Kabe Secondary School, Girls’ Dormitory for Better Education  
Central Equatoria State, South Sudan  
International House, The University of Sydney, Australia  
Mr Ladu Boyo II, South Sudan

Section I

The **Girl’s Dormitory for Better Education** project is to build a girls dormitory allowing girls to stay at school and commit more time to their studies. The goal is to allow girls from single parent families to stay at boarding school which in turn allows them to avoid early marriage and commitment to domestic life, increase the high school graduation rate for this group and, in the long term, substantially improve the community prospect of peace and development.

The International House Members’ Association (IHMA) conducted a funding raise event within International House and raised almost two hundred Australian dollars for the project. I will continue to engage with IHMA on the future of the project in order to raise more funds to help equip and expand the dorm rooms for better learning and comfortable residence.

The project was a joint effort between **Davis Projects for Peace** funding, the Kabe community and students. The funds awarded by **Davis Projects for Peace** were allocated to: travel, direct equipment and supplies, marketing and event support. The project proposed to build and complete two dorm rooms to house eight girls. The rooms are 13ft x 13ft each. I negotiated a service contract between a local builder in the community, the school and myself. The community and the students will provide much of the labour cost to complete the project. The students will help laying the bricks jointly with the community, helping the local contract in raising the walls, and much of the assistance the contractor may need. This joint labour helped reduced the labour cost.

Although the project has commenced, regrettably the rooms were not completed when I left due to time and weather constraints. The two dorm rooms will be build next to the current one room existing. I had to return to Sydney for my second semester which started at the end of July. Secondly, it is a wet season (raining season) in South Sudan which will not end until end of October. This season created difficulty in laying bricks, cutting timber (in the forester), and transport trucks got stuck on muddy roads. The construction will start in December when bricks are laid, timbers are ready and the rains stop. Despite these challenges, we managed to purchase the following items: iron sheets, iron cave, nails, iron bars, cement, and binding wire. The purchased items are assembled into a storage facility at the school.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Items purchased</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Names of Items</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Iron sheets</td>
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<tr>
<td>Iron cave</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nails</td>
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<tr>
<td>Iron bars</td>
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<td>Cement</td>
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<td>Binding wire</td>
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Once the parents and the students have laid the bricks and the timbers are ready, the construction will start and completed by early next year before the start of the school year in February 2014. There will be two skilled local contractors, 6 parents and a total of 20 students (both boys and girls) will alternate at the duration of the construction to help the contractor.

The budget constraints faced are enormous. Firstly, the two rooms are few compared to the number of students seeking accommodation. The two rooms upon completion can only house eight girls, yet there are many girls of similar need. The budget available barely met the costs of constructing the rooms but the budget cannot be extended to provide other essential resources such as electrical...
wiring to provide light that is very important for night studies. The rooms also will lack painting, proper fitting and ceiling board or even providing beds and mattresses for these girls.

Regardless of these challenges and shortcomings, things went well and I am very confident the dorm will be completed. The school and the community were willing and ready to support the project.

Section II

I consider peace to exist when citizens can sleep peacefully in their homes without fear and insecurity. When citizens can initiate economic activities and know that they are protected. When there is positive long term thinking in citizens’ mind to invest. When citizens’ hopes for the future and for the younger generation are higher. When each person feels like they can achieve anything even when they cannot believed in themselves or to possess the resources to pursue those hopes and dreams but still insist on the faith of their existing circumstances that if he or she tried or worked hard and play by the rules, they can go far: an opportunity to try. That is how I define peace. It is the existence of a circumstance that an individual felt undeterred to dream, to try, and a sense of a feeling that the future is better than the present. These existing circumstances are political stability, a sustainable economic growth and an equal opportunity to try one’s talent.

My project contributes to peace in the short term by providing secondary school girls with an opportunity to study hard in a suitable academic environment, an environment that says if you try and work hard, you can achieve your goals. This is a starting point and I intent to continue to invest in the project after I graduate and return back to South Sudan. I strongly believed that when one is given a chance, he or she could achieve anything. The Davis Projects for Peace has given a chance for the girls to live and study in an academic environment that will make them realise their potential.

The short time achievement of Girls’ Dormitory for Better Education will assist the few selected to live at the dorm at the completion of the building. These girls will be happy and assured to finish high school. A high school graduate in a poor environment like South Sudan guarantees a far better chance to live a better life. These girls also become passionately engage in social reform to bring peace and stability to society. Research has shown that when more women are economically stable in a household, society tends to progress. The Davis Peace Project has enabled progress in this society by offering disadvantage students a chance to strive for better outcomes.

In the long term, the existence of the a dormitory will encourage more girls in primary schools to study harder because they know that they have a chance to be selected, especially if they are from a poor or single parent family to live at the dorm. This long-term vision will be encouraged by creating scholarships in the future, something I intended to lobby for in the South Sudanese government when I return home.

My goal is to run for public office in South Sudan in the near future. When this happens, reforming the education system will be a key issue. This is important to girls and to increase girls’ high school graduation rate in order to bring a constructive debate in society for peace, stability, and economic growth.

The Davis Project for Peace has taught me that when you give someone a chance to improve his or her social condition, that person will become creative. It is the luck of resources or institutions that limits social mobility or creativity. A single opportunity to a few people could trigger a long chain of development.
Boys’ dorm room. The dorm room used to be a classroom until last year when an NGO built a new four classrooms. The room lacks beds, light, clean water, etc, as it is self-explanatory on its look.

These are the four new built classrooms

This is the current girls dorm room