



Loreto Rumbek Newsletter

MARCH 2017



4 Loreto Graduate Interns—March 2017

Gap Year — Due to delays in sitting the National Senior 4 Examination, many students are now forced to take a gap year between graduation and continuing education or obtaining formal employment while they await their results. The Loreto graduates have already overcome immense adversity to join the incredibly small number of female secondary school graduates in South Sudan and when they return home there are renewed threats of forced marriage.

With ongoing support from CRS, the school has been able to extend its resources and advocacy to continue supporting these girls in their pursuit of a university degree, professional certificate or formal employment. This professional internship program provides the students with a mentor in one of the schools' departments where they learn hands-on skills working as administrative and financial assistants, compound managers, trainee teachers, and assistant nurses. While enrolled in this program the girls are given access to the schools' capacity building programs to boost their learning, as they apply for additional academic or professional opportunities.

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Loreto In the News— Loreto recently celebrated its 6th graduation . During her graduation speech the Graduating Class' representative Josephine Nyanajong thanked the donors and partners, "To all our donors and partners, you are rarely seen but your impact is great. I can assure you that your efforts are not being wasted." The event was covered in additional detail by [CANAA](#) and shared by [Vatican News Radio](#).

A great place to be a child— Most children from our community bear responsibilities far beyond their years; as caretakers, working to collect water, or gathering firewood to help their families. With so much responsibility in their lives, they need a place where they can be what they are: children.

The Loreto Schools are the only schools in Maker Kuei. Here students receive a high quality education, enjoy a meal and have open access to health care; these are the reasons their parents enroll them. The school provides a safe space for the kids to be kids—in a healthy, productive, structured environment. The students at Loreto Primary School not only have classes at the school, but also play soccer or volleyball games, educational clubs featuring engineering, science, maths, and even tablets. Loreto is safe, it is consistent, and our committed staff and faculty care. All of this contributes to a growing joy of learning!



Development amidst Disaster— Despite the ongoing crisis, the Loreto programs in Rumbek are committed to progress. This crisis has changed the cultural paradigm of formal education. In the past, most families would not place any value in formal education, sending at most 1 of their sons. However, the food, water, and health care provided by the school helps incentivize the parents to enroll more of their children. And enroll they have—the primary school has grown by nearly 30% from 2016-2017.

The schools currently have projects for building specialized computer and English classrooms, a new dormitory, and kitchens and stores for the primary school. Through the support of our generous partners, Loreto is continuing to build and these buildings represent a tangible investment in the people of Maker Kuei. The buildings mean hope: jobs, education, food, water, life—progress.

A Special Thank You to all of the donors , advocates, and supporters of the Loreto Programs in Rumbek.

Without your hard work or support none of this would be possible.