

Deng Daniel Ngor

I am a Broadcast Journalist working for Mingkaman 100 FM. A radio station managed by The Radio Community (TRC). It is part of the Radio networks supported by Internews with funding from USAID. Our Radio station works in a radius of 100 Kilometers, serving nearly one million listeners from Jonglei, Eastern Lakes and Terekeka states.

Most of the people living in Mingkaman town where the radio station is based were mainly displaced from their home domain during South Sudan civil war that broke out in 2013.

The Radio helped reunify more than 100 separated and unaccompanied children during the escalated war in 2014. I work as a presenter, bringing local and neglected voices to share their life stories on air. I witnessed several changes during my work and I feel happy facilitating people by broadcasting lifesaving programs that changed the civil population positively.

With my knowledge of Journalism and skills I acquired during five years working with both Internews and TRC I am confident to take another challenging task of leading and creating a new educational pathway for children who are not supported in any way to access the education they need.

Education

The Education system in South Sudan is greatly affected by the ongoing civil war and this calls for awareness; informing governmental officials on their role in bringing peace and stability so that children can access learning spaces without fear of being killed, abducted or threatened by armed groups.

In Buma state, 10 Primary schools closed this year due to insecurity forcing more than 3,000 children to stay at home without studies.

Many children of the able South Sudanese are acquiring education they need from East African Countries such as Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania. For that Matter, most children aged 7-17 years are staying out or living without quality education they deserve. In South Sudan, Earlier Childhood

development Education is greatly ignored. Most of the children are sent to cattle camp until the age of 10 before they could start attending classes.

Without boring you with the lengthy statistic and recent reports of more than 1 Million children who have not attended schools by UNICEF, I just want to to emphasise that the educational system in South Sudan needs to improve. Media activism can help eradicating the mentality of neglecting children's right to education and in bringing alternatives to start giving education to the most vulnerable kids, the orphanages.

Jonglei state Minister of gender and Child welfare reported 73 street children living in under trees and unoccupied buildings in Bor. The Same challenge is reported in Mingkaman and Yirol.

The review of the Civil war in Regard to education statistics

Due to the endurance of the Sudanese Civil War conflict, which consisted of three sub-conflicts and spanned almost 50 years, only about 30% of 1.06 million eligible students were enrolled in primary schools in South Sudan and according to the Ministry of General Education and Instruction, during the Civil War, educational and health facilities were incinerated and shut down, school teachers evacuated towns or were displaced, and the resulting lack of infrastructure contributed to a generational denial of education to children in the region.

To enroll in higher education, Sudanese students are required to take a national examination in the eighth rate, and in the North about 78% of students took the examination and even more were enrolled, as opposed to the South.

Considering the historical context of education in South Sudan is relevant because of the systemic denial of educational and economic opportunity for those fighting for independence during the war, as well as lack of viable financial options after the war to access education. With more than 1.5 million people and 90,000 in refugee camps, improving the educational system is needed to pave the way for greater economic opportunities and reduce South Sudan's reliance on the main industry of oil production.

What do we need to do?

There is growing recognition that everything must be done to ensure that the children of South Sudan who have already lost their homes do not face the double risk of losing their education.

Apart from the denial of the basic right of individual children to their education, the continued neglect of educational provision will have serious, far-reaching consequences for societies and economies across the country and the window of opportunity for getting back on track is closing fast.

To that end the South Sudan war or tribe harts must ensure all children and young people affected by the conflict are in education and learning during the 2019/2021 academic year and for the subsequent years.

We need to establish learning centers in Mingkaman and Bor to enable those children access learning, with a possibility of digital exchange programmes in the future.

With these, I am certain if there is financial, material and psychosocial support given to facilitate this amazing plan; then we shall see the future of these children changing drastically.

Sincerely

Deng Daniel Ngor

Broadcast Journalist at Mingkaman 100 FM radio.