



# Seeds of South Sudan SPRING NEWSLETTER

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[seedsofsouthsudan.org](http://seedsofsouthsudan.org)

## KAKUMA REFUGEES RECEIVE VITAL FOOD THANKS TO ACC AND SEEDS DONORS

**Arvada Covenant Church donated \$4,300** for food relief that could be delivered by our high school grads to hungry people in South Sudan and Kakuma. The Seeds board, inspired by the ACC example, augmented their gift with \$1,200 from funds donated through Colorado Gives.

The food delivery trip to South Sudan will occur before Arok returns to the US. In March, Arok and Deng traveled to Kakuma with gallons of cooking oil, packages of wheat and beans so the South Sudanese community could make bread and augment their meager rations. "Because of the drought, we have been unable to grow any wheat for bread," said female elder Atoch Anyieth. "We have been idle."

The South Sudanese refugees were very grateful for the assistance. In 2019, each Kakuma resident shared one meal a day of beans and corn. Since more conflicts have increased the number of refugees globally, the UN World Food Programme has had to stretch its resources much farther to meet all needs.

Now Kakuma refugees share one meal a day of beans and ugali, a porridge made from sorghum. "Ugali is very hard to digest," reports Seeds founder Arok Garang. "The UN's goal is to keep people alive," he noted.

Elder Gabriel Panyang adds, "The food you gave will support our vulnerable children and elderly in our community. May Almighty God give you the best." Seeds thanks all of our generous donors who are making a real difference in the lives of our friends in Africa.

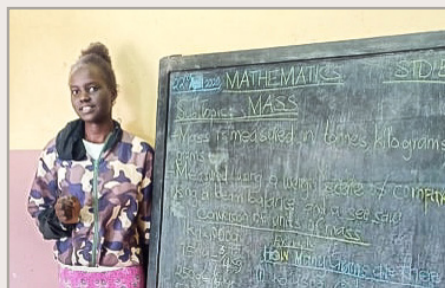


## SEEDS STUDENTS SHARE MEMORIES OF THEIR MOTHERS

Seeds students recall their mothers in essays inside this newsletter. Please consider making a Mother's Day gift to Seeds:

- In honor of
  - In memory of
  - In celebration of
- a mother you would like to recognize.

Send a check to:  
SoSS, P.O. Box 232, Arvada, CO 80001 or donate  
securely at <https://seedsofsouthsudan.org/how-to-help/donate>



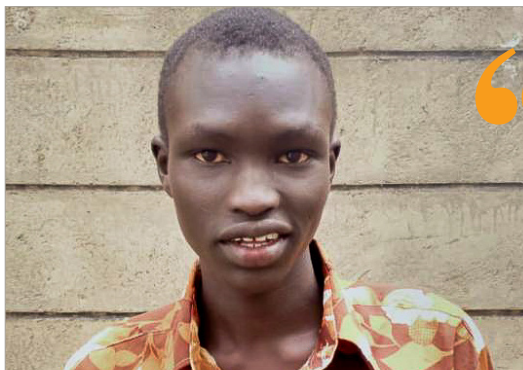
**Congratulations to Yar Deng Mayen**, one of Seeds' shining stars, for scoring in the top 1% of all Kenyan eighth graders taking the exit exam. Kenya tested 1.2 million eighth graders and the top students scored above 400 points. Yar scored 413! Watch her on the SoSS YouTube Channel: "Yar Deng Describes the Math Lesson She is Teaching during COVID."



**Our Mission:** To educate refugee children to become 'Seeds of Change' for South Sudan



# SEEDS STUDENT ORPHANS REMEMBER THEIR MOTHERS



Deng Lual Deng, Baringo HS, grade 10

“My mother took care of us since my father was lost in the war of 1991. My mother is my role model because of her courage. I have been working hard to achieve my dream so that I can take care of my younger sisters just like my mother did.”

“The day I lost my mother was the most painful wound in my heart. After almighty God, I always give my mother my respect, love, and honor.”



Chol Lual Deng, St. Joseph Boys' School, grade 11

“I will do my best, in memory of you, since you cherished hard work and always wanted the best for your five children. You will always remain in my heart.”



Yar Dau, Mercy Girls' High School, grade 9

## MEDICAL STUDENT ALEER JOK TREATS PATIENTS IN SOUTH SUDAN

As part of a research requirement halfway through medical school, Aleer Jok has spent several months treating patients at hospitals in Juba, South Sudan. He has also visited people in “Internally Displaced Persons” camps in South Sudan. At each stop he is gathering information on the prevalence of various diseases, such as malaria, typhoid and HIV-Aids. He will share his findings with the Ministry of South Sudan and publish his research. As you see by the smiling children, Aleer has made friends at every stop!





# SEEDS WELCOMES FIVE REFUGEE CHILDREN: SPONSORS NEEDED FOR SOME

In January, Seeds founder Arok Garang learned of two refugee children at Kakuma Refugee Camp with concerning medical conditions. **Akol Ajang** has a lump on her collarbone and **Yout Awer** had chronic nosebleeds. The elders at Kakuma urged that four children be evacuated to Home Base at Nakuru, Kenya, for medical treatment. These also included **Akuol**, age 12, (left, being tutored by college student **Deng Dhieu**, right) and **Arok Aguer**, right, who also needed urgent medical care. A fifth youth, **Adhieu Jok Atem**, was also evacuated (see below).



Thankfully, all four children have been medically evaluated and none has a life-threatening illness! In fact, thanks to medication for worms, parasites common in camps, they are all now attending Roots Academy! **Akuol** was born with the bone condition. She no longer has to carry heavy jerricans of water, which was a major source of her pain in the camp. **Yout** and **Akuol** tested negative for tropical diseases. **Arok Aguer** has chronic malaria for which he is being treated. **Deng Dhieu** reports **Arok** is now playing soccer at school! Three of the five children evacuated now have sponsors. We need a sponsor for **Akuol Erjok** and for **Adhieu Jok Atem**, a teenager considered to be at high risk. When **Arok** brought the food to Kakuma in March, **Adhieu** came up crying. She was interviewed in 2019 and loves school. She wants to become a doctor. Conditions have become so dire at Kakuma that she had planned to return to South Sudan with her aunt. **Adhieu** would then likely be married off to

an older man with no hope for further education. She will come to Nakuru with some of our high school graduates who are returning from South Sudan via Kakuma Refugee Camp.

We need sponsors for **Akuol** (age 12) and **Adhieu**, age 16. We also need sponsors for continuing Seeds students **Nuul Deng Mayen**, a sixth grader, and **Ajang Lual Deng**, also a sixth grader at Roots Academy. Please consider sponsoring a child or recruiting someone who could sponsor with you or as part of a group. Full sponsorships are \$150 a month and half-sponsorships are \$75 a month (\$900 a year) to educate one of these children. **Ajang** was originally sponsored by a Bible study group. One of **Ajang's** sponsors is continuing, so the need for him is for a 75% sponsorship or \$1,125 a year. If you propose a group sponsorship, we need one main contact for communication. Questions? Please contact Roger Maynard, [roger@seedsofsouthsudan.org](mailto:roger@seedsofsouthsudan.org). Thank you!



Adhieu Jok Atem



Ajang Lual Deng



Nuul Deng Mayen

## SEMINARY GRADS SHARING THEIR INSIGHTS IN SOUTH SUDAN

**Dau Machar Jok** and **Garang Manyok** have been teaching about the Bible and leadership at a new seminary in Juba, South Sudan. The seminary was established by Pastor John Chol Dau, who connected with **Arok** through former Lost Boy Bishop **Abraham Yel Nhial**.



Seeds of South Sudan

PO BOX 232, ARVADA, CO 80001

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## AROK OVERSEES MAJOR REPAIRS IMPROVING HEALTH, SAFETY AT HOME BASE

Seeds founder Arok Garang returned to Nakuru, Kenya in August 2020 to oversee major upgrades to Home Base and to spend time with his wife and children. Because Home Base was designed and originally occupied by a single family, the water and sewer systems were not designed for 75-100 occupants – who are there when boarding schools close in April, August and November-December.



The first priority was to reroof the house. Many broken tiles led to leaks. The roof is now completely repaired and the electricity has been upgraded. Next, the kitchen was moved from the first floor to an out-building because smoke had damaged the ceiling. Seeds purchased a larger-capacity gas stove. Another critical upgrade was to sewage capacity. The photo to the left shows sewer pipes which were buried in the yard of the compound at Home

Base. A trench was also dug in the street to connect a larger pipe to the city sewer system.

A new water line and larger capacity water storage have fixed a chronic problem at Home Base and other homes in the subdivision. Now water comes from two sources. Hot showers were installed in inside bathrooms. Broken windows and leaking broken sinks have been replaced. Some doors could not lock; those have been repaired.

Arok has been training the students to care for the property. Every evening when the students were home at Christmas, Arok covered some aspect of property maintenance to protect our investment. He has had to select and supervise contract workers closely so that supplies do not disappear and that the work is done properly.

The house was repainted outside and the yard was graded and covered with bricks so the grounds are not muddy when it rains. In addition, a taller and more functional gate was installed and an electrical fence atop the compound wall increases security.

Seeds thanks all the donors who helped purchase Home Base and provided a healthy cushion of funds above the purchase price to take care of maintenance needs that were previously identified.