



October 26, 2009

The World-Wide Head of USAID and GOSS Officials Inaugurate Newly Rehabilitated School

On behalf of the U.S. Government, Acting Administrator Alonzo L. Fulgham, the world-wide head of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), inaugurated the newly rehabilitated Juba Commercial Secondary School today with representatives from the Government of Southern Sudan's Ministry of Education, Science and Technology and the Central Equatoria Ministry of Education. U.S. Chargé d'Affaires to Sudan, Robert E. Whitehead, and the new U.S. Consul General in Juba, Ava Rogers, were also in attendance. Administrator Fulgham is visiting Sudan to learn more about USAID's programs here, observe humanitarian activities in Darfur, and meet with government officials in Khartoum and Juba.

The 60-year-old Juba Commercial Secondary School had not been refurbished since it was built in 1949 and had survived two decades of civil war and neglect. It is home to nearly 450 students between the ages of 15 and 20, and offers vocational training in commerce, economics and finance. The U.S. Government, through USAID, has also funded the construction or rehabilitation of 30 other schools across Southern Sudan, including a teacher training institute in Jonglei state.

"The education of its young people is the single most important investment any nation can make," Fulgham said.

Prior to the \$145,000 rehabilitation, the Juba Commercial Secondary School had fallen into extreme disrepair. Roofs leaked and asbestos ceilings crumbled on students, posing serious potential health risks.

For more information on USAID programs in Sudan, please visit the following website:

<http://www.usaid.gov/sudan>

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