



Republic of South Sudan
Ministry of General Education and Instruction
Office of the Minister

Press Release by Hon. Awut Deng Acuil, Minister of General Education and Instruction on the International Day of Persons with Disabilities, 2nd December 2021:

Under the Theme: “Leadership and Participation of Persons with Disabilities”.

Tomorrow is the International Day of Persons with Disabilities (IDPD)! The Ministry of General Education and Instruction (MoGEI) is celebrating the gains made in promoting disability inclusive education in South Sudan in 2021.

This year’s theme is **“Leadership and participation of persons with disabilities toward an inclusive, accessible and sustainable post-COVID-19 world”**. On this day, we celebrate those people with disabilities who have excelled in life and will become the ambassadors and role models of inclusive education to ensure that all children have the equal opportunities they deserve.

This year, the National Policy on Inclusive Education was launched. This is an important milestone for South Sudan in the fight towards quality inclusive education for all children, including children with disabilities.

Although combatting of discrimination against persons with disabilities is entrenched in the Constitution, we acknowledge that many children, especially girls with disabilities, still experience barriers to enrolling in school and completing their education.

Over the next five years, the implementation of the policy will help to systematically address these issues. The Ministry has already started with a large-scale national teacher training programme. A number of complementary measures will help to strengthen services for children with disabilities.

We acknowledge the role that our partners have played in progressing the inclusive education agenda in South Sudan. Many of our partners are represented in the South Sudan Union of Persons with Disabilities, which was launched in 2020. We shall continue this collaboration to combat stigma and discriminatory attitudes towards those with disabilities.

By improving data collection systems, we will ensure that the 30,170 girls and boys with disabilities who are currently enrolled in schools receive appropriate support. We

will also work hard to ensure that the many out-of-school children with disabilities can enrol or return to school to complete their education.

As stated in the National Policy: **“While the process of building the capacity of educators and other key stakeholders is taking place, schools must accept and welcome children with disabilities and other children at risk of exclusion, from the beginning of this policy being approved and communicated.”**

We believe that it is only through education that every boy and girl with a disability can realise their full potential and thus improve their chances to lead a meaningful life as dignified citizens of our country. We call on South Sudanese individuals and communities to help make this a reality.

We thank all the members of the Gender Thematic Working Group, Juba University, Staff of the Ministry, Development partners and UN Agencies for their total commitment to the development of such a comprehensive National Inclusive Education Policy Framework.

We acknowledge the financial and technical support from Strømme Foundation, Light for the World, the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad), Windle Trust International (WTI) being the Secretariat, Save the Children International, Swedish International Development Agency – (SIDA), Save the Children consortium members (ECW), MYRP secretariat, such as World of Inclusion UK, Enabling Education NET (EENET), as well as the Leonard Cheshire Inclusive Education Team supporting Girls’ Education in South Sudan (GESS), Plan international, South Sudan RED CROSS, Canadian RED CROSS, UNFPA, UNICEF and all those not mentioned.

UNESCO with technical support from Light for the World will also Launch Inclusive Comprehensive Sexuality Education and CONNECT with respect preventing Gender-based violence in school and the South Sudanese Sign Language Dictionary which is fully supported by Light for the World.

I thank everyone who have taken the initiative to attend this very important briefing and hope to see you again at the event tomorrow 3rd December 2021.

Yours sincerely,



Hon. Awut Deng Acuil, MP
The Minister

