

Girls' Education South Sudan (GESS)



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PRESS RELEASE

Girls' Education South Sudan (GESS) 2024 Cash Transfers Commence!

The Girls' Education South Sudan (GESS) 2024 cash transfer process is scheduled to begin in October. The cash transfers this year target; girls who are currently enrolled in, and regularly attending, classes from Primary 7 to Senior 4, girls enrolled in the Accelerated Learning Programme (ALP) in levels 3 and 4, and for the first time ever, boys with disabilities from Primary 7 to Senior 4, and boys with disabilities in the ALP levels 3 and 4.

The GESS programme is funded through UK aid from the UK Government, the Government of Canada through Global Affairs Canada, the European Union (EU), the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA), and Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA).

The primary objective of the GESS cash transfers is to support and empower girls, and boys with disabilities across South Sudan in accessing and successfully completing their education by lifting the financial burden off parents and learners. This year, about 250,000 learners in the eligible classes have been validated to benefit from the cash transfer.

In 2024, over 1.1 million girls are enrolled in both primary and secondary school, with over 90,000 in secondary school- three times as many as when the GESS programme began in 2014. We now have nearly as many girls as boys enrolling in primary schools.

Due to this success, the GESS programme has decided to focus on the enrolment of girls and boys with disabilities in upper primary and secondary schools, given the challenges girls face as they get older and as they transition to secondary education, and the societal biases and negative attitude towards the education of children with disabilities.

By providing financial assistance directly to learners, cash transfers aim to reduce the financial barriers that often hinder their education. School girls, and boys with disabilities are specifically targeted for these funds because they still face additional obstacles to education.

Students in candidate classes (Primary 8, ALP Level 4, and Secondary 4) will receive SSP 120,000, while students in other classes (Primary 7 and Secondary 1-3) will receive SSP 95,000. The higher amount for candidate classes is intended to help cover the additional expenses associated with final examinations. Additionally, all boys with disabilities in the eligible classes will receive the same amounts as their female counterparts.

GESS has **zero tolerance** to misappropriation of funds. We, therefore, urge all stakeholders, parents, and learners to report any incidents of misappropriation of funds and safeguarding concerns or threats during the cash transfer payment process. This can include:

1. Reduction of money during the payment process.
2. Replacement of eligible learners who are absent during payment.
3. Issuing CTEFs to girls and boys with disabilities who are not the correct owner.



Norwegian Embassy
Juba

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All eligible girls and boys should carry their copy of the Cash Transfer Enrolment Form (CTEF) (the white copy) and present it during payment. Only learners with valid CTEFs will be paid.

We advise parents and guardians to accompany children under the age of 18 and learners with disabilities to the payment point to guarantee that they receive the correct amount. Children are also advised to travel home in groups of three or more. To report any cases, call our toll-free numbers below.

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