

## Food for Thought – South Sudan

*Overview: This project provides one simple meal a day for students and staff at Abukloi Secondary School in South Sudan.*

The Abukloi School was founded in the fall of 2013 in Rumbek, Republic of South Sudan. The first official term began in February 2014, with 35 students ages 16 through 30, 4 teachers and a director. The school graduated its first class in February of 2018. Today Abukloi has over 575 students, 30% of whom are women.

After decades of civil war, the Republic of South Sudan has virtually no infrastructure, least of all an agriculture sector. It is difficult for people to meet the most basic human needs of food and water. Malnutrition leads to disease and developmental issues exacerbating challenges to basic learning. With nothing to eat, students can't concentrate and often are too weak to stay in the classroom. They miss out on critical classroom instruction leaving school before the end of the day.

Abukloi Secondary School has over 575 students and 30 staff who work all day often on empty stomachs. During the day there is access to no more than a cup of tea. Generous donors funded a solar powered well, water storage tower, and small kitchen building on the school grounds. With added funds, we can purchase the supplies and food needed to prepare a simple daily meal of rice, beans, and vegetables for about \$0.10 a meal or \$62 a day.

A daily meal is both a humanitarian and education effort. Feeding our students and staff will improve attendance, attention spans, and academic performance. It also improves overall health and resistance to common diseases like malaria. Increasing learning and teaching capacity will extend the school day two more hours, lower class sizes from 100 to 50, and expand the depth and breadth of the learning experience.

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