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Title: Empowering Teachers & Educating Kids in Pigi and Ayod Counties

Theme: Education, Child Protection, and Gender-Based Violence (GBV) Mainstreaming

Project URL: [Education-for-children-and-teachers-in-pigi-and-ayod-south-sudan](#)

Project Summary

The Smile Charity Project is pleased to present the initiative titled “Empowering Teachers & Educating Kids in Pigi and Ayod Counties.” This 12-month intervention is designed to address the acute educational and protection challenges facing vulnerable children—particularly girls—in Pigi and Ayod Counties of Jonglei State, South Sudan. The total funding request for this project is \$30,000 USD.

The overarching objective of this project is to improve access to quality, inclusive, and gender-sensitive education while mainstreaming Gender-Based Violence (GBV) prevention and response mechanisms within the local education system. The project will focus on four main goals: ensuring primary education access for vulnerable children, especially girls; training teachers and education officers in inclusive and protective teaching practices; constructing safe and gender-sensitive Temporary Learning Spaces (TLS); and embedding GBV response systems into school operations and community engagement.

The project will undertake several key activities to achieve these goals. These include sponsoring the school enrollment of at-risk children, many of whom face socio-economic and protection-related barriers. Teacher training workshops will be conducted to strengthen instructional skills, classroom management, and gender-sensitivity. A gender-sensitive Temporary Learning Space will be constructed to address infrastructure gaps and create a safe, welcoming environment for learners. Capacity-building sessions for County Education and Protection Officers will enhance local governance, oversight, and response to GBV in schools. Additionally, incentives will be provided to retain and motivate qualified teachers, especially in hard-to-reach rural areas. Community awareness campaigns will also be organized to promote education and address harmful norms that hinder girls’ learning and safety.

The expected impact of this project is substantial. More than 200 children will receive direct educational support, and 30 teachers will benefit from professional training that integrates GBV awareness and child protection. At least 20 education and protection officers will be capacitated to monitor and improve school safety, while the construction of one fully functional, gender-sensitive Temporary Learning Space will provide a safe haven for continued learning. Community engagement efforts will lead to improved attitudes toward girls’ education and greater awareness of GBV risks and prevention strategies. Ultimately, this initiative will foster safer, more resilient, and inclusive learning environments for children in one of South Sudan’s most vulnerable regions.

Background

In Jonglei State, South Sudan, education continues to face immense challenges due to conflict, displacement, poverty, and deeply rooted gender inequalities. These challenges are particularly acute in

Pigi and Ayod Counties, where frequent flooding, intercommunal violence, and lack of basic infrastructure have devastated schools and pushed education to the margins.

According to the Ministry of General Education and Instruction and UNICEF, fewer than 30% of school-aged children in these counties are enrolled in school. Girls are disproportionately affected due to harmful cultural norms, child marriage, and domestic responsibilities. In addition, Gender-Based Violence (GBV)—including sexual violence, forced marriage, and domestic abuse—continues to pose a major barrier to girls' safety, well-being, and access to education.

Education services in Pigi and Ayod remain extremely limited:

More than 60% of schools are either non-functional or operating under temporary structures.

Teacher-to-pupil ratios exceed 100:1, with fewer than 15% of teachers having any formal training.

Access to basic learning materials is nearly nonexistent.

There are very few safe, gender-sensitive learning spaces, and girls face daily risks of violence on their way to and from school.

The Smile Charity Project Initiative

The Smile Charity Project is a locally designed and community-driven initiative aimed at revitalizing the education system in Pigi and Ayod Counties while integrating Gender-Based Violence prevention and response as a key element of educational support. Our approach is child-focused and systemic—addressing immediate educational needs while also strengthening long-term institutional capacity.

Project Components

1. Sponsorship of At-Risk Children's Education

Focus on both boys and girls, with a priority for girls affected by or at risk of GBV.

Provide school fees, uniforms, and essential learning materials to support continued education.

2. Training of 30 Teachers

Targeting 10 government and community-based schools.

Training covers modern pedagogy, classroom management, and GBV-sensitive teaching approaches.

3. Construction of One Gender-Sensitive Temporary Learning Space (TLS)

Built in either Pigi or Ayod County based on greatest need.

Includes gender-separated latrines, ventilation, and menstrual hygiene facilities to retain adolescent girls.

4. Three Training Sessions for 20 County Education and Protection Officers

Enhance local government capacity in education oversight, leadership, GBV referral systems, and school safety planning.

5. Teacher Incentives Program

Monthly performance-based stipends to reduce teacher turnover and promote female teacher retention in rural areas.

6. GBV Mainstreaming and Community Awareness

Ten awareness campaigns including parental engagement forums, school safety talks, and community radio spots.

Develop and introduce basic GBV response protocols at the school level in coordination with protection partners.

Levels of Donations:

To achieve these objectives, we are requesting a total of \$30,000 USD. This amount will fund direct project activities and administrative support needed for full implementation across the two counties.

Levels of Donations:

\$25 – Sponsors education for one at-risk child for one term

\$35 – Funds one teacher’s training workshop

\$45 – Provides pens and exercise books for 20 children

\$50 – Offers a teacher incentive to improve morale and retention

\$100 – Supports five parent awareness campaigns on GBV and education

\$500 – Covers three capacity-building workshops for County Education Officers

\$1,000 – Sponsors the construction of a gender-sensitive Temporary Learning Space

The Challenge: Humanitarian Situation in Pigi and Ayod

The humanitarian crisis in both counties is deepening due to natural disasters and protracted conflict:

Pigi County: Severely affected by years of insecurity and recurring flooding. Most communities are displaced, and less than 20% of schools are functional. Access to education is often disrupted by impassable roads, damaged infrastructure, and lack of teaching staff.

Ayod County: Endures chronic poverty and infrastructure collapse. Girls are particularly vulnerable, with over 70% at risk of early and forced marriage. Health, education, and protection services are extremely limited. Many children travel long distances through unsafe terrain to attend classes, which increases exposure to GBV.

In both counties, GBV incidents are underreported, and survivors have minimal access to psychosocial support or justice mechanisms. Schools lack the safeguards and referral systems needed to protect students, especially girls, from exploitation and violence.

The Solution

The Smile Charity Project bridges the gap between education and protection in two of South Sudan's most vulnerable Counties. The initiative offers:

Educational access and retention for at-risk children, especially girls.

Teacher training that is gender-sensitive and community-responsive.

Incentives to keep qualified teachers, particularly women, in local classrooms.

GBV prevention strategies, such as community sensitization, referral networks, and safe learning spaces.

Capacity development for education and protection officers, empowering local systems to deliver and sustain impact.

Long-Term Impact

This project is more than a response to crisis—it is an investment in the future of Pigi and Ayod Counties.

Children who complete primary education are more likely to engage in civic life, avoid exploitation, and earn higher incomes.

Girls who are educated are more likely to delay marriage, raise healthy families, and contribute to peacebuilding.

Trained and incentivized teachers build the foundation of a local, sustainable education system.

GBV mainstreaming ensures that schools become safe shelters, not sources of trauma.

Over time, this initiative will contribute to breaking cycles of poverty, illiteracy, and gender-based violence. By supporting learners and educators today, we are growing the capacity of an entire generation to transform their communities from within.

Budget

Item	Unit Cost (USD)	Total (USD)
Sponsorship for 200 children (3 terms)	25 x 3 x 20	\$1,500
Teacher training workshops (30 teachers)	35 x 30	\$1,050
Learning materials for 20 children	45 x 20	\$900
Teacher incentives (30 teachers, 12 months)	50 x 6 x 30	\$9,000
County Education Officer workshops	500 x 3	\$1,500
Temporary Learning Space	1 x 1000	\$1000
GBV awareness & safeguarding materials	10x 100	\$1,000
Project staff salaries	6x650	\$3,900
Monitoring & Evaluation	LumpSum	\$2000
Transportation & logistics	Lump Sum	\$4000
Office Renting ,Administration & overhead	Lump Sum	\$4,150
Total Budget		\$30,000 USD

