

2018



LOYOLA SECONDARY SCHOOL

Wau, South Sudan

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Loyola Secondary School (LSS)

Loyola Secondary School is a co-education day school established in 1982. The first intake of students was in 1984. Due to the civil wars in South Sudan, the school had to close down 2 years after opening. It was re-opened in April 2008 with 180 students admitted to Senior One and Preparatory class. In a country affected by civil war and ethnic strife, LSS has managed to create a unique space where young men and women can dream of a better future and begin to acquire the skills that will help them build a better future. Currently, LSS has a student population of 598 students (346 girls, 252 boys) with 23 teachers (including 6 Jesuits).

Academic performance

There was no graduation in 2017 due to the country's economic situation that had its ripple effect on the Education system whereby no funds were allocated for the printing of the national exams. The students in Senior 4 sat for their national exams on 15th February 2018.

Activities/Projects Implemented

- **Feeding Program:** The feeding program continues to be a foundation for attracting and retaining students in school so that they may have an opportunity to improve their future. The program has helped to improve the overall physical and mental capabilities in the students. It has also helped to ensure and maintain an above average academic performance since students are not distracted in class due to hunger. 3 new cooks were hired to prepare breakfast and lunch for the students and teachers. Some repairs were also carried out in the dining room and kitchen.
- **Solar and electrical installation:** 48 photovoltaic panels and 24 batteries were installed to boost electricity in the school. The fuel generator that was being used to power the school was very costly to run. The solar and electrical installation has enabled water pumping for the school and Jesuit community use. The school currently has lights in the compound which have reinforced the security of the school. The electrification of the school has a positive impact on staff retention.
- **Scholarship Fund:** The annual tuition fees required is \$250 per student. However, due to high insecurity, some parents are unable to cultivate any crops for fear of being killed or seen as rebels and thus are unable to pay the school fees. Moreover, some students have lost one or both parents and have no one to pay their school fees and as a result miss school in order to work so as to be able to pay their school fees. The scholarship fund has greatly reduced absenteeism and enabled students to continue their studies without interruption. At the same time, it has enabled the school to pay salaries on time.
- **Scholastic materials for students in need:** the Scholastic materials fund has enabled students to continue their studies without interruption in an otherwise hugely challenging environment. Essential stationery items and books were bought as well as sanitary towels for girls, and school uniforms for students in need. Teachers also have access to scholastic materials that enable them to prepare for lessons. The fund also helped to settle hospital bills for sick students.

Challenges

- Insecurity interferes with the smooth observance of the school calendar. Sometimes the school has to shut down for up to two weeks after which some students do not return to school because their parents/guardians have relocated to other locations.
- High inflation rates: South Sudan, in general, is experiencing high inflation rates as reflected by skyrocketing prices of goods and services and erratic exchange rates. The inflation is attributed to insecurity and low productivity. The high inflation rate has seen fluctuating food prices and increased administrative costs.
- The vulnerability of children and young people to sickness and famine as a result of the political and economic situation.

