

Where Gardens Grow Dreams

At Marol Academy, Gogrial East County, Warrap State, the sound of children laughing at the compound as they water rows of zucchini, okra, and tomatoes growing in the school garden. The same laughter trickles down the corridors at lunch, as they enjoy their lunch. What began as part of the World Food Programme (WFP), supported school feeding programme has grown into something much more, a source of nourishment, learning, and hope

Mr. Daniel Akuei, the school's headteacher, proudly explains how the garden has transformed both the classroom and the community. "With our vegetables, we supplement the meals given to the school by WFP. Now, we eat more balanced meals." The impact on the children is clear. Before the programme, many pupils came to school hungry, often too weak or tired to concentrate. Today, they receive nutritious meals that provide the energy and nutrition their growing bodies need. Balanced meals enriched with vegetables have strengthened the children's immunity, reduced fatigue, and improved their ability to participate fully in class. Nyayual, the head girl, shares her joy: "I love coming to school because I get to eat and learn. When we work in the garden, I feel proud. I even taught my mother how to grow sukuma (kale) at home."



Parents also see the change. Children now return home more energetic and eager to share what they have learned, both in the classroom and in the garden. With fewer cases of malnutrition and better concentration levels, many parents believe education has become more valuable and worthwhile for their families. Schools like St. Joseph, have seen a higher enrolment and retention of students that continues to grow with each new term. The school feeding programme is not just feeding children; it is cultivating resilience. By combining daily meals with vegetable gardening, the programme ensures that education and nutrition go hand in hand. Healthier children are staying in school, learning better, and dreaming bigger, building a brighter future for themselves and their community.



 SAADO

Part of the okra gardens

Call To Action

While the progress is remarkable, the need remains great. Thousands of children across Gogrial East still attend school on empty stomachs, limiting their ability to learn and thrive. With continued and increased donor support, Smile Again Africa Development Organization (SAADO) is delivering school feeding to 27 schools and enabling access to nutritious meals for more than 15,000 children and their families. Every additional contribution strengthens the foundation of education and gives children the chance to grow, not only in body but also in mind and spirit. Together, we can ensure no child is forced to choose between hunger and learning.

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