entity we are required by law to hold an annual AGM and to submit a financial report to the Department of Justice, Consumer Affairs and Fair Trading. We are also required to submit an annual report to Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission.

Tax Deductible Status: We have been successful in our application to develop a partnership with Global Development Group. As well as monitoring our work and providing financial accountability and transparency for Young Seeds, we are delighted to say that **you will be able to claim your 2018 sponsorship and donations** as GDG provides tax deductible status.

CURRENT YOUNG SEEDS CHILDREN AND SCHOOLS

Very sadly we have lost the whereabouts for 1 of our sponsor children who was in Pajok Village and 2 who were in Yei. Fighting broke out in both areas and we unsure of these children's whereabouts.

Bakthita Primary School, Kiryandongo Refugee Camp – 2 girls and 2 boys

Star Education Centre, Bweyale, Uganda – 8 girls and 4 boys (5 of these children will be entering secondary school next year if their exam results allow this)

Star Education Secondary School, Bweyale, Uganda – 2 girls attending

Kisubi Secondary Boarding School, Kampala, Uganda – 3 boys completed first year of A levels and at the end of 2018 will be enrolling in University – 2 will enter Medical School and 1 will be studying International Human Rights.

We currently have 21 children sponsored, 11 girls and 10 boys. We attempt gender equity as much as can. Unfortunately we are not able to guarantee written school reports for you due to a lack of a reliable means of communication from Africa. The children are currently undertaking the end of year exam process and we hope to know the results over the next few weeks. Young Seeds provided extra tuition for all the children at Star primary in 2016. As the 3 older students provide extra daily tuition to the younger children throughout the school holidays. These young men have the abilities and the skills now to be able to mentor the younger ones.

These three young men, Bishop, Vincent and Ladu, are excelling at their studies and we are very keen to hear their results mid-January. Their end of term 2 reports were excellent with Ladu gaining a 95% average and the comment that he has the capacity to be the best student in the entire country. We are incredibly proud of these young men and know they will realise their dreams.



The three young men in 2016 – what a difference hope and love make

CURRENT SITUATION IN SOUTH SUDAN

You may be aware of the current situation in South Sudan which is very volatile. In 2016, the rebels and government forces entered Pajok Village (where Young Seeds children originate from) and there has been many killings since that time. This situation worsened in April 2017. As a result of this, Young Seeds made the decision in 2016 not to take the children back to their village for the big Christmas holiday break. It is far too dangerous, as many are being killed on the border and the older children would be greatly at risk of being taken by to be trained as child soldiers. The girls would be very vulnerable to sexual violence. The danger has increased even more in 2017.

Those children who do not have extended family in Kyrandongo Refugee camp in Bweyale will be living with one of our coordinators and be cared for by his mother. Young Seeds will provide the food for these children and also purchase clothing for them. However, some of these children will be escorted by Lowilla Okello in December to visit Palabek camp and be reunited with family after not seeing them for 2 years.

Fortunately, we built a new house for Young Seeds children to stay during their holidays as the hut they were living in was dangerously close to collapsing. They now have a sturdy brick and tin roof house which will keep them safe for many years to come.





The new house which has now been completed

EMERGENCY RESPONSE

As a result of the humanitarian crisis created by the current war in South Sudan, many thousands of people fled to neighbour countries as refugees. UNCHR estimate that an average of 2,159 refugees from South Sudan were arriving in Uganda each day. A new settlement called Palabek camp was created to provide refuge to 30,000 people. In October 2017, Palabek was housing 46,000 refugees from South Sudan with Uganda already housing almost 1 million people from South Sudan.

Young Seeds with Global Development Group, responded to the April crisis by launching a fund raising campaign to assist the people in Palabek. We were able to raise \$8,000 in a short time and this money was sent to Africa where the 2 YS Coordinators purchased a variety of goods to take to the Camp. We are very grateful to the person in Uganda who provided his truck, free of charge, to transport the goods.



People in Palabek working together to unload the supplies (water, food, school supplies and hygiene products)



Educational resources

ANNUAL EXECUTIVE MEMBER VISIT

Lowilla Okello will be travelling to Uganda in late December this year to visit the children and check on their progress and well-being. We will provide you with a report of Lowilla's visit when he returns, as well as photos.

A NEW COORDINATOR

Young Seeds has recently employed a new coordinator in Bweyale, Uganda, to oversee our operations there and to provide guidance and direction to our long term worker. We are very happy to have him on board. As a school teacher he is able to provide us with a high level of advice as to how the children are managing academically and to offer us suggestions on how to best support the children. He has already been invaluable to us in helping to secure Memorandums of Understandings with partnership schools to assist us in our process to gain tax deductible status.

SPONSORS / DONATIONS

It probably goes without saying that Young Seeds is so very grateful for all sponsorship and donations. Without you we could not possibly offer these vulnerable children their right to hope and the life chances. Your kindness and care will be rewarded as the children continue through their education and then give back to their people and to our world. All the children are aware that they need to 'pay it forward' when they have qualified at whatever their chosen career path is. It is these children that will maintain the legacy of Young Seeds and this could not possibly happen without you.

We are conscious that to sponsor a child in boarding school is a huge financial commitment and urge you to talk to us if you are having difficulties. For instance, we are happy for monthly direct debit repayments if that eases your situation.

The Young Seeds Team takes pride in absolutely guaranteeing that every cent you pay for in sponsorship goes directly to your sponsor child. The fees you pay include school fees, board at the school, uniforms, uniforms, and all personal needs such as a mattress, soap and toilet paper.

Young Seeds does not take anything from sponsor payment for administrative or other costs. The Executive members personally incur the cost of travel to Africa each year to check on the children and visit all the schools.

Young Seeds pays for:

- The cost of safe travel for the children to and from their schools and to provide for their wellbeing and care during school holidays.
- Pays a modest wage to our coordinator and our new supervisor.
- The cost of medical treatment (sometimes sponsors will offer to pay this as you are always informed if something is not ok with your sponsor child). We have had considerable medical costs this year.
- We still need the funds to properly furnish the house for children with suitable beds etc.
- Extra needs as they arise throughout the school year such as excursions or educational materials.
- Extra tuition for the children at Star Education primary school.
- We have built the house this year for the children.
- Resources such as mobile phone and computer so our supervisor can maintain impeccable accountability records.

Personal Connection

We also believe that we differ from some other organisations in that we encourage you to develop a personal relationship with the child you sponsor. This may include letter writing to be sent with the Executive member at end of the year, phoning the school to talk with the principal and hopefully the child (at some schools). If you wish to have phone contact with the principal I suggest you let us know and we can organise a time in 2018 to get together and help you to make the initial contact. There is also an opportunity to travel with an Exec member to actually meet your sponsor child.

We at Young Seeds sincerely thank you for your ongoing support in the lives of the children. Unless you have had the opportunity to travel to South Sudan I don't think there is a way of possibly understanding the extent of need that exists for children.

The Young Seeds team wishes you and yours peace and happiness throughout the festive season.

Please do not hesitate to contact if you have any queries.

Kindest regards, the Young Seeds team

