



Loreto Rumbek Newsletter

August 2020



Harvest

The long awaited beginning of the harvest is finally here! While we are still dealing with hunger as we await the sorghum harvest, we are starting to reap maize and groundnuts on our compound. In previous years, this has been done by our students and seasonal workers. But due to the closure of our schools in response to the Covid 19 pandemic, our students will not be participating in the harvest this year. Many thanks to our interns, workers and graduates for their hard work and cooperation during our season of planting and harvesting.



Online Exams

This month, three of our interns who have been studying nursing and development studies at universities in Nairobi, Kenya started their end of semester examinations online. To ensure reliable internet access and a conducive environment for sitting examinations, our interns are using a room in the convent. They hope to complete their examinations by September 10th and we are proud of them for their persistence and focus during these trying times. We thank our donors for supporting our interns' studies.



Briquette Machine

Our briquette machine uses waste materials such as groundnut shells, soft tree bark and ash to make a fuel source. The groundnut shells and tree bark are soaked in water, then pressed in the machine along with ash to make a compact block that can be burned to produce heat energy for cooking. We are using the briquettes as an alternative fuel source instead of firewood and charcoal, to reduce operating costs for our bakery. Mr. Victor, one of our staff members, has been training members of our compound in the use of the machine. Our cooks are happy and eager to use the machine and we thank our donors for their support.



A Special Thank You to all of the donors , advocates, and supporters of the Loreto Programs in Rumbek.

Without your hard work or support none of this would be possible.

For more news & info about the programs, our students, and how you can help, please visit our website: loretorumbek.ie and our Facebook page [Loreto Schools Rumbek](https://www.facebook.com/LoretoSchoolsRumbek)



Healthcare Update

Infant Kits



Recently, we received infant kits from Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) for newborns and children under 1 year old. Mothers from our community were given these kits on the last day of our immunization campaign. The kits served as an incentive to encourage mothers to immunize their infants. During the rainy season many infants in our community suffer from coughs and respiratory illnesses because it is difficult for them to remain warm and dry in their homes. The infant kits donated by MCC provide essential clothes and blankets that protect our young ones from the rain. We thank MCC for their support and generosity!

Malaria Season

When the rainy season starts, the grass in our villages grow tall and the area becomes infested with mosquitoes. This leads to a massive spread of malaria. Malaria has been the biggest health challenge for our community in the months of July and August. At the Mary Ward Primary Health Care Centre (PHCC), our nurses and interns are not only focusing on Covid 19 prevention and education, they have also been very busy treating malaria. At the PHCC, we have treated over 700 malaria cases for this season. This would not have been possible without the support of our donors and the tireless efforts of our healthcare staff.



Twins

Mothers that give birth to twins in our community find it very hard to support their babies. It has been especially hard for them this season as the community faces food insecurity. To help the mothers and babies, the PHCC is providing milk (every 2 days) and soap (every 2 weeks) for 6 sets of twins. In addition, the infants receive immunizations and medical care at the PHCC, and the mothers participate in health education talks dealing with infant nutrition and hygiene.

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