



Women's Education Partnership

JUNE 2021

Thank you!

Thank you for continuing to follow our work and for your ongoing support. This has meant that WEP has been able to continue working tirelessly to keep delivering life-changing projects, despite the persistence of the global pandemic and ongoing economic uncertainty. We would like to express our deep gratitude to our team in Sudan especially for making this possible.

Scholarships Update

Universities have closed earlier than the usual term, in an attempt to combat the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic. Our Khartoum team continue to support our scholarship students, so that they will be in a position to return to studies in September.

Our university programme funds scholars for five years, and currently supports 117 students. We are happy to report that 14 scholars graduated from Afhad University in 2020.

The start of the new academic year for 2020/2021 was delayed by over four months due to COVID. Ahfad University continued to operate on a rotational basis (week-on-week-off), with students divided into two groups and compulsory safety measures in place, such as mandatory face masks.

Recently, our new project administrator met with scholars to follow up their performance and academic progress. 82 scholars attended, enthusiastic to resume their studies after a long period of closure.

In response to our scholars' request for training courses to help develop their professional skillset, WEP hosted an online training session on time management and CV writing, with an English language component to improve their language skills.

The process of selecting 12 new scholars for the current year has now begun.



Rebuilding Schools

Following the *devastating floods* at the end of 2020, we have worked to repair some of the damaged schools. *Thanks to the generosity of our supporters who donated to our appeal, we raised enough funds to help renovate 4 of the WEP sponsored schools!*

We are incredibly grateful to those who gave so generously to Imogen's fantastic Christmas Day Challenge to walk 10 miles for WEP, and to the Festive Appeal led by our patron, the author Leila Aboulela.

Together the two appeals (one from Spain, the other from the UK) raised more than £6,500!

In Khartoum state over 550 schools had been damaged, and 102,000 children affected, e.g., being forced to seek emergency shelter. Lack of clean water, flooded latrines, collapsed roofs and structural damage made the schools unsafe.

WEP completed a survey of our 10 supported elementary schools. 4 of these schools were identified as having suffered considerable damage (a fifth school was unfortunately irreparable). WEP provided building materials in January to undertake repairs. At one school, 13 teachers had been forced to use the headmistress's office with her as their own had been destroyed! Although COVID has once more forced the closure of all schools until September, the 4 schools are now restored to working condition again, ready for the children to return to learn!

Read more about the ongoing repairs [here](#).

We have a wonderful team of four local WEP aid staff who, with your help and those of our sponsors, have continued to make these fantastic life-changing efforts possible. We are so grateful to our loyal supporters and donors.

To donate to our work, please visit our website <http://www.womenseducationpartnership.org/> and select the [Donate Now](#).



Literacy Circles

It is safe to say that our literacy circles have had a turbulent time throughout COVID, having to pause on several occasions. We continue to work with the authorities to prioritise the health and safety of our participants, and have only operated the literacy circles when it is safe to do so. These literacy circles improve the lives of those women who attend, both through opening up professional and economic opportunities, but also in their everyday lives. [*Click here to hear from the participants themselves about how the literacy circles have helped them.*](#)

[*We are also proud to present our new income-generating initiative for our women's literacy circle participants!*](#) COVID-19 has meant that so many women have lost income sources and, with over 60% of literacy circle participants being the sole breadwinners for their families, this has had a

shattering impact. After listening to feedback and requests from our participants, we have integrated income-generating skills into our programmes through incorporating soap and purse-making skills into our curriculum. This will all take place in COVID-safe environments, with infection-prevention measures applied throughout. We estimate that, within the space of a year, the project will reach as many as 300 direct beneficiaries!

At a time of such economic instability, this programme is needed more than ever. To read more about the project, see the [*latest blog post*](#).

Our Work in South Sudan

Our partnership with Kimu Integrated Development Organization continues to grow. Kimu operates in Gudele refugee camp about 11 miles outside the capital, Juba. We are pleased that authorities have given the go ahead for the Adult Literacy School to reopen this month. WEP supported construction of the school, and we now pay the salaries of its 8 teachers.

As ever, COVID safety remains a priority, and so we are providing extra funding for face masks and hand sanitiser for the 200 students that attend, the majority of whom are women, all enrolling for the new academic year. Kimu also provides health services for the refugee population, and has been chosen by the South Sudan government to administer COVID vaccinations in that area.

Teacher Training

We are pleased to announce that our new Teacher Training for Elementary School Teachers Programme has been launched, with thanks to our generous donor the British and Foreign School Society. As you may be aware, WEP has long supported elementary schools for children aged 6-15 years old, many of which are orphans or come from disadvantaged backgrounds. Teachers at these schools are usually volunteers who have not had the opportunity of professional training. This initiative not only gives these teachers the chance to learn and develop professional skills, but the children will benefit from higher quality education.

Over the next 3 years, 300 teachers across 10 schools will receive the course, learning teaching methodology and core classes on how to teach mathematics, science and English. They will also learn life skills, problem solving, time-management, creative thinking and empathy, all of which are designed to help children traumatized by poverty, conflict, and instability.

The first training course took place successfully on 28th March – 4th April and received positive feedback from the teachers involved! Although schools are currently closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, they were excited to consider how they could use their new and developed skills when they returned. The delayed Stage 2 of the teacher training, on teaching methods and gender awareness, will now go ahead at the ministry of education training establishment from 20 June, and stage 3 of the programme will go ahead on time in August. To see how the programme is going, see the [*Teacher Training in Action blog post!*](#)



Once again, thank you for your support over the years and we hope you will continue to be part of the WEP community. As always, we would love to hear from you so do feel free to [*get in touch*](mailto:enquiries@womeneducationpartnership.org) at [*enquiries@womeneducationpartnership.org*](mailto:enquiries@womeneducationpartnership.org).

We particularly appreciate support at this time. If you wish to donate, please visit our [*Virgin Money Giving Page*](#) - we are grateful for any contribution towards our work, whatever the size, and you can be assured every penny will go towards the important work that WEP does.