

# ***Education & Peace Building Project***

## ***Kajo Keji, Southern Sudan***

### **Context**

Kajo Keji is the southernmost county in Southern Sudan. It covers an area of approximately 112,599 square kilometres and borders the north-western districts of Uganda. The forty-year civil war between the north and south of Sudan resulted in the displacement of many people from Kajo Keji into exile in Uganda. UNHCR started voluntary repatriation of refugees from Northern Uganda in May 2006, and expects it to continue into 2009. According to UNHCR data, the population of returnees in Kajo Keji, self-assisted and organized is 9,780 people. The county faces a challenge and resistance in the integration of the returnees into the existing government structures.

### **Rationale**

The JRS Kajo Keji project started in 2001 as a teacher-training program for untrained teachers serving in Kajo Keji County schools. Since 2002, the project has expanded and now provides extensive educational support to twenty-six primary and five secondary schools in the county and promotes gender equity and peace-building in schools and the wider community.

### **OVERALL GOAL**

To ensure quality education is provided as a basic right to children of school-going age, with a particular focus on girls and children with special needs. The project seeks to improve the quality of life of the internally displaced and returnee populations for peaceful coexistence, respect for human rights, and conflict transformation in Kajo Keji County

### **OBJECTIVES**

#### **1. Primary Education**

To enable an estimated 13,000 primary school children in twenty-six community schools to receive a quality primary education.

#### **2. Secondary Education**

To improve access to quality secondary education for 1000 students in five secondary schools in Kajo Keji through provision of necessary resources and enabling an environment for quality teaching and learning.

#### **3. Teacher Training**

To support 132 teachers to undertake formal teacher training courses in colleges in Sudan (primary level) and Uganda (secondary level) and 150 serving teachers (100 primary, 50 secondary) through in-service training workshops.

#### **4. Advocacy/Girl Child Education**

To promote gender equity in education in schools by supporting 350 girls through partial payment of school fees; provision of sanitary materials to schoolgirls and community sensitization workshops.

#### **5. Peace Building, Advocacy and Conflict Transformation**

To promote peaceful coexistence and respect for human rights through training of trainers, community mediators, community leaders and teachers in peace building and reconciliation and advocating for human rights.

#### **Who benefits from this project?**

The direct beneficiaries of this programme will be 13,000 primary and 1000 secondary school students, 345 primary and 63 secondary school teachers, 95 student teachers (primary school level), and 37 student teachers at secondary school level, as well as members of the schools' Parent Teacher Associations, School Management Committees and Boards of Governors. In the peace-building programme, seventy community peace trainers and mediators; sixty Peace & Justice community members; eighty County Education stakeholders; 300 government officials; 600 local community leaders; and 300 adolescents.