

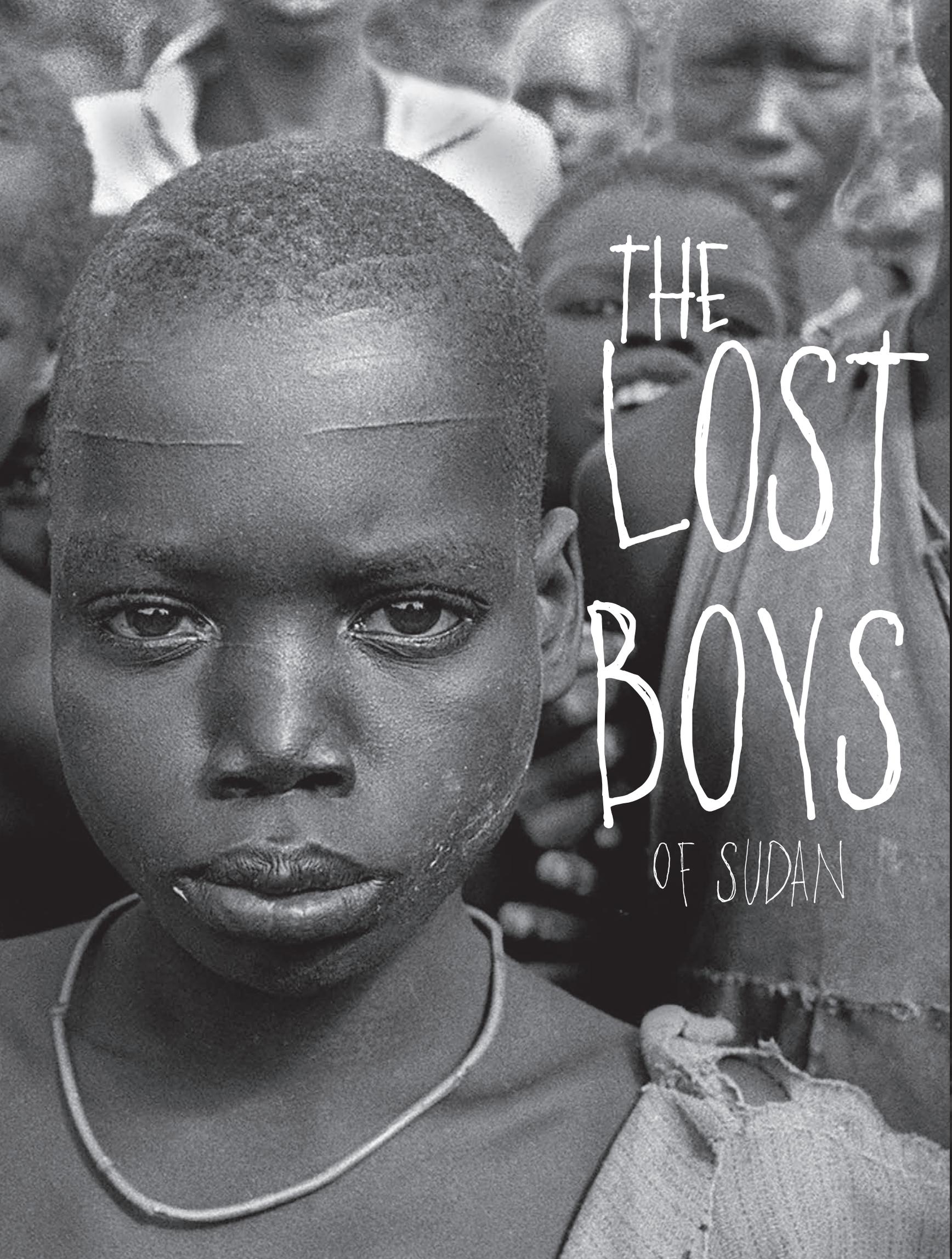


VILLAGE  HELP
FOUNDATION

EDUCATING & EMPOWERING

Orphans of South Sudan

OUR NEXT STEPS
TOGETHER...



THE
LOST
BOYS
OF SUDAN

SOME NEIGHBORHOODS ARE TOUGHER THAN OTHERS TO GROW UP IN.
THROW IN SEVERAL DECADES OF CIVIL WAR, AND YOUR HOME
TURF CAN BECOME DOWNRIGHT INHOSPITABLE.

The country of Sudan gained independence from Britain in 1956. English colonial rule bred animosity between the Arab north and the black African south, and civil war erupted almost immediately.

A 1972 peace agreement brought 11 years of calm, but then violence again swept the country. In 1987, a tragedy began to unfold that still defies imagination.

STOLEN CHILDHOOD

As the northern army burned their way southward and civilians fled into the bush for cover, thousands of children became separated from their parents. On the hunt for safety, thousands of boys as young as 4 years old made their way in and out of war zones, through forest, marshes and desert. They became known as the Lost Boys.

Barefoot and barely clothed, the Lost Boys ate soft mud, leaves and drank their own urine to stay alive. Hundreds died along the way. Three months later, those who survived – 26,000 of them – stumbled into a refugee camp just inside Ethiopia.

REFUGEES UNWELCOME

Shelter in the refugee camp was short-lived. In 1991, rebels toppled the Ethiopian government, and armed

militias emptied the camp. Forced back into Sudan, the Lost Boys frantically crossed the swollen Gilo River where thousands drowned, were shot or were eaten by crocodiles.

For those who remained alive, conditions worsened. There was no food, the boys slept on bare ground and they walked until the soles of their feet peeled off. Many died along the path from starvation, fatigue and illness.

A WAY OUT

All told, the Lost Boys covered about 1,000 miles on foot until they reached refugee camps again, either in Ethiopia or Kenya. Death and desperation had cut their ranks in half.

However, hope was on the horizon. In 2000, a refugee resettlement program opened the door for the survivors to have a chance at life in a whole new world.





GATJANG DENG

GREW UP AS A LOST BOY.

"We walked for three months back to Ethiopia...the walking had to be done at night because water was scarce, and the heat was unbearable."

His story is more than one of grim survival. His is a story of gratitude, grit and redemption. Co-workers at the hospital where he works call him "G". His first name is almost as hard for Americans to pronounce as his childhood experiences are for them to understand.

"G" carries happy, early memories of his home in a peaceful Sudanese village called Fangak. Some of his best memories are of the cows. During the dry season, families took their cows to Cow Camp where there was water and food. Gatjang's job was to care for one of his father's calves.

FOREVER CHANGED

When "G" was about nine years old, the war reached his village. While the northern army burned the village, men from the Sudanese People's Liberation Army (SPLA) came to take all the boys ages five and up. Gatjang was taken from his family and walked, along with thousands of other boys, to an Ethiopian refugee camp as one of the Lost Boys.

Conditions in the camp were desperate. Food was scarce and poor sanitation spread serious illness. About 40 boys died every week, but "G" managed to survive there for about five years.

Gatjang recalls the night Ethiopian rebels forced the Lost Boys to leave Ethiopia and cross the Gilo River.

"We got there at 4 a.m. and the water was high," he says. "The rebels were following us and shooting to kill us. I could not swim. A friend said, 'I can swim. Hold on to my shoulder.' He swam, and I held on. We made it across."

CHILD SOLDIERS

After crossing the Gilo River, the boys were back in southern Sudan. At about 14 years old, "G" was handed an AK47 and pressed to fight alongside the SPLA. For the next four years, he and his young friends did combat. Many boys died fighting.

In 1998 Gatjang was released from being a child soldier. "We walked for three months back to Ethiopia," he says. "The walking had to be done at night because water was scarce, and the heat was unbearable. Many died on the path from fatigue and illness." Finally, they reached a United Nations refugee camp where, at about 18 years of age, "G" started school in the second grade.

A CHANCE FOR NEW LIFE

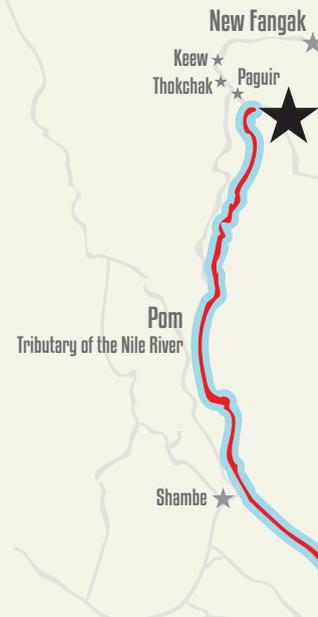
Through the United Nations refugee resettlement program in 2000, "G" flew to Dallas, Texas. With a lot of help and a lot of hope, he began his new life learning English, earning his GED and acquiring training to become a medical technician. He has been employed at Harris Hospital in Fort Worth, Texas, since 2008.

SUDAN

VILLAGE HELP FOUNDATION

TRAVEL ROUTE

for funded VHF children



From Old Fangak to Bor is a 5-6 day trip by boat. They will relax here for a day.

From Bor to Juba is a 5-7 hour trip by boat. They will stay in Juba and rest for a day.

They will travel by bus to Nimule. They will be here until they get paperwork to cross the border. Completed paperwork will be given to migration at the border.

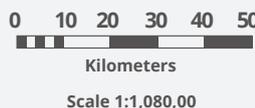
When they go to school, they will take a bus to **Kampala** 3.5 hours and then to **Jinja** 2 hours.

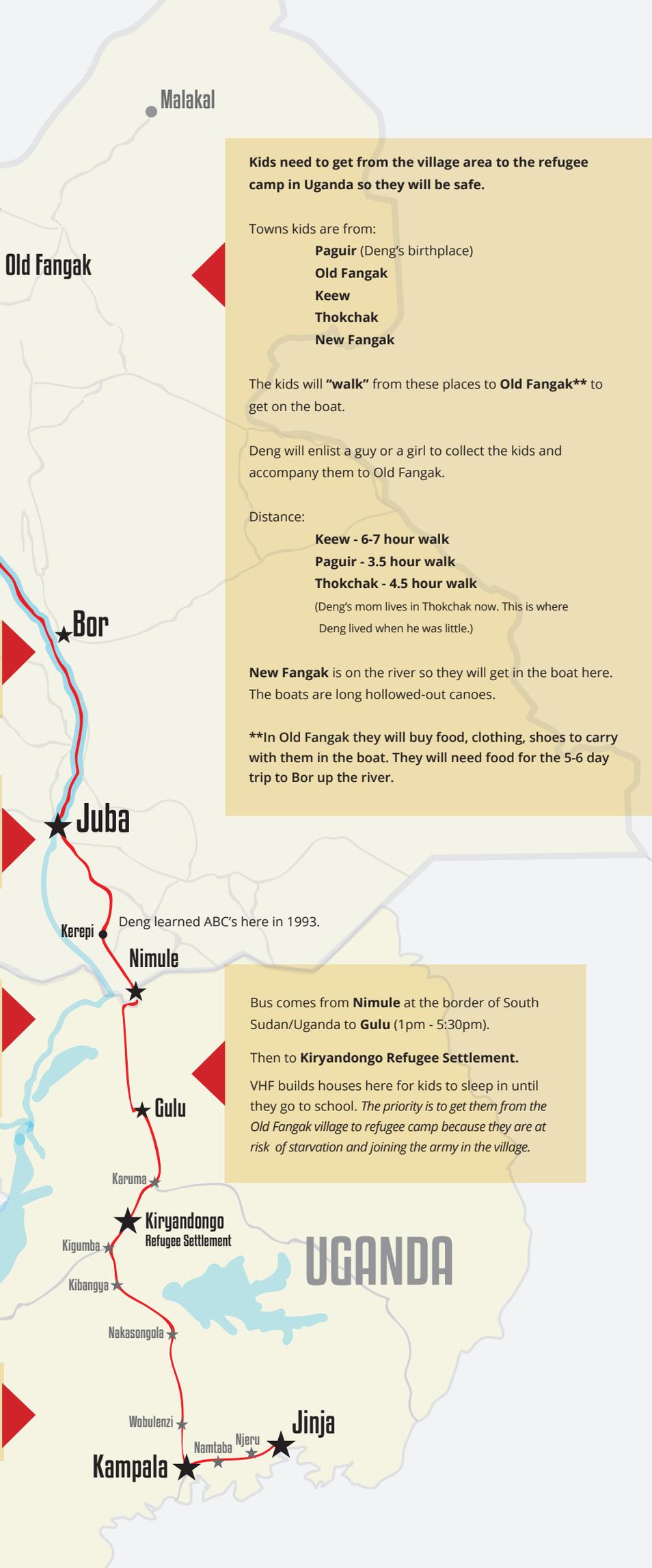


CENTRAL AFRICA REPUBLIC

SOUTH SUDAN

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO





Kids need to get from the village area to the refugee camp in Uganda so they will be safe.

Towns kids are from:

- Paguir** (Deng's birthplace)
- Old Fangak**
- Keew**
- Thokchak**
- New Fangak**

The kids will "walk" from these places to **Old Fangak**** to get on the boat.

Deng will enlist a guy or a girl to collect the kids and accompany them to Old Fangak.

Distance:

- Keew - 6-7 hour walk**
- Paguir - 3.5 hour walk**
- Thokchak - 4.5 hour walk**

(Deng's mom lives in Thokchak now. This is where Deng lived when he was little.)

New Fangak is on the river so they will get in the boat here. The boats are long hollowed-out canoes.

****In Old Fangak** they will buy food, clothing, shoes to carry with them in the boat. They will need food for the 5-6 day trip to Bor up the river.

Bus comes from **Nimule** at the border of South Sudan/Uganda to **Gulu** (1pm - 5:30pm).

Then to **Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement**.

VHF builds houses here for kids to sleep in until they go to school. *The priority is to get them from the Old Fangak village to refugee camp because they are at risk of starvation and joining the army in the village.*

ETHIOPIA



KENYA



GETTING AN EDUCATION AGAINST ALL ODDS

....AN EDUCATION THAT WILL STEER THEM AWAY FROM
VIOLENCE AND RESET THEIR LIFE'S TRAJECTORY.

An estimated 19,000 children in South Sudan are living as child soldiers (UNICEF, July 2018). Some are forcibly recruited; however, lack of food, housing and security cause many to join the military voluntarily. As soldiers, children are assured food every day.

When basic survival needs are not met, education falls by the wayside, feeding a never-ending cycle of poverty and violence. This reality fuels Gatjang's motivation to rescue as many children as possible from a hopeless future. Through the Village Help Foundation, he has already proven that it works.

In 2011, Gatjang traveled to war-torn South Sudan to see how people in his village were faring. The human need could not be overstated: a community of orphans and widows were desperate to survive. He visited two special women, women he had known as a young child before he became a Lost Boy.

Gatjang first spent time with his mother and learned that his young brother, Riek, wanted to go to school. Gatjang's second visit was to a blind woman who was raising young Gatchang on her own. Riek and Gatchang attended "tree school" — children gathered under a tree with a teacher — that was held irregularly during dry seasons.

Gatjang recognized that he had the resources to give Riek and Gatchang a future — an education that would steer them away from violence and reset their life's trajectory. In 2012, with their mothers' blessing, he moved them from Fangak Village to Yei, near South Sudan's capital of Juba, where Gatjang's uncle and wife housed and fed them while they attended school.

In December, 2013, this arrangement was shattered as civil war broke out in Juba. Gatjang's uncle was killed in the violence, and Gatjang moved quickly, providing resources to move the boys to Uganda to a United Nations refugee camp. He also provided funds for building the boys a small house in the camp. As soon as possible, the boys were enrolled in another school, and in 2018, they graduated high school. With the support of the Village Help Foundation, they will enroll in college in Uganda.

Nationwide, 1.8 million children are out of school in South Sudan (UNICEF, 2018). The Village Help Foundation exists to provide a Christian education in a secure location for as many of these children as possible. They are the future of South Sudan.

PHOTO:
Riek Matai Deng—left
Gatchang Tot Bangoang—right

BUDGET PER STUDENT



BUDGET TO GET ORPHANS TO KIRYANDONGO REFUGEE CAMP



**Clothes needed for refugee camp and when not in school uniform. Backpack to store clothes in.



BUDGET PER YEAR FOR EACH STUDENT'S EDUCATION



PRIMARY STUDENT

- TUITION**
[3 terms per year]
\$150 per term
- SCHOOL SUPPLIES**
[3 terms per year]
\$130 per term
- ROOM & BOARD**
\$135 per year
- UNIFORM | SCHOOL BACKPACK**
\$70 uniforms/\$50 backpack

\$1,095 per year



SECONDARY STUDENT

- TUITION**
SCHOOL SUPPLIES
ROOM & BOARD
[3 terms per year]
\$300 per term
- BACKPACK**
\$50

\$950 per year



COLLEGE STUDENT

- APPLICATION FEE**
\$20
- TUITION**
[3 terms per year]
\$450 per term
- SCHOOL SUPPLIES**
[3 terms per year]
\$250 per term
- APARTMENT RENT & UTILITIES**
\$175 per month This is half the amount required for one apartment. Two boys will share assuming they are both accepted.
- APARTMENT SETUP**
\$500 This is half the amount required for one apartment. Two boys will share assuming they are both accepted.
- COMPUTER**
\$250
- CLOTHES AND SHOES**
\$250

\$5,220 per year



DONATE ONLINE

Your unrestricted donations to villagehelpfoundation.org help us raise awareness and provide essential support to empower and educate orphans in South Sudan.

DONATIONS CAN BE MADE FOR CRITICAL NEEDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS.

Give online @ villagehelpfoundation.org.

A NEW NATION TORN APART

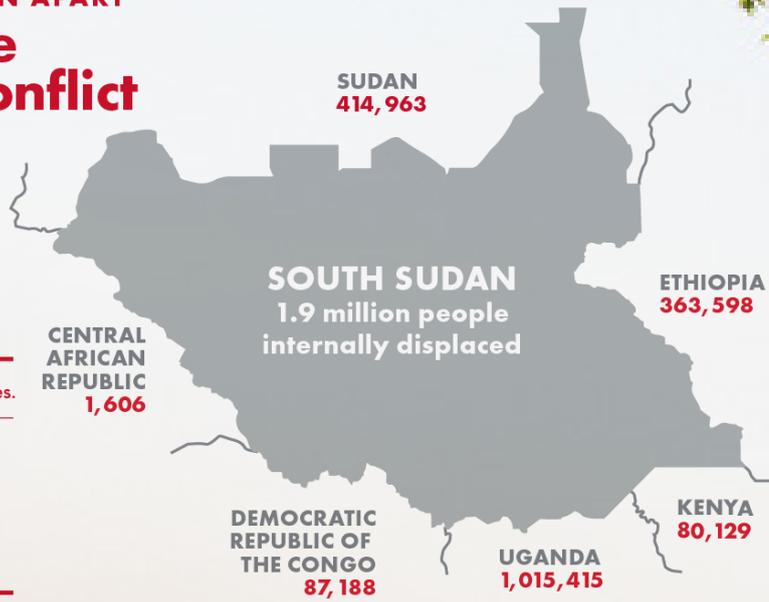
Families flee to escape conflict

Conflict in the world's newest nation has spread across the country, creating a severe humanitarian crisis. **South Sudan has the third largest refugee crisis**, after Syria and Afghanistan.

3.7 million have fled their homes.



6 out of 10 South Sudanese refugees are children.





EDUCATING & EMPOWERING ORPHANS OF SOUTH SUDAN

VILLAGE HELP
FOUNDATION



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DONATING TO CHARITY WITH THE VILLAGE HELP FOUNDATION PROVIDES RELIEF TO A CHILD IN DANGER.

HIV/AIDS Unsafe Water Malnutrition Poor/No Education Medical Challenges Malaria