

HIGH FIVE CLUB

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Teacher Training, South Sudan



After almost half a century of bloody civil war, peace came to South Sudan in 2005. Hopes were high and progress was made, but in December 2013 peace was shattered, and, ever since, much of the country has suffered the tragedy of inter-tribal conflict. This has resulted to date in over 10,000 deaths and 3 million displaced people, of whom some 100,000 have ended up in camps run by the UN. The country now faces a severe famine.

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In South Sudan enrolment rates in secondary education are below 10%, and it has the lowest primary school enrolment rate in the world. Girls face additional disadvantages. Just 6% complete primary school. So extreme are the gender inequalities that young girls in South Sudan are more than twice as likely to die in pregnancy or childbirth as they are to make it into secondary education. **Juba Diocesan Model Secondary School**, opened in 2007, is shining a light into the darkness and is offering a new generation of girls hope of building a brighter future. This school is really leading the way in South Sudan in so many ways. With an initial intake of 80 students today there are 650 on the school roll, 50% of whom are girls. The recent School Certificate results show boys and girls are gaining equal achievement, with the school coming out top of the English-speaking secondary schools in the country.



Now a pioneering new initiative is to be launched at this school of National significance. **“Teach First”**, the country’s very first teacher training programme for secondary school teachers, is to be launched by the school in May.

Quality teachers are critical in raising educational standards in impoverished countries like South Sudan, and the commencement of the Teach First pilot at this school is an ambitious project that has the full backing of the Central Equatoria Education Department and the University of Juba. It is set to raise educational standards in South Sudan.

High Five Club Support:

The school has been fund-raising for this ambitious on-the-job teacher training programme over the last 18 months. High Five Club members have contributed £1,000 towards this ground-breaking initiative. Six trainee teachers have been selected as the first intake into this pilot programme from late May.

For further information about this initiative contact Dr Cheryl Mvula at cheryl@highfiveclub.co.uk