



Loreto Rumbek Newsletter

MAY 2017



Science Fair — Loreto Primary School in Maker Kuei, South Sudan provides a hands-on, inquiry driven STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) program for upper primary school students. Every day, students conduct science experiments, build simple machines, practice their Maths skills and use tablets to learn coding and robotics. At the end of the term, they showcase the projects they have worked on during a Science Fair. In mid-May the students boldly presented projects focused on electricity, light, robotics and simple machines to an audience comprised of their peers, secondary school students,

teachers and parents. The presentations were in Dinka (local language) and English, engaged the audience, and garnered rave reviews.

The afterschool STEM program is a play-based approach to science education which has reinforced attendance, increased student performance, and encouraged a joy for learning science in rural South Sudan.



Growing Sustainability — As part of a 4 year initiative, the Loreto Schools in South Sudan have developed a basic seedling program to support food security and reforestation in our host community. The school has successfully propagated papaya, mango, guava, custard apple, teak and mahogany seedlings for distribution and planting in the community and at the school, with over 6000 seedlings propagated since 2015.

The school has distributed 1400 seedlings each year since 2015. So far in 2017, over 700 seedlings have been distributed to Loreto Primary School students. The primary school students thoroughly enjoy the distributions—with the guava seedlings being highly coveted. In May, the school planted over 900 seedlings around the perimeter of the school compound to replace trees that have been cut down due to development in the area.

Security Wall — With the support of South Sudan Relief Fund, Loreto has been implementing another phase of the security wall. Security has been a growing concern as the food security and national security situation has worsened. The school has employed local youth to build the wall as trainee masons in a project started by Mary Ward International—Australia. These trainees are supplied with blocks made by local women from female led households. The self implementation of this project by Loreto and our host community has decreased the costs of the wall by an astounding 42.8 percent!



Celebrating Success - The Loreto Girls Secondary School (LGSS) has a strong reputation for not only providing a high quality education to young women in South Sudan, but also for the high quality of our graduates. This month we are celebrating the success of one of our first students, Veronica Adut (left).

Ms. Adut's story is one of firsts; she is one of the first women in her family to complete primary school, one of our first students, our first head girl, one of our first graduates (class of 2011) and the first Loreto graduate to complete her Bachelor's degree at the Catholic University in Juba, South Sudan (class of 2016). After completing her studies, Veronica continued to excel — as a development professional. Ms. Adut has worked with Internally Displaced People (IDPs) in Eastern Lakes State with the international NGO, Catholic Relief Services (CRS). In May, she was appointed as the Logistics Officer for the South Sudan office of Mennonite Central Committee (MCC), another international NGO.

Currently, 60% of LGSS graduates go on to university and 35% are employed in a wide range of sectors. Veronica Adut, years after leaving the school, continues to shine as an example of a well-educated and empowered woman, and a great role model for our current students.

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.