

"KAKUMA KENYA, MY SECOND HOME!"

Hello everybody, My name is Gattuak Riek, a resident of Kakuma four zone three block two. I am a south sudanese by nationality of 37 years old. I was born in Kuergeng Payam of Guil County around 1989 and came to Kakuma Kenya in 2003 after south sudan tribal conflict that enabling lost all my relative and belongings cars, building etc so now as we speak, I currently a deputy headteacher in one of the primary school sponsored by Lutheran world federation (LWF).

WHAT INSPIRED ME TO STAY IN THE CAMP FOR THE LAST 21 YEARS

Immediately after getting my Ration card from UNHCR, I am free to access all the service provided by different organization in the camp, I was enrolled to grade 2 by my aunt in Ngwendeng Primary school. I never knew at first that I will learn and got education. I was left alone by aunt with some uncompany boys. Life became hard, no one is supporting us in school neither in our ghetto. One day I decided to work in somali community to help carry some Jarcans of water in order for us to be given money for buying the soap for washing our school uniform and slipper for walking to school. We do go to the bushes to look for firewood (don't joke) that is the local name that time for firewood and come home very late in the evening. The water that we were drinking are the ground water that we normally fetch in the lagoon at night due to the long queue and there is no communication with the parents. The only option is for me to take the love the way it is and make friends in both school and in the community.

After learning a little bit of Kiswahili and English language, I start to improve in academic and top my class until I was taking to Pokotom BOARDING. I never pay even a single coin to my school fees due to my good performance. That is the time that I began to test my existence and target in life. I learned that there are some incident in life that happen in your life, those incidents break you, deform you but they mould you into the best vision of you. I therefore adjust myself and accept my status as an African refugee child. So now I actively participated in curriculum activities in school eg football, debating etc. Later on I learned that sport have build my interaction with friends from different diversities in the camp. These also enabling to love living in Kakuma refugee camp even more. I became well known and this grow with me even after graduating from both primary and secondary education.

All this experiences teaches me a lesson in life. Live your life fully. accept yourself the way you are be kind to yourself and only that you can be kind to other. Life will be hard in one way or another there will be a trials and obstacles along the way but will only make you stronger.

So I considered myself lucky because I am living in a peaceful environment when I am not longer hearing anything to do with gunshot and war. I was getting everything from UNHCR & other organization that support refugees in the camp. thing like food, security, education and livelihood are provided. After my employment from LWF I decided to help my younger brothers and sibling who came to the camp in 2014 and considered their need ~~for~~ first hence enabling me to stay in the camp for so long. The only challenge is the family that I am having as compared to the little incentive that I got from Lwf.