

Dear Friends,

I thought I'd send a brief update to those of you who have so generously supported the Kindergarten and other projects in Yei and South Sudan.

The security situation in Yei town is good although the roads in the area are still quite dangerous to travel on. The ordinary South Sudanese continue to hope for real peace so that they can get on with their lives. Some of the refugees have returned home and have planted crops.

Meanwhile the children and staff of Immanuel Kindergarten are just about to start their second term and have registered 350 children. Each of these children get a decent meal each day thanks to the support of World Food Programme. The garden is thriving helping to provide fresh produce and the amazing teachers give the children lots of educational opportunities despite the many challenges faced by the teachers in their own lives. Inflation is rampant so its very difficult to feed their families and just living takes a lot of time and emotional energy.

I am looking forward to visiting in August. I will fly to Entebbe and after (hopefully!) getting my visa for South Sudan will go by road to Arua, where my friend Ester lives, and plan to see the teachers who are still refugees in Uganda. Whilst there I will purchase some resources for the school to send by road to Yei. I will then fly to Juba and stay there a few days before flying on to Yei. I will get there just before the end of term. This will give me time to see the school in action and work with the teachers in the classrooms. Once term has ended we will hold a 3 day training course for our team and also invite teachers from other nursery and primary schools so that we can share ideas. I will take some resources for the training sessions that will be stored at Immanuel Kindergarten, these can then be used on a loan basis by the other schools. That way more children will be able to access them.

Alongside the Kindergarten project many of you will remember that I have been sending parcels of underwear to Arua to be sent up to Yei for the ladies. It is hard to express just how much these gifts mean. The situation in South Sudan makes it difficult to live and feed families and impossible for the ladies to purchase underwear. Their self esteem is raised and they feel safer in all sorts of ways when they are able to dress in ways people in the west take for granted. I have also been able to send parcels of children's underwear. Many of our children come to school without wearing pants because parents can't afford to buy them. As a result of the donations we had enough for each child to have a pair. The parents (and children) were so pleased. We couldn't have given them a better gift.

As many of you know, because you have kindly donated using this method, we have used 'MyDonate' run by BT to accept online donations. Sadly, they will no longer be operating from the end of June so I have registered with a new platform. <https://www.kindlink.com/charity/immanuel-kindergarten/profile>  
I will also update the details on our website.

If any of you would like to know more about any of these projects, please contact us. Meanwhile please keep saving stamps and small change for us and telling your family and friends about us. Some people also give money for a specific purpose: towards travel, postage or to help fund children and young people access education (there is no free education in South Sudan or the rest of east Africa - it is all fee paying). I have been involved in channelling this targeted support, thank you. The needs are many and it

is hard to express how much it means to the school and wider community to have people like you remembering them and supporting them in various ways. Thank you again for your interest and on-going support. Best wishes from Carolyn



Excited children enjoying break time at school.



One of the classrooms



The garden is being prepared ready to plant the next set of vegetables.



Parcels of underwear ready for distribution and delighted ladies!