



A Living Laboratory

Honestly, working in a post-conflict country is challenging. During our first two years of Sudan operations, NESEI has faced regional instability, rainy seasons that make travel nearly impossible, diseases like malaria, technology breakdowns, limited financial resources, and other daunting obstacles.

However nothing, *absolutely nothing*, has deterred the spirit of our NESEI students in their pursuit of education and a better future. "Tenacious" best describes the efforts of our girls and NESEI staff. Regardless of the difficulties - our students and the team of adults encouraging them - put their problem-solving skills to work and find ways to succeed.

It is this entrepreneurial spirit and set of skills that NESEI students will draw on as they build a more peaceful and prosperous South Sudan. It's why we want every NESEI graduate to have the knowledge, experience and confidence to launch a business or a career.

Sometimes we are asked – how is the Girls Rising scholarship program different from the big student sponsorship organizations seen in TV infomercials? The answer – aside from our laser-like focus on girls' empowerment – is that NESEI has a more holistic and practical approach to education. It isn't enough to just get children into school. To truly develop capable and empathetic young leaders, education must go beyond rote memorization and the very limited official curricula.

Secondary education – high school – should be a living laboratory. NESEI transcends classroom walls and embeds education in real-world initiatives, where students learn and become social change agents at the same time. Each of our programs is designed to help students achieve success, both in school and as citizen leaders working to break the cycles of poverty and war in South Sudan.

Our NESEI success is directly tied to your financial and moral support. Thank you for your help thus far. Each day our students continue to work toward their dreams because of continued contributions – because of the generosity of people who don't wait to take action. Giving to NESEI goes beyond a feel good factor; it produces results. Keep reading to learn more about our accomplishments and goals—together we are helping Sudanese girls thrive—and strive for a better future.

Shukran, *thank you*,

Atem Deng
Anifa A. Henderson

P.S. Check out our new website at www.nesei.org!

Do you remember Mary's story?

In the June newsletter, we wrote about Mary. Unable to afford tuition at a school near her home, Mary walks many miles each day to attend a community-run high school. Despite her exhausting twice daily trek, Mary could not give up her passion for speaking out on social issues. She joined the NESEI debate program and won prizes for being the best speaker. Now, because of the Girls Rising Campaign, Mary has earned a scholarship to attend a better school! She is looking forward to spending many more hours studying and participating in extra-curricular activities – hours that were previously spent walking dirt roads.

Help more girls like Mary!

The DOUBLE OUR SCHOLARS Girls Rising Campaign will increase the number of girls on scholarship from 100 to 200 – if we raise \$50,000.

How will your gift make a difference?

\$100 = Healthcare & School Supplies for 1 Student

\$150 = Tuition for 1 Day Student

\$400 = Tuition for 1 Boarding Student

\$500 = Tuition, Healthcare, School Supplies for 1 Boarding Student

Highlights from Summer 2009

- * Student radio debates took place each week with both girls and boys participating. Debate topics included: “Is early marriage a form of gender-based violence?” “Should the government set an age minimum for marriage?” “Is agriculture more important in developing economies than industrialization?”
- * Students created three drama skits about health issues to educate their peers and the public about 1) sleeping under a mosquito net to prevent malaria; 2) HIV/AIDS and girls; and 3) staying in school and keeping your environment clean. These performances were filmed and shown as “commercials” at the NESEI movie theater.
- * Students continued to participate in mobile health clinic operations. They helped educate the community, especially pregnant mothers, about the proper use of mosquito nets and the importance of living in a clean, hygienic environment.
- * The students at Yei Girls Boarding School voted for their student government leaders in one of the most legitimate elections South Sudan has witnessed. The commissioner of Yei presided over the ceremony as girls from different classes were sworn into their new leadership roles. School-based student government is part of NESEI’s commitment to increasing women’s representation and clout in all levels of South Sudan’s government.
- * NESEI provided a continuous supply of medicines to the clinic at Yei Girls Boarding School, which serves students, teachers and support staff. Our NGO partner, HealthNet TPO, conducted a mental health workshop at the school specifically about how to deal with stress in a school environment. We also sponsored pregnancy testing – a common method of deterrence in Sudan – and the pregnancy rate at the school has dropped to 1%.
- * NESEI’s first Holiday School was conducted during the summer break. We provided review lessons in core subjects, computer training classes, and many fun hours of extracurricular activities. The next holiday school took place from August 28th to September 20th. We conducted private tutorials in science and other subjects, computer classes, sanitary kit business activities, mobile health clinic and radio debate activities, sports, and “straight talk” group discussions about key social issues facing girls in Sudan.

New Project Announcement: NESEI Comfort Kits Business Promotes Girls’ Education

- * **In Sudan, adolescent girls leave school out of shame for their menstrual cycles.** Many never return. Being a woman should never be shameful.
- * **Girls deserve to learn... Especially when so much is at stake:**
As few as 1% of southern Sudanese girls enroll in secondary school. 1 girl in 7 in the developing world marries before the age of 15. Pregnancy is the leading cause of death for girls age 15 to 19 worldwide. When a girl in the developing world receives 7 or more years of education, she marries 4 years later and has 2.2 fewer children. 1 year of secondary school raises girls eventual wages between 15% and 25%. Women and girls with income invest 90% of that income into their families.
- * **Help these girls stay in school.** Sanitary pads are seldom available or affordable for southern Sudanese girls. NESEI and the girls of Yei Girls Boarding Secondary School in South Sudan teamed up in March of 2009 to make Comfort Kits for girls in need, and everyone is benefiting.

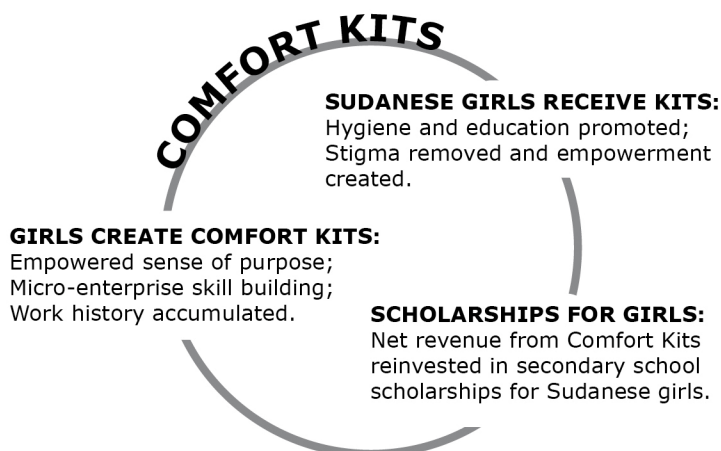
Start the Cycle!

A **\$500** donation = 20 Comfort Kits for 20 Girls with a total of 120 washable, fabric pads which will underwrite 3 day school scholarships and 1 boarding school scholarship

A **\$5,000** donation = 200 Comfort Kits for 200 Girls with a total of 1,200 washable, fabric pads which will underwrite 30 day school scholarships and 10 boarding school scholarships



The Sustainable Cycle of Benefits to Girls



*(Checks can be made payable to NESEI.
Please put “kits project” in the check memo.)*