

PUBLIC HEALTH IN SOUTH SUDAN

Categories: Community Development/Community Building/WASH

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Community Development

JEN Initiates New Project in Juba County



Above: Kulipapa Elementary School students excited to have visitors

In July, JEN began a new water and sanitation project in Juba County with support from Japan Platform (JPF) in order to implement the construction of WASH facilities and a form of sanitation education within schools. As a matter of fact, merely 46% of schools in Juba County have toilet facilities. Thus, JEN has decided that it will support at least ten of the 140 schools in Juba County.

Prior to the start of the project, a meeting was held to discuss JEN's vision for success, and an agenda was developed in order to help facilitate the process. JEN staff members interviewed local authorities as well as the Education Bureau and identified 25 schools that did not have wells in the area.

One of the schools that stood out was Kulipapa Elementary School, which was located two hours

outside of Juba City. It takes more than an hour for some students to get to school due to its inconvenient location, and the school has no well or bathroom facility. The nearest well is located an hour away from the school. Each morning, the janitor brings a meager bucket of water for the teachers, and the students cannot use it to drink or to wash their hands. Further, with no bathroom facility, students are left to relieve themselves in the bushes behind the school. Although the government had helped to renovate the school in 2007, no bathroom or well was built.

It is important to remember that there are many other schools that are in the same situation as Kulipapa Elementary School. With support from JPF, JEN hopes to achieve success in implementing their new projects throughout Juba County.

Community Building

Making Connections from Worlds Apart

In September, elementary school students from Miyagi Prefecture paid a visit to JEN's headquarter in Tokyo, and had the opportunity to learn about JEN's activities, particularly on the WASH program in South Sudan. Before they departed, each student wrote a letter to their counterparts in South Sudan in the form of a poster.

The poster was delivered by JEN staff members to Jaba Primary School, where JEN had previously done work, including the construction of a well, installation of washroom facilities, and promotion of better lifestyles

COUNTRY: SOUTH SUDAN

through sanitation workshops. In fact, students from both Miyagi Prefecture and Jaba Primary School shared a passion for football (soccer) and encouraged one another in their letters. Perhaps someday, in the near future, representatives from Japan and South Sudan will be able to play a friendly match together.

WASH

Where It All Starts



Above: Students taking the preliminary survey

Before JEN begins its hygiene education in schools, a preliminary survey is often conducted in order to assess the current knowledge of the students on proper hygiene practices. A similar survey is conducted again following the education period.

At the Aru Primary School in Juba County, ten students were randomly selected from each grade, and were asked a number of questions regarding their knowledge and current lifestyle. Questions ranged from: “how often do you get diarrhea?” to “how many times do you wash your hands?” The hygiene promoters made sure to ask the questions in a cheerful manner in order to ensure that the students would not lose interest in the activity.

WASH

Reaching Isolated Communities

In South Sudan, one of JEN’s primary missions is to target vulnerable communities in

order to install WASH facilities to spread awareness on proper sanitation and hygiene practices. Yet what makes this task difficult is that communities differ culturally, and also range from those that are agricultural and those that are pastoral.

Juba County in the Central Equatoria state is one crucial example of an isolated community. Furthermore, because Juba County is a pastoral community, it is hard to target those who are continuously on the move with their livestock.

In addition, in South Sudan, the men play an enormous role in the decision making process within their communities, thus JEN understands that it is essential to include them in hygiene education so that they can spread their knowledge not only to their families but to the rest of the community members.

JEN continuously seeks to include marginalized and isolated communities – sometimes by different means to reach different peoples – in order to promote healthier lifestyles.



The 7 EN’s of JEN

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

DONATE NOW AND HELP THE CAUSE!

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