

GRASSROOT INITIATIVE NETWORK

Bringing Literacy Skills to South Sudanese Refugees

WHAT IS GRASSROOT INITIATIVE NETWORK (GIN)?

Grassroot Initiative Network is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit whose mission is to provide literacy education services for South Sudanese and other refugees in South Sudan.

There are two separately registered NGOs, GIN-SS and GIN-US. GIN-US is headquartered in Midland, Michigan; GIN-SS, in Ulang, South Sudan. GIN-SS provides the actual literacy instruction to South Sudanese in Ulang County.

Plans are to expand services to other refugees from the camp in Kenya and to other locations in South Sudan. GIN is governed by a Board of Directors and complies with all government regulations.



Refugee Camp in Kenya

WHAT IS THE HISTORY OF GIN?



GIN was founded in both South Sudan and the US by Rieek Nyoach. He spent 12 years in refugee camps in Kenya and Ethiopia, challenged by civil strife in his home country of South Sudan.

Rieek received literacy education there and through assistance of family members was able to secure a scholarship to Saginaw Valley State University in the Great Lakes Bay Region of Michigan. Upon arrival in the US, he received support from SVSU professors, local churches, and many community members.

Rieek noted that, "After I graduated and was employed, I decided to extend the advantages that I was so fortunate to receive to current refugees in South Sudan. I established GIN there and here in the US to provide literacy education and related educational opportunities to the people in similar circumstances to mine".

Rieek in Kenyan Refugee Camp



HOW DOES GIN PROVIDE LITERACY EDUCATION?

GIN currently has five government-trained teachers who are providing services using a government-approved curriculum to about 200 refugee students, 40 per teacher.

Five academic classes are offered: Math; Science; Social Studies; Nuer, the local language; and English, the official language of South Sudan.

South Sudan currently recognizes three levels of achievement for Math, Science, and Social Studies and four levels of literacy achievement. The student is considered literate after passing the Level 4 Assessment and can then pursue high school or career/technical training.

Teachers in Ulang, South Sudan



Students in Ulang, South Sudan



Typical Classroom in Ulang, South Sudan

HOW IS GIN FUNDED?

GIN is funded by tax-deductible donations to the organization. Plans include hiring additional teachers, purchasing textbooks and related reading materials, and extending literacy programs to more refugees.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO HELP?

Tax-deductible donations to support GIN are welcome. Checks should be made payable to Grassroot Initiative Network. They can be mailed to Grassroot Initiative Network, 1017 East Ashman Street, Midland, MI, USA 48642

To contact GIN Founder Rieek Nyoach, email rnyoach495@gmail.com or phone (989) 493 – 1538.