



June 17, 2009

U.S. Government Awards 50 Secondary School Scholarships in Southern Sudan

Fifty high-school-age students, including 37 girls, were awarded U.S. government funded scholarships to Juba Day Secondary School through a grant from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID)'s Gender Equity through Education (GEE) program, on Wednesday, June 17.

The event took place on the grounds of the school, with all 1,000 students and 50 teachers in attendance. The USAID Acting Assistant Administrator for Africa, Earl Gast, and Minister of Education, Science and Technology (MoEST) Professor Job Dhouruai Malou addressed the gathering of students, scholars, teachers and MoEST officials. The event also included the signing of a grant agreement from USAID to Juba Day Secondary School valued at 6,000 Sudanese Pounds (USD \$2,600). USAID education grants are made directly to schools and can be used for a variety of improvements, including sports equipment, latrines and learning resources.

USAID secondary school scholarships are awarded primarily to marginalized girls and boys and are designed to encourage them to complete their education and enter several USAID-sponsored teacher-training institutes. Mr. Gast thanked MoEST for its ongoing support to the grant program, particularly its work with state-level Ministries to locate and choose candidates for the scholarships. "The more women teachers Sudan has in the classrooms," said Gast "the more girls will enroll, attend and stay in school. Educating a girl is tantamount to educating the next generation."

The scholarship event was coordinated by U.S. Consulate General Juba, MoEST and the Central Equatoria State Education Ministry. USAID has been supporting Juba Day Secondary School since it awarded a grant to the school during "USAID/GOSS Solidarity" week in April 2008. The scholarship program is implemented by USAID partner Winrock International in close collaboration with the MoEST's Directorate for Gender Equity & Social Change. Since 2007, USAID has provided over 3,000 scholarships to students in 40 schools within eight southern states as well as Abyei and Southern Kordofan.

In addition to the Gender Equity through Education program, USAID's Southern Sudan Interactive Radio Instruction program – implemented by the Education Development Center – supported the establishment of a computer lab at Juba Day Secondary School and provides English literacy radio programming in the school.

For further information, please contact the U.S. Embassy Public Affairs Section at the following numbers: 0183-774-700/1/2/3/4

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