



Abukloi Foundation

2025 ANNUAL REPORT



INVESTED

Students, Teachers, Partners

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A strong education system is good for our country. It enables us to develop competent human resources personnel who will champion the country's development and prosperity. We are where we can make a difference. "Together we can do it," as Abukloi Secondary School's motto states.

Teacher, Emmanuel Rundial



Abukloi Foundation:

INVESTED IN EXCELLENCE

Abukloi Foundation is investing in the future of South Sudan by investing in its people. In 2025, every program, partnership, and decision centered on giving young people the skills, support, and opportunities they need to thrive—whether they pursue university, employment, or family life. Through integrated programs in education, agriculture, entrepreneurship, and health, we build practical skills grounded in our core values of partnership, gender equity, peacebuilding, environmental responsibility, and community well-being.

Our greatest investment is in people—students, teachers, and communities. As a leading educational institution in Lakes State, Abukloi Secondary equips students to navigate economic hardship, health challenges, and instability with resilience and purpose. Abukloi's university-trained teaching staff, nearly all from South Sudan, guide learners to discover their potential and face the future with

confidence. In 2025, students earned state and national recognition in academics, debate, and sports. Strategic partnerships continued to strengthen community-led solutions, enabling us to improve facilities, expand counseling and career guidance, and respond to the realities of economic instability, food insecurity, and limited access to technology.

Looking ahead to 2026, Abukloi will deepen its investment in a holistic learning environment where students from across South Sudan can live, learn, work, and play safely. By expanding teacher development, integrating programs, and cultivating partnerships that bring innovation and opportunity, we are building a future where every young person has the chance to succeed – and where education remains the most powerful investment in lasting peace and prosperity.

INVESTED STUDENTS

Despite the nation’s efforts to improve access to education, numerous obstacles hinder a well-educated population that is essential for sustainable development. Students at Abukloi Secondary face critical barriers that stem from poverty. In a subsistence culture, students are often kept home to tend to agricultural pursuits and to work in the cattle camps which are the backbone of the economic system in rural South Sudan. Survival takes precedence over education. Cultural norms create additional barriers, particularly for the female students who are married young and then do not finish their education.

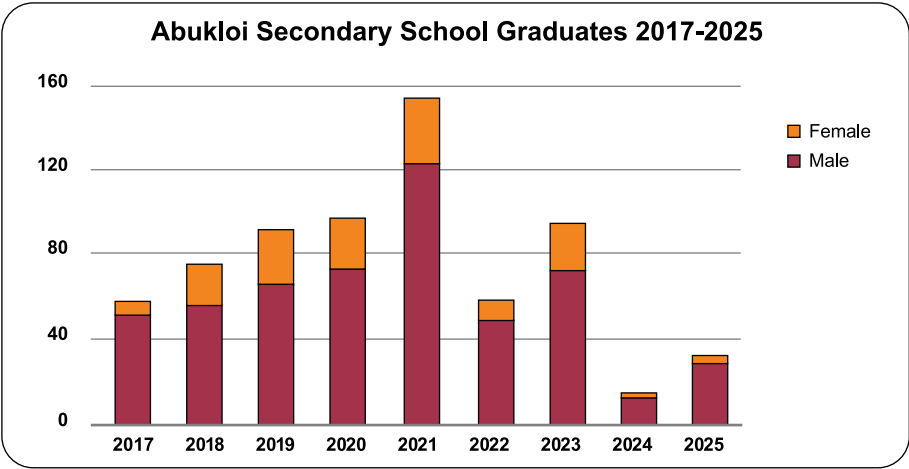
In spite of these barriers, students at Abukloi Secondary School understand the value of education, and they are thriving, often ranking higher than their counterparts who have significantly better resources. Student results for the National Exam announced in 2025, show that three of Abukloi’s students ranked in the top ten of Lakes State – with one of these students being a female, which is an incredible accomplishment in a world where education for girls is never a first priority. This is a reality only because the students and teachers push beyond and above all reasonable expectations and invest their heart and minds in a better future.



I am especially grateful for the opportunities provided to me both inside and outside the classroom, which have enabled me to discover my strength and develop important skills that I will carry with me into the future.

Student, Dor Isaac Dhieu

RAISING THE BAR



Why is Abukloi limiting enrollment in Senior 4?
Abukloi is investing in a new South Sudan by investing in job creators.

Setting and achieving bigger goals is the beauty and fabric of a successful life. Our goal is to cultivate excellence. To become a national leader in secondary education, we must uphold high standards of academic performance, discipline, and personal growth. This requires commitment from students, teachers, and parents alike.

We believe that success is earned through hard work. That’s why promotion to the next class is based on merit – students must meet a clear pass mark in internal and regional exams to advance.

This policy isn’t about exclusion; it’s about motivation. It encourages every learner to strive for higher achievement and take pride in their progress.

The impact is already visible. In 2025, 51 students (up from 16 in 2024) qualified for Senior 4, our candidate class – an increase driven by stronger academic performance. While national exam results are still pending, we’re confident that this approach will position Abukloi as one of the top-performing schools in South Sudan, known for academic excellence, ethical leadership, and a culture of hard work.



Debate

Abukloi Secondary School consistently performs well in interscholastic debate. Girls, in particular, are great debaters. They will use their communication skills to advocate for women's and girls' rights in the community.

We were selected as one of the top three schools in Lakes State during the students' match at the celebration of South Sudan's 14th independence anniversary.



Sports

Boys and girls actively participate in sports like football (soccer) and volleyball. Sports promote peace, unity, teamwork, physical health, and discipline among youth. Our teams enjoy success in interscholastic competitions with other Rumbek secondary schools.



Meal Program

Investing in serving a daily meal has transformed the well-being of our students and staff. Overall, increased nutritious caloric intake improves health outcomes. It also improves classroom performance and attendance and reduces school dropout rates, especially for girls. Statistics show that the longer girls stay in school, the lower the chances of early pregnancy and early marriage.

Business Development

Our after-school small business program, the YES Club, is one of the most popular activities. Students make soap, sanitary pads, and do tailoring for the school and community. These efforts give students the knowledge and confidence to start their own businesses after graduation. This is especially important given that most students will not go on to university.

- 36 Members
(20 new members in 2025)
- 230 litres of soap produced
- 111 girls received sanitary pads

Challenges include a lack of a functioning computer, chemicals expiring due to heat, and expanding the product market.

Time for school activities has been extended from 2:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. This increased classroom time allows teachers to cover more of the curriculum. It also allows students more time to participate in co-curricular activities such as sports, debate, and other clubs.

With student enrollment of around 700, we serve over 126,000 meals a year.



INVESTED TEACHERS

Abukloi is committed to hiring qualified, motivated teachers to educate South Sudan's future leaders. **A majority of our expenses in South Sudan go toward paying the salaries of our teachers and other staff, because investing in qualified, knowledgeable, and local staff is the single most important factor in student achievement.** These educators do not just deliver curriculum; they build secure, empathetic environments that foster both academic and personal growth, acting as mentors and pillars in their communities.

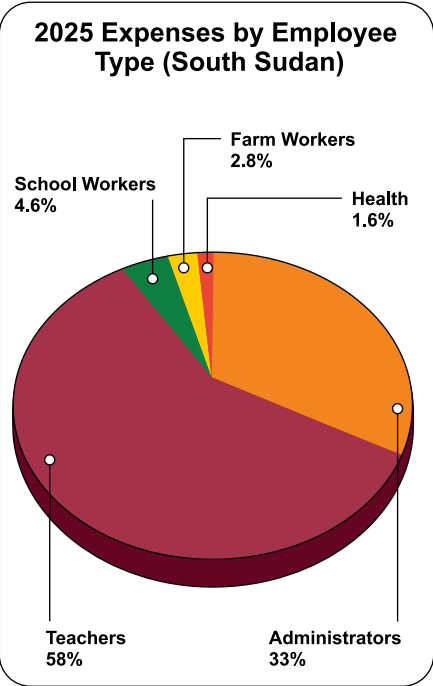
All 24 current teachers hold university degrees, and most are South Sudanese. In addition to

core academics and critical thinking exercises, they guide students through cultural expression, encouraging creativity through dance, theater, song, and poetry. We also offer a unique counseling and career guidance program to help students understand which paths to pursue for their future.

To ensure quality learning, Abukloi maintains manageable class sizes and invests in teacher development through regular training, peer evaluations, and administrative workshops. This culture of accountability and growth equips our staff to deliver impactful, student-centered education.



In 2025, a Language Department was created. Although English and Dinka are the only two languages taught at Abukloi Secondary School currently, it is just a matter of time and budget before we introduce Arabic, Kiswahili, and French to give our students an advantage in communicating with all people in East and North Africa.



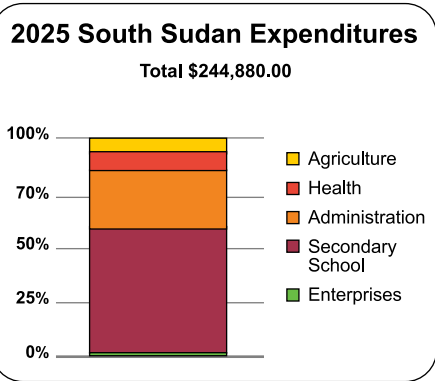
TEACHER PROFILE

Mr. Emmanuel Rundial Wa

I was motivated to study as a Teacher of Arts and Humanities because these subject areas impart cultural values, promote nationalism and patriotism among the students, and create a basis for peace-building, which is a great need for South Sudan.

As a teacher and a community leader, I want to use my communication and mobilization skills to educate the community about the benefits of allowing girls to attend school until graduation.

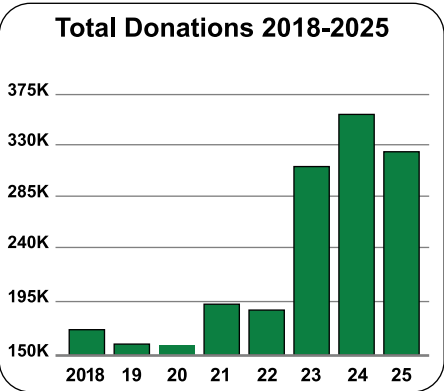
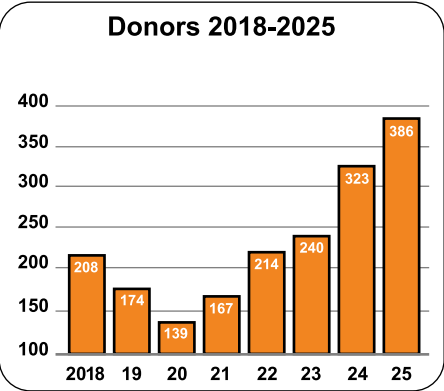
The salary I get as a teacher has kept food on the table for my family, has provided shelter for my family and personally, I have managed to buy a second-hand motorcycle to ease my travel to school and work. This salary that comes in time has provided me with peace of mind to concentrate on my work as a teacher at Abukloi Secondary School.



INVESTED PARTNERS

Since its inception over a decade ago, our partners have invested over \$1,760,000 with the goal of making a difference in the lives of young people in Rumbek, South Sudan. Whether one-time donations or long-term commitments, these funds have made a tangible impact.

Abukloi's work is only possible because a diverse community of individuals, churches, businesses, and foundations chooses to invest in long-term solutions. Individual donors are the backbone of our revenue, but their value goes far beyond financial contributions. When donors share their skills, wisdom, and creativity, they help shape better programs and stronger outcomes.



Partnership is active, collaborative, and generational – not transactional.



“I am like a lion locked up in a cage. I am the elder followed by six siblings and also the only one taken to school. I have ambition. I have a dream to fulfill, but my dream is still far off because my people’s culture will not allow me to achieve my goals. I want to be the first lion who is going to open the cage which is having a better future.”

Student, Angelina Nyandich-Mach

Sponsored by: John Bates,
Forest Presbyterian Church

Sponsorship Program

The student sponsorship program continues to be the backbone of our donor program. The money given to sponsor a student is invested in each of the students, ensuring they have a daily meal and all of the resources needed to be successful in their endeavors.

It must be said that while making a significant investment in individual students is a critical factor, outside influences and challenges often are stronger than the critical resources. The good news is that the investment never goes to waste as the educational investment is lifelong.

The cost of sponsoring a student to cover their needs for a full year is \$960 or \$80 a month.



Number of Sponsors
86
Number of Students Sponsored
68 GIRLS
18 BOYS



DONOR-FUNDED PROJECTS

Many of our projects would not be feasible without donor initiative.



ABUKLOI HEALTH CLINIC

Partners: Adam and Fiona McClure
Ingomar United Methodist Church

The funding from Adam and Fiona McClure and Ingomar United Methodist Church enabled us to open a health clinic and pay for a full-time nurse at the secondary school. Our nurse cares for up to 100 patients every month, many battling chronic illnesses alongside high rates of malaria, pneumonia, cholera, and typhoid. For most of them, this small clinic is the only healthcare they receive.



NEW YES SHELTER

Partners: Words Into Deeds
Virginia Beach United Methodist Church

Virginia Beach United Methodist Church funded the construction of a permanent and secure shelter for business training activities. The funding for the training programs and supplies comes from the continuing support of Words Into Deeds in Ithaca, NY.



AKUAC WELL

Partner: Ingomar Living Waters

The installation of a drinking water well near Abukloi's community garden provides life-giving water to hundreds of community members. Thanks to the funding from Ingomar Living Waters, this well has become an essential resource to help us develop the property.



NEW WASH FACILITIES

Partner: Forest Hills Presbyterian Church

Through the funding from Forest Hills Presbyterian Church, the improved sanitation facilities at the school are reducing the incidence of communicable diseases. The new girls' changing and washing room keeps girls confident and in school.



AF FINANCIAL DETAILS

Since 2020, our donor numbers, online giving, and total gifts have steadily increased. Each year the school not only carries out its mission of educating students but diligently works to improve the campus facilities and make a positive impact on the economic well-being of the community by providing employment.

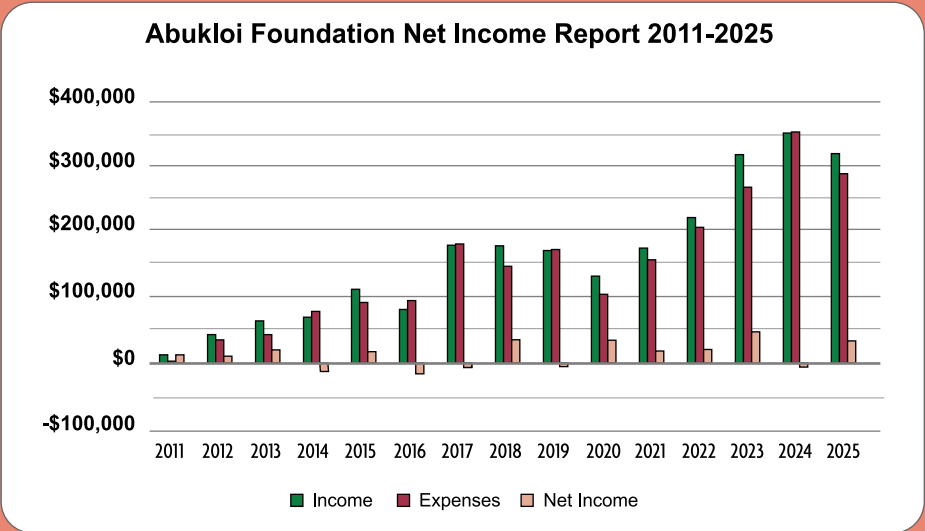
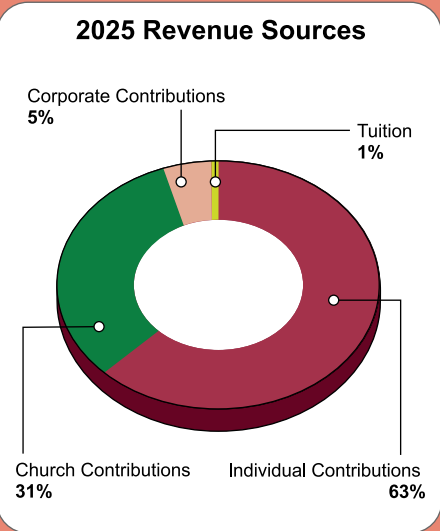
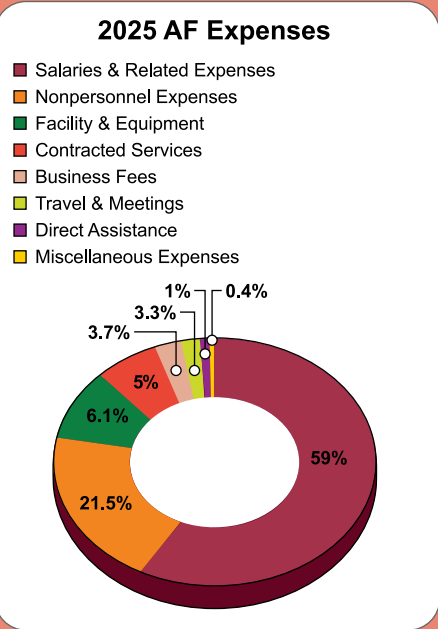
These efforts are of the greatest urgency in a nation that knows education is vital yet struggles to find funding within the governmental budget. In a world

where government funding is often the backbone of the educational system, the allocation of financial resources to education is insufficient, often leading to the inability to provide essential materials such as textbooks and learning tools or the facilities to hold classes. Many students, particularly in the rural areas, are dependent on private or community schools, but few can afford the cost of tuition.

Those who choose to invest in the educational endeavors of Abukloi



are bridging the gap and extending a lifeline that is achieving results. However, the reality is that every month is a challenge. In the current fund-raising climate, we remain dependent on the investment of benefactors as South Sudan works to achieve a political equilibrium that sustains economic growth. While programming is often supported by grants and corporate institutions, the day to day operations of schools such as Abukloi Secondary School remains largely unfunded if not for individuals and religious institutions.



Become an Ambassador

Rooted in Angelo Maker's journey to the United States as one of the Lost Boys of South Sudan, Abukloi has been a story of love and determination to make a difference. Every year we attend numerous events, send newsletters, and write appeals, but it's beyond the capacity of our small grassroots movement to take that story to as many places as needed to meet the needs of our students.

We are inviting YOU to be an Abukloi Ambassador. Imagine talking about your investment that makes a difference not only in South Sudan but in your own life. We would provide you the tools to make successful presentations,

whether that is an in-person elevator speech of a couple minutes or a 20-minute media presentation with a script. Perhaps you would prefer to be less visible. If that's the case, we will provide newsletter articles, videos, and bulletin inserts as well as tips for how to raise funds for scholarships, agricultural projects or building infrastructure.

If this sounds like an opportunity that interests you, please reach out to Beth@abukloi.org.



Want to donate? Want to become a partner?

We are grateful to all the individuals, businesses, churches, and other NGOs that have supported our efforts over the years.



Abukloi.org

If you or your organization would like to learn more about investing in Abukloi programs and projects, please contact Mary@abukloi.org.

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