

Seeds of South Sudan (SeedsOfSouthSudan.org), Seeds, is an educational organization to give selected refugee orphan children from South Sudan an opportunity to become future leaders in South Sudan. The children have no financial resources and need the long-term donations from sponsors. Financial needs increase with the significant educational steps between elementary, high school, and college or trade school levels. Boarding school facilities must be used because the orphan children have no other homes. The program now includes a large house in Nakuru, called Home Base, to house the children and Seeds leaders during school breaks. A few students have already graduated from the program and are starting to serve in the Kakuma refugee camp and in South Sudan. Some have obtained scholarships for college in Canada.

Education in the Kakuma refugee camp for students not in the Seeds program.



Satellite view of the Kakuma school campus used by refugees from South Sudan. Tan areas are dirt. Blue roofs are new buildings; gray roofs are older classrooms.



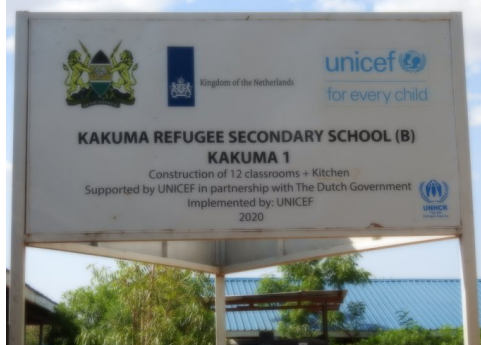
New school building

Old classroom building

There are several schools scattered around the different sections of the Kakuma refugee camp area. This is camp area 1.



Classroom for English lesson



The sign indicates 12 new classrooms and kitchen built by UNICEF and the Dutch government.

There seems to be an impression that the quality of education offered in the refugee camps is poor. Perhaps it is difficult to attract good teachers to work in this environment. We met one Seeds high school graduate who decided to return to Kakuma with her new knowledge and skills to improve the teaching there. She taught her lesson well.



English lesson being taught by an Seeds graduate with well-used chalk board



South Sudanese children waiting for sponsorship into the Seeds program

The South Sudanese elders (right) select the children for the Seeds program if and when financial sponsors are found.



Elementary education (grades through 8) in Nakuru at Roots Academy.



A satellite view of the Roots Academy campus outside Nakuru for local and boarding students. The many large yellow school busses are not in the view.

A nationwide exam that determines the quality of the high school assigned for their future education. A score above 400 puts the students in the top 1 percent in the nation, and Roots Academy has a long list of students with such an achievement. That especially includes Seeds students. Though they spoke Dinka, they had to learn in English and Swahili here.

Roots Academy has an excellent reputation and now serves more than a thousand students. We arrived at a time of graduation.

All eighth grade students need to take the Kenya



A classroom building. Encouragement signs and slogans are everywhere.



A classroom scene at Roots Academy.



An Seeds Home Base leader proudly shows off the student-chosen list. For the past six years the presidents were Seeds students, not Kenyan.



Some of the thousand students at the graduation ceremony.



Decorated boys dormitory buildings.



Home Base, for elementary and high school students during school breaks, and Seeds staff.

While at Home Base our team did some basic health checks and found a few students who needed some special attention. Everyone was photographed to send portraits to their sponsors. We also had separate sexuality talks with the boy and girl student groups.



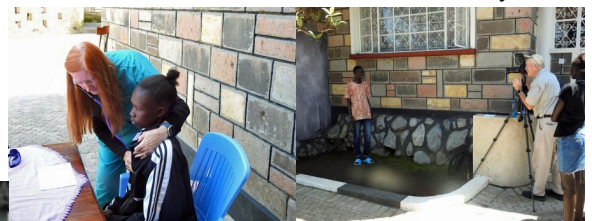
Seeds president, Arok Garang, left, and Seeds students at Roots Academy.



Weight, height

Vision

Color test



Heart, lungs

Photos



Pressure, temperature, oxygen, pulse rate



Photos of the adjacent vacant lot.



View from Home Base second floor.



Satellite view of Home Base, center, green lot to left.

Living conditions at Home Base are crowded when the students are there during Spring break. There is a large vacant lot adjacent that could be useful for expansion, gardening, and game area, but there is no indication that the lot could ever be for sale.

We split the students at Home Base into elementary and high school groups and had them served a special lunch at Rift



High school group at special lunch.

Valley Sports Club with talks afterward. For the elementary group Mary passed out many recorders and taught them some basics of music and playing those instruments. I prepared a simple talk, "A Different View", about seeing things from above, and from colors not visible to us, based on my specialty in remote sensing. For the high school group we gave talks already presented to the college students in Nairobi. Though not presently needed at the high school ages, Tom's lecture was about doing a good interview, and first impressions. My lectures were about making a resume and a cover letter. Handouts and a flash drive with the PowerPoint lectures were given to the students and Seeds leaders for future reference.



Africa Heart Lodge in Nairobi.



Seeds college students and our team.



Tom giving his lecture to the students.

While in Nairobi we stayed part time at the Africa Heart Lodge. The Seeds college students met with us (notice how tall the South Sudanese are, including the women) and we gave them the lectures mentioned above. Those topics were timely for them because they would soon be seeking further education or jobs in South Sudan.

It was good to see all aspects of the Seeds of South Sudan program in Kenya. Since 2009 it has educated 145 refugee orphans and graduated more than 50 through Kenyan high schools. Perhaps our work will prompt others to provide the needed financial sponsorships.