

Programme 35: Disability

**Researched, produced, edited and presented by Catherine Augustino in Juba
Arabic language for broadcast on local radio stations**

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BILLBOARD:

Hello and welcome to this program ``Our School`` it is a programme that brings our community together to talk about education and how it benefits everyone. I am Catherine Augustino.

Today, we are talking about how schools, families and communities are supporting learners leaving with disabilities.

A girl with a disability tells us challenges she faces.

BBC: when I'm coming to school I'm facing a lot of challenges like getting tired , also during break time when my friends are playing I'm not happy because I really want to play too.

A head teacher tells us what his school does to support these children.

BBC: we advise students to help those students with disability and free from school fees and uniform, also for teachers they can help translate for the blind students because the teachers are well train.

All these and more will come in fifteen minutes:

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Cue 1: (studio recording):

In our country students with disability develop stigma as a result of teasing and an fair in schools, but according to south Sudan education act all children living with disability has right to learn.

In our programme today we are going to hear from a girl with disability tells us the challenges she faces in her education and her parent will tell us how he supports the daughter.

And also two people with disability who are educated will tell us their how they managed to overcome the challenges and how they are benefiting from their education.

Lastly a head teacher will tell us how they are supporting children with disabilities in his school.

But first let's hear from a girl and her father.....

((FIELD RECORDINGS));

SOUND:

Its break time here in juba one primary school, I'm standing in the middle of the volley ball ground where I can see some pupils are playing around and Awneg a girl with disability is sitting, I came to talk to Aweng and her father they are inside class let hear Aweng challenges while coming to school.....

A1: when I'm coming from to school I'm facing a lot of challenges like getting tired I have to breath then I will greet my friends after and also during break time when my friends are playing I'm not happy because I really want to play too.

Q2: with the challenges you're facing who helped you?

A2: yes my friends are helping me a lot when we are going home they'll carry my books hold my hand then we cross the road, also teachers if I didn't

understand and I ask they'll explain more till I understood, the same as my parents their really helpful indeed in terms of transportation to school.

Q3: What supports are you getting from school here?

A3: teachers are helping me in many the ways I see, when they are teaching they will ask me if you don't understand please ask and if ask the teacher will explain to me more till I understood.

Q4: as a father what are the challenges facing you?

A4: we are facing a lot really, sometime I have to leave my work then take her to school also when she want to eat, bath it's a problem when nobody at home because of her movement but we are trying with my wife.

Q4: I understand you send her to school which is good; any other supports that can make her complete her education?

A4: yes, I'm trying not sleeping working hard to make sure my daughter complete her school, the good think she is bright and willing to finish her study so that she will be with rest of her colleague.

Q5: what is your dream towards her education?

A5: I have a very big dream for her for sure, this girl here will be Ambassador I swear, because they are like us in everything and we need to treat them like us because they have right, they only need our support and that is my dream for her.

RECAP: (studio recording)

That was a school girl Aweng and her father Justine, Aweng said she always gets tired while coming to school because she is facing challenges like movement, bathing, eating but with the help friends carrying her books and holding her hands when crossing road to school, that can keep her in school to end, and father Justine said he and his wife trying to work hard till she finish her education.

Station D:

As we heard from the school girl living with disability and her father, let also hear from the two people with disability who are educated in Juba.....

((FIELD RECORDINGS))

I'm now in union of the visually impired I came to meet Levi and Zeckia those are educated people with disability I came to know their challenges while in school, in front of me is an office where Levi and Zeckia are sitting let' hear

SOUND:

A1: I did faced a lot of challenging when I was student, my study was free but my the problem who will take me to school, also it was hard to my family to revise with me because I'm using brail and our community was ignoring and teasing me that made me feel bad sometime and think not to continue with school.

Q2: did you drop school for good?

A2: No, the whole school was sorry and head teacher came in and he was apologizing saying not the whole school has problem with and for sure even my colleague was not happy too.

Q3: and you Levi tell your challenges you faced while in school?

A3: my challenges was many, first was movement from home to school, secondly school environment was not good in terms on infrastructure and also in school colleagues are teasing saying disable person has nothing even if I study what I do those were my challenges I faced.

Q4: Levi; when other children are teasing you how do you feel?

A4: in the beginning I was not happy I remember we fought with a boy till I injured him and he do the same and we were taken to hospital, off cause in the beginning it was very difficult to take but in time I understand the way our community lives is easy now, so life is like that even those who are ok have their challenges.

Q5: tell how you overcome those challenges? Levi

A5: yes, I took decision that there is nothing can take me out of this situation only education I have to follow it, if death comes I will die in education and I swear from primary until I complete.

Q6: tell us how you help yourself?

A6: first I decide to walk alone to university and it was very far but I will not wait for any help after I complete my university I didn't sleep I look for a job till I got in the state ministry of education as a teacher this how I help myself.

Q7: Levi; tell us how education helps you?

A7: the importance of education was not for me only but it made me become important and responsible to my own family and they're benefiting from my education financially and in kind so I'm contributing a lot it helps me more really.

Q8: you Zeckia what will you tell your friends and sisters who are still in school so that they will remain in school?

A8: to all people living with disability don't leave school if you're in school remain and continue, most of disable people drop school because of teasing and many others but I'm really sorry, for sure community don't value us atleast let's study it will be ok.

RECAP: (studio recording)

Those were Levi and Zeckia, they all face a lot of challenges while in school but Levi said it was a challenged to move from home to school, and school was not in good infrastructure but he believes nobody can take him out of that situation only education that lead him to follow until I complete and become a teacher. And Zeckia said it was a challenge for her family to revise with her because of brail but she remains in education that changes her life.

STATON ID:

As we heard from Levi and Zeckia, let's hear from teacher in Juba, how they support children with disability in his school.

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((FIELD RECORDINGS))

I'm standing in front of head teacher office here in Juba day secondary, students are for holidays I came to talk to head teacher Joseph about what help his school is giving to children with disability he is sitting inside office let' hear from him.....

A1: yes in my school we have disable students, but we are not differentiating from the rest we treat them equally, for the blind students we brought teachers that can understand their language of brail so that they can learn and benefit from it, also teachers should give notes to the blind teachers so that they can translate accordingly, we also advise other students to help them whenever they're in need and for school fees they have exceptional case that they allow not pay even school uniform.

Q2: how are they been treated in the school by follow students?

A2: what I know their treating themselves equally, I know they staying together discussing school subjects together so I don't see anything bad that community of Juba day saying disable people are useless nothing like that.

Q3: what policies the school have to ensure children with disabilities are treated equally?

A3: we have school regulation saying teasing and insult not allowed to all students, but if happen the student will be punished heavily like suspension for a week then after the student will come with the parents so that will be brief and also the student will slash school compound, because the school don't want children with disability to be marginalize, instead we encourage them to be together.

Q4: if they learn what will they do in future?

A4: off cause they are disabling physically but their mind is good and like everybody can learn and work like us, some are now working with social welfare, teaching they can do everything, so is wrong to say that they can't, there is example one boy graduated from Juba day here now they are working with one of the organization and he is a hard working indeed, and he got scholarship for his masters in law as I speak he is in UK now, some are teachers and others are working social welfares so those are few I mention otherwise they're many.

RECAP: (studio recording)

That was Joseph a teacher of Juba day secondary school, he said the school is not differentiating they treat them equal, because children with disability have right to learn and get a job like everybody since they are disabling physically not in mind, he also mention it's wrong to say that they can't work.

Closing Recaps ((STUDIO RECORDING))

That has brought us to the end of our program. Today, we have been talking about how schools, families and communities are supporting learners leaving with disabilities.

Earlier we heard from Aweng a girl living with disability and her father, her father said they face a lot challenged when his daughter is going to school that make him sometime leave work and take her to school and Aweng said she it is a challenge of crossing road and carrying books, but with the help of her father and friends she is continuing with her education and hope to complete one day.

Also Levi and Zeckia, both living with disability faced a lot of challenges while in school but did not give up, Levi said accept the condition he was in, and chooses to complete his education which he thought can deliver him out of his condition now. And Zeckia said it was a challenge for her family to revise with her because she was using brail but she decides to stick in education till end.

Finally head teacher Joseph of Juba day secondary school, said he advice students to help those with disability to avoid inconvenient like falling down or any other, also the school free them from school fees and uniform because they have right to learn like everyone.

Interactive call:

Remember this is your program, we want to listen from you about your education and how you are doing in your schools. Stay tuned this radio station will receive your calls very soon.

THANK YOU FOR LISTENING I'M CATHERINE AUGUSTINO AND BYE.