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Spring Update

Dear All

I hope you are well despite the strangeness of the last year. Thank you for your questions and ongoing interest in the school and associated projects so here is an update. As in most of the world Covid-19 has brought challenges in South Sudan. Schools have been closed since April 2020 meaning staff have not received salaries for a year now. The charity has taken the decision to help out where we can although funds are fast depleting. We don't normally contribute to salaries as the school is responsible for day to day running costs and the Charity helps out with 'one off' type projects such as the solar panels and buying a printer. However, we felt it was vital to support staff to feed themselves and their dependents as they work hard to keep the buildings secure and clean whilst planning for

the reopening. We continue to send parcels of underwear for the ladies. The current situation makes it even more difficult to buy such essentials as underwear for themselves and their children. Many children are playing without wearing underwear leaving them open to infection. We would like to be able to send donations of children's pants to give out when school reopens.



During the year of closure the team have not been idle. As shared in the Christmas update they have been able (with very generous donations from our supporters) to work with several hundred teenage boys and girls who have not had school to occupy them this past year. As a result there were many unplanned pregnancies so the team and health professionals provided some support and training over a period of a few weeks in areas such as contraception and other ways of earning money to help feed their families.

They have also reaped garden meaning that harvest of maize, have also stored food able to open. The being prepared to



the results of their hard work in the school as well as being able to share a portion of the beans and groundnuts with the staff they ready to feed the children as soon as they are rains are expected soon so the ground is plant again.

Meanwhile the small stationery shop set up last year has been thriving although not necessarily with selling stationery as the schools are closed. A generous donor enabled the purchase of a fridge, this means they can take advantage of the intermittent electricity supply to sell cold drinks. They are located in an area where there are no other shops and the main town is 45 minutes' walk away so they have a captive market and make good use of that by buying popular food and items in bulk to sell at a small profit. The shop is self sufficient and able to restock from its profits. The long term intention, as it grows, is that it will be able to use profits for items needed by the school.



The last couple of weeks have seen some unrest in villages a few miles from Yei. Soldiers aren't being paid by the government so sometimes try and feed themselves by looting villages. This time another armed group tried to defend the population leading to terrifying destruction and the villagers leaving in a hurry taking nothing with them.



Food ready for distribution

Many of them ended up in Yei outside the Cathedral, which is near our school, looking for help and sanctuary. Once again Malish, our head teacher and other staff have helped



Delighted recipients

their community. I was able to facilitate a fast transfer of the funds to Malish from a generous donor and another charity that I have recently been put in contact with. Together, Malish and a few colleagues were able to come up with food to feed over 1000 for a few days whilst the UN relief agency was doing its assessment and working on the logistics of supporting.

Meanwhile the plans for the won't be long before the institutions to reopen. The long classrooms to enable the many children that wish to children graduate from primary school. The local one so the hope is that new Kindergarten land and the two schools can work closely together to provide a quality primary education for our graduates.

Children desperate to be back at school.



school are on hold but hopefully it government will allow education term hope is to build new school to easily accommodate the attend. Most years over a hundred Immanuel Kindergarten to go to a can only accept about 40 of them classrooms can be built on

This year marks 15 years since we started the project with my parachute jump. Many of you will be able to work out therefore, that this year coincides with another significant birthday for me!!! I intend to use it to try and kick start a building fund and will be doing an abseil in June or July fairly near to my birthday. It will probably be from one of the sites in the Lake District. Those of you who know me well, will know this will be quite a challenge as it is significantly outside my comfort zone – to say the least!! I will do it with a recognised company who organise such things. Once it's all finalised I will send more information but I'm mentioning it now in case anyone would like to join me and source their own sponsors? If you would, please can you get back to me asap. There are various options and it depends on whether it's just me or a group of us, which option I book.

Thank you so much for your ongoing interest and support in so many ways. It makes an enormous difference to the children and families in Yei.

If you would like any more information please don't hesitate to ask.

Best wishes from

Carolyn