

## UPDATE REPORT FOR SUD ACADEMY

SEPTEMBER-NOVEMBER 2017

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This will be remembered as the shortest third term ever in the country's history because of political tension and violence in some parts of the country especially in the slum areas. In the month of October we also had a repeat of the presidential election after the initial election was nullified by the Supreme Court. With all this uncertainty in the country, the students still managed to put their best to revise and prepare for the final national examinations.

### Short Term Mission Teams

Christian Mission Aid's (CMA) partners and friends both from USA and Canada have continually, volunteered their services and provided the much needed material support to Sud Academy. During this term, the school was privileged to be visited by Mary Gonda from USA. She conducted a teachers' workshop where she gave some good training on: teacher-students classroom relations, listening and communication skills during class sessions and spiritual leadership. The Teachers expressed their gratitude and appreciation for the training.



***Left: It was all ears for the teachers during the workshop. Right: The girls were filled with much joy and thankfulness when they were provided with sanitary wear.***

An (NGO) called Catholic Medical Mission Board also visited the school in early October. They too conducted a teacher's workshop and discussed health issues. The group also donated a mobile toilet, helping the school to improve their school's sanitation and health environment.

## Smart Girl Initiative

The smart girl initiative has over the past been of great help to the girls at Sud Academy. From the educational lessons to the provision of the hygienic kits, the girls can attest of the positive effects this has had in their lives, especially in their regular attendance and not missing classes as before, there has been a reduction of early unwanted pregnancies and a decrease in the school drop rate at Sud Academy.



*Mary is holding a session with the girls on personal hygiene.*

Mary is a mother of two teenage girls and was able to share relevant lessons from her own experiences with her daughters. Mary taught about self-esteem, confidence and trusting God for our provisions. The girls feeling comfortable opened up and shared their challenges and asked many personal questions. The girls and their teachers were grateful for the learning experience they had that day.

## Education and Co-Curriculum Activities

Sud Academy held many co-curriculum activities. During this year inter-zonal matches to place where Sud Academy's volleyball team participated in tournaments with other local schools and with great joy, emerged as the winner.

This year, Sud Academy held their prayer day for the national examination candidates on October 23rd. The students were encouraged as they prepared for their final exams.

"I have observed remarkable improvement on discipline and hard work by the candidates," the school's Principal said displaying optimism that the candidates will perform well in the examinations.



*Students playing volleyball after a day of hard work of studying and preparing for exams.*

The students felt ready for the exams, they had revised, rehearsed, and consulted. A total of 59 students from both Class 8 and Form 4 candidates were registered and will sit for this year's final examinations.

More South Sudanese youth are waiting and hopeful to be enrolled in Sud Academy in January 2018. Lino Madut has identified some students for next year enrolment when the school opens on 2<sup>nd</sup> January.

**One of the students interviewed was Barnabal Michael.**

Barnaba Michael is a South Sudanese who hails from Maban County. The 20 year old managed to escape from his country when war escalated and together with some of his friends they journeyed seeking safety, making their way to the Kakuma refugee camp in Northern Kenya. The refugee camp life was not easy as people depended on the little provided to survive.

Unable to enroll in a school, Barnaba heard about Sud Academy and decided that he would travel to Nairobi to join Sud Academy in order to continue with his education. He came to Sud Academy and requested if he could enroll as he desired to be educated but had no opportunity to do so in South Sudan. The administration agreed to admit Barnaba next year. He is very happy because his dreams to finally get an education are coming true, thanks to Sud Academy.

Barnaba expressed that he fears the political instability in his home town in South Sudan and prays that one day the fighting will end and it will be peaceful enough for him to return to help his people. He is grateful for the donors who ensure that youth like him, who did not get education can get it at Sud Academy.

**Another student interviewed was Bolo Philip.**

The 18 years old Philip Bolo comes from South Sudan. He was once a child soldier who spent his entire childhood life in the bush fighting. Philip's breakthrough from his terrible experience came when the soldiers were taken to the border to fight. He managed to escape when he ran across the border into Uganda where he sought help from the nearby settlers at Namule. He later crossed into Kenya where he was taken to the refugee camp at Kakuma. He joined up with Barnabas and traveled to Nairobi when they heard about Sud Academy in search for an education. Philip was overjoyed to know that he was accepted to join Sud Academy next year. After completion of his studies he would love to be a teacher and go back home and empower his fellow countrymen to embrace education. The political instability in his country is what worries him the most. However, he is optimistic that one day things will change for better. For now he is so thankful for the opportunity to get an education at Sud Academy.