



cress

Christian Relief and Education for South Sudanese

www.cressuk.org

Spring Newsletter

2018

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Welcome!

CRESS held its AGM on March 23rd, when I updated the Trustees and Friends on a challenging but rewarding year. Given the ongoing civil unrest in South Sudan, forcing us to move our work, people and equipment to Uganda, our achievements are ones we are particularly proud of.

Firm Bases

While we were able to open the CRESS office relatively quickly in Arua, Northern Uganda, the clinic in nearby Mijale took nine months. Although we opened its doors in September 2017, due to extensive building work, it is only recently fully operational, headed up by the wonderful Edward Mika.

Sponsorship

Our educational sponsorship remains the backbone of CRESS and the most precious support for the South Sudanese Church leaders. We support eighty-four children: thirty-three in secondary education, forty-six in primary and five university students.

It's working! All three children previously sponsored at university have now found employment.

Agriculture

The civil unrest put this project on hold, however I am delighted to say Yango Yunio, Bishop Joseph's wife, is now training forty-three group leaders who will lead the agricultural output in eight different IDP or Refugee camps. The project will have a direct impact on 128 households and was made possible by the valuable support of the Rockefeller Foundation and Salisbury Diocese. Thank you to all involved.

You can see the project in action on our website thanks to the brilliant reports and images from Olivia Jones, who documented her trip in April 2018.

In 2018...

We hope and pray that CRESS can achieve NGO status in Uganda to further its work.

Thank you for your time, interest and support. We can continue making a difference only because of you.

Caroline Lamb, Founder & CEO

Please help CRESS to make a difference

You can support any of our projects by making a donation online by following the links on our website or send a cheque to:

Cress UK, Knighton Manor, Broad Chalke, Salisbury SP5 5EB

If you are a UK tax payer please don't forget to complete a **Gift Aid** form – available to download from the website or contact us and we will post one to you.



Facebook. Please visit and 'like' our Facebook page for all the latest news as it happens. Please comment and share our posts so we might reach the largest audience possible. **You can also sign up to receive our monthly email by simply clicking on the sign up tab and submitting your details.**

Re-Usable Menstrual Pads Training (RUMP)

The **RUMP** training, held in March, was an outstanding success. We sadly only had funding to train two hundred, while nearly double that number subscribed – an indication of the need for this initiative. The four-day training was held in Matu, Northern Uganda, and was available to both South Sudanese refugees and local Ugandan women, both of whom face challenges managing their monthly cycle and tackling the resultant health issues.

The use of re-usable pads, a cheap, safe and long-lasting alternative to rags, has been proved to reduce school dropout rates for girls, while the program is valuable in educating the wider community on menstrual cycles, which in turn reduces the shame felt by many.

Our thanks go to Lizzie Winter of “*We See Hope*”, who alerted us to this training back in 2016. CRESS recently sent



Jessica Poni and Jackie Gire to complete the RUMP teacher training with a “*We See Hope*” partner in Gulu, allowing Jessica to successfully lead our four-day training in Matu.

Trauma Training

Given the scale and severity of the troubles, it did not surprise us when in January we saw signs of strain among the clergy and teachers. During the conference Fiona Sheldon had the opportunity to talk about the human givens of emotional health, acknowledging how difficult and traumatic this last year had been and outlining how physical and emotional needs can be met. She also talked about supporting children through trauma.



The clergy, who had looked so tired and worn down when we arrived, were visibly more relaxed and had an air of optimism about them as the conferences ended. This resulted from a combination of time away from the pressures of parish life, fellowship, good food and a re-instilled belief in themselves and their mission. All delegates received a new bible, a gift of such importance to them.

South Sudan: The Facts

Seven million people are in need of aid

Nearly six million people are estimated to be facing hunger

One in three people in South Sudan have been displaced

Six out of ten South Sudanese refugees are children

The inflation rate of 835% is the highest in the world.

Please join us in praying for the people of South Sudan, who we now support in Uganda.



Lucy Atie, leader of the Gabor group receives her new bicycle from CRESS



Healthy vegetable seedlings under raised shade being shown in Mvepi camp