

PUBLIC HEALTH IN SOUTH SUDAN

Categories: Hygiene Education/Hygiene Assistance/Community Development/

BE A PART OF THE PROJECT: PARTNER WITH JEN AND CONTRIBUTE

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Hygiene Education

JPF Assesses Elementary School

May marked the end of a project that was started with the help of JEN supporters and Japan Platform (JPF). To assess the project itself, a JPF team paid a visit to Ngangala Elementary School, located two hours outside of Juba City by car.

The day began with a puppet show on hygiene education presented by local JEN staff members. Although the school was initially closed due to bad weather, after an announcement of a show, a large crowd of children and adults congregated to watch the puppet show (some children even changed into their school uniforms!). After the show, the audience members were asked to share their thoughts on what they had just learned, and many children claimed that they were going to go home and ask their parents to build proper toilets.



Above: Children and adults gather to watch the puppet show

Furthermore, the JPF staff had the opportunity to meet community members who had been trained by JEN to see how they had

been working to maintain the local wells. In summary, the project itself proved to be a success, and now it is up to the community to continue on their own.

Hygiene Assistance

Latrine Construction Project a Success

Recently, the “School and Community Water Sanitary Improvement Project of Central Equatoria” was completed, where JEN helped to construct 80 children’s latrines in 13 primary schools throughout Juba County. The number of latrines was decided based on the number of students at each school, building one latrine for every 50 male students and thirty female students.

Like any project, there were obstacles that the JEN staff members faced. It was not an easy task, and there were a number of difficulties including the thorough selection of constructors, soil checks, progress checks, and a long planning process.

At the end of the project, a final check was conducted by JEN engineers as well as the Education Ministry in May, who confirmed that the construction was completed successfully – just in time for the beginning of the school year!

Community Development

Standing Side by Side

While JEN has had numerous projects within different regions of Sudan, we have always had a single commitment of working with and standing alongside the South Sudanese people in order to build a healthy relationship.

JEN staff members who have been working in South Sudan have realized that the region has a

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very rich culture and heritage, and the strength and will needed to thrive through adversity.

As a matter of fact, statistics within the region are appalling. A mere 1 in 26 South Sudanese people have access to a pit latrine, and there exists an enormous sanitation problem that can hinder children's education. For example, a large population suffers from diarrhea, which can ultimately keep a child out of school, causing them to miss out on their education.



Above: A hand washing demonstration

Thus, in response, JEN will be looking to establish a team that can work with community members in order to bring basic understanding of hygiene care to spread throughout communities.

Community Development

Repairing Infrastructure, Repairing Lives

For quite some time now, JEN has been carrying out strengthening programs in Yei County. Although the area was initially perceived to be well-off with minimum needs, recent assessment concluded that huge gaps existed in the region's water, sanitation and hygiene sector.

With support from JPF, JEN has begun a two year project that is predicted to last through most of 2015 in order to empower communities within the WASH sector. JEN is currently working with the Department of Rural Water Sanitation of Yei County, and have trained pump mechanics on preventative operations and borehole maintenance.

According to Anthony Lubari, the head teacher for Kajiko Primary School, the community borehole had a long history of its own. While a single borehole was constructed to serve some 1000 people, no one was

assigned to manage it nor were the pump mechanics properly trained. As presumed, the borehole broke down, leaving Mr. Lubari's children to fetch water from a nearby stream. Surely, many children ultimately suffered from diarrhea and had to miss school.

Following JEN's newly implemented program, Mr. Lubari was grateful. "I am indeed happy that JEN has organized to have this borehole repaired," he said. "I am going to work with the community and the school committee to ensure that from now hence force the borehole is well taken care of."



Above: Dismantling the borehole



The 7 EN's of JEN

- Engage
- Entrust
- Encourage
- Endeavor
- Enjoy
- Encounter
- Enable

DONATE NOW AND HELP THE CAUSE

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