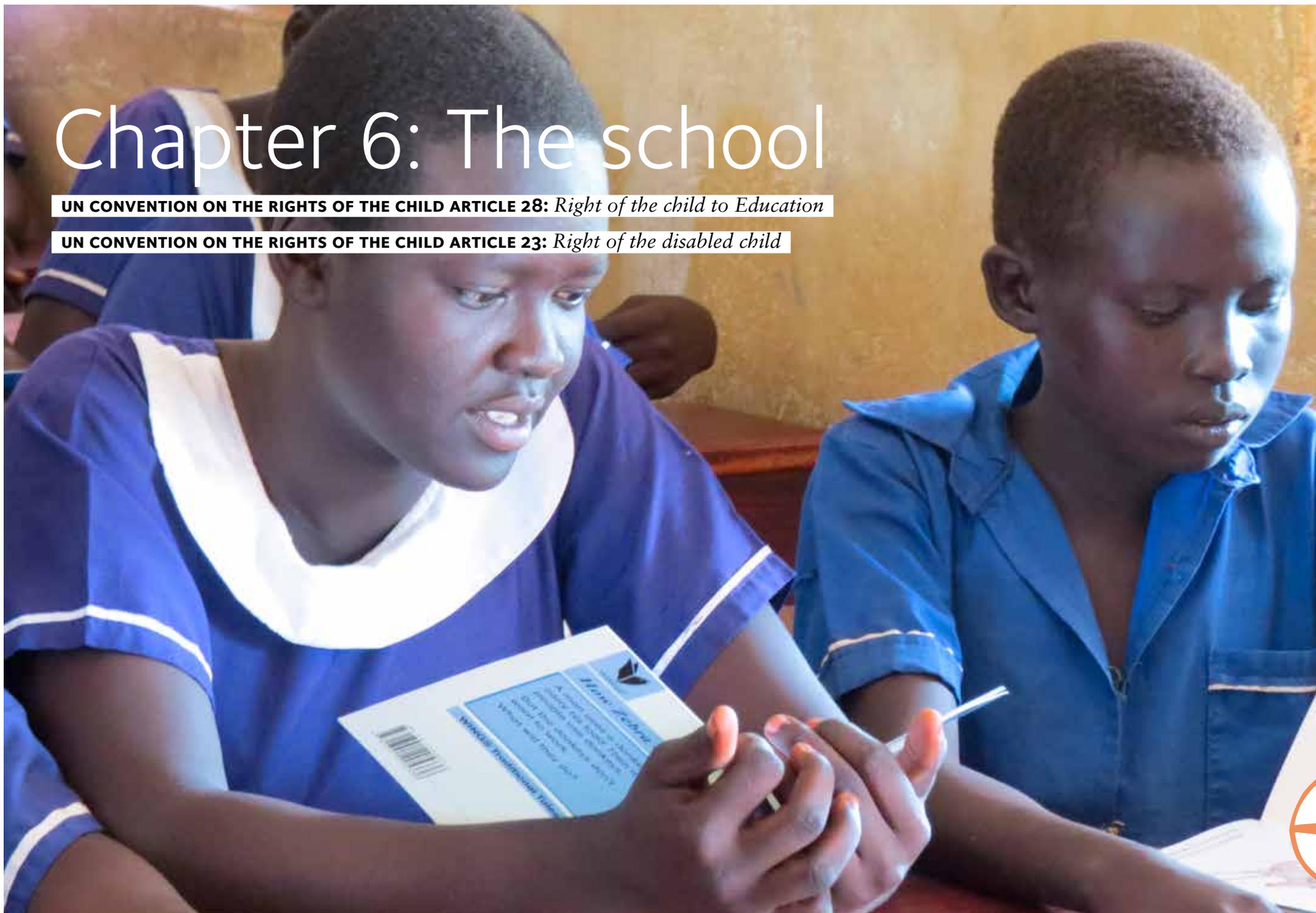


# Chapter 6: The school

**UN CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD ARTICLE 28:** *Right of the child to Education*

**UN CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD ARTICLE 23:** *Right of the disabled child*



# 6: The school

ARTICLE 28 *Right of the child to Education* ARTICLE 23 *Right of the disabled child*

## TABAN, 10 YEARS OLD SAYS:

” Very good! I just managed to finish writing my maths assignment in my notebook. Now I and my sisters Buywa and Bukala had better hurry up to the big mango tree where we are meeting our friends Lillibeth and Bennet so we can go to school together.

Our school, Lunjini School, is located at a short distance outside our town. It takes about ten minutes for us to walk there, but many of the pupils in our class have to walk for more than an hour to get there and some even walk for 2 hours. Suddenly our Headteacher passes on his bicycle because he lives quite near our home.

My class is called P4 and there are 52 pupils in the class. Lillibeth and I are in the same class. It is odd because I am 10 and she is 12. Lillibeth started one year too late, because she could not walk to school alone during the war. Then she had to repeat one year because she did not pass the year-end test. Now she is the best in the class!

Our school day starts with all the classes gathering on the grass in front of the school buildings. We stand in straight lines, class by class. My teacher Alex asks me to pray the morning prayer. I am very proud and happy to be asked. Then we all sing together the national anthem of South Sudan.

Time for lessons. I like Natural Science the most, but today we have Maths and that is quite interesting. First the teacher goes over the

assignment on the blackboard and we have to copy everything he writes from the board into our books. Then we do some examples.

In my class there is a boy, Daniel, who cannot hear. When I call Daniel, he does not come and I have to run over to him and touch him. Then he turns around and looks straight into my face. If I talk clearly and slowly Daniel can understand me. In the classroom he always sits in the front and watches the teacher all the time. It seems to be quite hard. Daniel can only talk very little and it is difficult to understand what he wants to say, but if he points and shows it is usually possible to understand. Sometimes he writes what he wants to say. He writes very distinctly and fast, and when we have tests he almost always gives the right answers. I think he is a very kind person and I like to play with him, but some of the children tease him and imitate his way of talking.

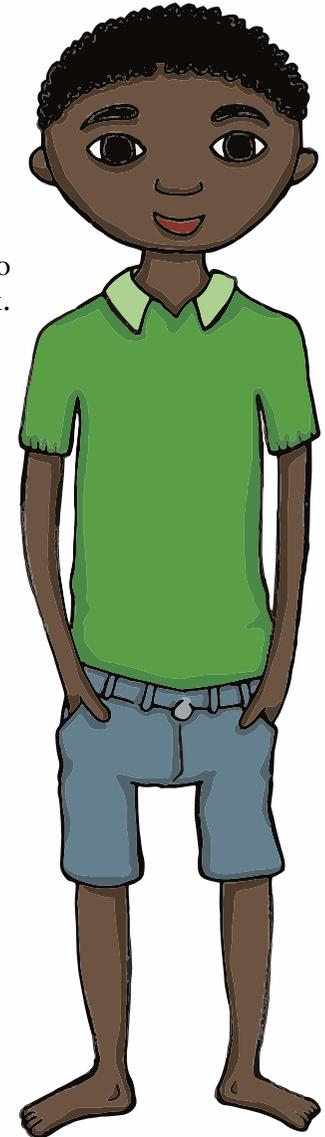
After the maths lesson we have a break. Then I play football with my friends. The girls play hopscotch. Lillibeth is very good at playing hopscotch, although I know she would prefer to play football, but none of the other girls does.

Suddenly we hear Lillibeth and some of the other girls quarrelling. They are fighting over the rules. One of the girls has got so cross, she pulls Lillibeth's school uniform so that the seams break. All three of them are called to the Headteacher's office. We can hear the whiplashes when the girl is punished.

After the break we have CRE (Creative Education) and we have to start by walking to the river to fetch clay. Suddenly my foot slips down into the clay and I am stuck. I get somewhat scared but my classmate John comes and saves me. He helps me up.

During the lunch-break we go to some of the mothers sitting near the school selling sugarcane, cassava, peanut butter, beans and some other things. All things are 1 SSP (South Sudanese Pound) each.

During the lunch break the young pupils are called to the big tree in the schoolyard. Hospital-staff have arrived to give them vaccinations against polio. You recognize the hospital people



because they have yellow caps. Bukala and her friends are standing around the nurses with open mouths. A nurse drips two drops of vaccine into Bukala's mouth, then the assistant takes her hand and puts a mark with an ink pen on her little finger nail to mark that the vaccination is done. That way they don't miss anyone and the parents know that the vaccination has been done.

The last lesson today is Natural Science and we learn how flowers work. First the teacher talks and writes on the blackboard and we copy what he writes carefully in our note-books. This time we also draw a flower with stamens and pistils. When school is over we walk back to the town all together. Now it is time to help at home.



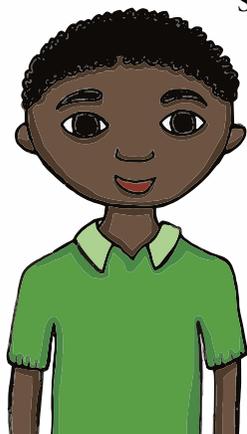


## THE SCHOOL

The school system in South Sudan has its origin in the Scottish school system, since the first missionaries, the Frasers came from Scotland. Primary School has eight grades and the pupils normally start when they are 6 years old. Secondary School consists of four grades and the pupils must have passed the examination in the eighth grade of Primary School to enter secondary education. After successfully passing the Secondary School leaving exam you are qualified to apply for college or university.

At the moment there are four schools in Lui, three Primary Schools and one Secondary School. One of the Primary School is run by Lui Diocese, it is called Lunjini

Girls Academy Primary School. The other schools are run by the local government: two Primary School and one secondary school. Although some of them are called 'Girls' school, there are both boys and girls in all schools.



In some villages around Lui there are schools in brick buildings set up by the government. There are also many schools run by the church or by different organisations. In those the standard can be very basic. There can be three classrooms in a clay building with only a fence of sticks between the classrooms, a blackboard and children writing in the sand on the ground. Some groups can have their classroom under a tree.

## LUNJINI GIRLS ACADEMY PRIMARY SCHOOL

This school is located east of Lui. The school is run by Lui Diocese and was originally built to give girls an opportunity to go to school. That is the reason for the name, Lunjini Girls Academy. The school has kept the name even though there are both boys and girl in the school now. The Diocese of Lund, Sweden, Missouri Diocese, USA and Blackmore Vale Deanery/ Salisbury Diocese, England support the school economically.

## PUPILS

There were 723 pupils registered in Lunjini School at the start of term in 2012, about the same number of boys as girls. In the preparation

class there were 99 pupils, in P1–P5 there were approx. 100 pupils in each grade, in P6 there were 56 pupils, in P7 42 pupils and in the last grade, P8 there were 38 pupils. Higher up in grades there are less pupils because there are many who don't complete the whole primary education. There are also pupils of different ages in the higher grades because some have started late, and some have repeated grades because they did not pass the end-of-year test.

All of the children walk to and from school. There are no bicycles or buses available. They have to walk up to 5 km (3 miles) and that can take up to two hours each way. Especially those who live west of the town have a long way to walk.

## ORGANISATION

There are eight grades in the primary school, P1–P8 and a preparatory group, P1b. Many children did not have the possibility of going to school for many years because of war and lack of money and the pupils in Lunjini School are between 6 and 19 years old.

The school fee is 20 SSP/year in the preparatory class, 32 SSP/year in P1–P4, 52 SSP/year in P5–P7 and 62 SSP/year in P8 including

10 SSP for printing of national examination sheets. The pupils also need to pay for a school uniform, note-book and pencil.

## SCHOOL MEALS

Today there is no possibility for the school to serve food, so the children have no lunch. It is something they would like to do and hope to do in the future. It would be good if they could serve one meal a day, like porridge.

In the breaks there are people from the market selling mango, cassava bread, earthnut paste etc. Everything costs 1 SSP each. Unfortunately not all pupils have the money to buy. Some pupils bring their own food from home.

## EDUCATION

On the 15th of January every year registration starts for the new school year. There are three terms in a school year; February – May, 10–14 days of break, June – September, 10–14 days of break, September – mid-December, then 1 ½ month holidays.

Subjects taught are English, Mother tongue (Moru), Mathematics,



# Facts



Religion, Social Studies, Science, Agriculture, PE (Physical Education), CRE (Creative Education).

Each teacher teaches several subjects and in different grades.

## EXAMS

To receive a final Diploma from Primary School you must pass a national test at the end of P8 in English, Mathematics, Science and three additional subjects. The tests are available at the National School Ministry in Juba and the pupils must pay a fee, 10 SSP for printing of the examination sheets. If you don't pass the exam, you can repeat P8 and do the test again the next year.

## PERSONNEL

Some of the teachers are hired by the government and have a salary paid by them. Others work as volunteers hired by the school board and are paid when and if there is money. There is a big lack of trained teachers in Lui and in South Sudan.

## SCHOOL BUILDINGS

When the school started, buildings of clay with thatched roofs were built in the traditional way of

building in Lui. That was not, however, enough room for all the children coming, so much of the teaching was done outside in the shade of big trees. The need for school buildings has been a big problem since the school started and it still is. At the moment there are six classrooms in three brick buildings.

## SCHOOL UNIFORM

It is obligatory to wear a school uniform. The uniforms have different colours depending on which school you are in. The cost of the uniform is the responsibility of the family.

In Lunjini School the uniforms are blue with white details. The girls wear a dress and the boys wear shorts and shirt. In the market you can have a uniform made. You buy the cloth, thread, ribbons and buttons and order the uniform from a dressmaker.

For a boy 6-10 year old you need 1 metre (3 ft) cloth for the shorts and 1.5 metres (4.5 ft) for the shirt.

For a girl's dress you need 2 metres (6 ft) for a 6-year-old and 2.5 metres (7.5 ft) for a 10-year-old

and 1 metre (3 ft) of white cloth for four dresses.

The cloth is a mixture of 65% polyester and 35% cotton and it costs 10 SSP/metre.

The boy's shorts have a lighter blue colour and the cloth contains nylon as well.

Costs for buttons, thread and zips were 8 SSP.

## THE PAYMENTS TO THE DRESSMAKER:

2 shirts – 40 SSP

2 pair of shorts – 30 SSP

2 dresses – 50 SSP

*TOTAL – 120 SSP (All prices are from November 2013)*

## DAILY ROUTINE

A day at school starts with a gathering of all the pupils class by class in the school yard. One of the teachers talks about problems from the day before or subjects for rejoicing. One of the pupils is asked to lead the morning prayers and after that they all sing the national hymn together. ([www.goss.org](http://www.goss.org)).

After that they all go to their

classrooms for lessons. In the middle of the day there is a longer break, when it is possible to buy lunch. School is over at 3.00 p.m.

This is the way it should be, but unfortunately on many days the pupils have to go home earlier. That is because there are not enough teachers at school and the teachers sometimes have to do other things like go to a funeral or to the hospital.

## VACCINATIONS AND POLIO

See Chapter 4 *The hospital*.

## CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

For pupils with disability there are at the moment no special resources at the school, but the school's purpose is to meet every child's individual needs. South Sudan Evangelical Mission (SEM) is an organisation working to enhance the situation for disabled people. They plan to set up resource centres in towns in the area including Lui. Lui hospital is in contact with SEM concerning crutches, wheelchairs, spectacles etc.

South Sudan Evangelical Mission, earlier Sudan Evangelical Mission (SEM) is an organisation based on Christian values located



# Facts



in Mundri East (Including Lui),  
Mundri West and Mvolo Counties  
in Western Equatorial State.

Read more about SEM's work  
on <http://www.ssemonline.org/>

## LANGUAGE

The language spoken in Lui is  
called Moru and belongs to the  
Nilo-saharian group of languages.  
The letters are almost the same  
as the ones used in English. L is  
pronounced like r.

*Some words in moru:*

(Moru – English Dictionary, 2007,  
printed with permission of SIL,  
Summer Institute of Linguistics,  
Jemia Printers, Nairobi, Kenya)

aróboya -thank, thank you

kusu –bow, gun

ngaga –child

mbeyi –rope hanger

Lu –God

Opi – Lord

Aroboya Luri –thank God

## Numbers

1 – alo

2 –ri

3 – na

4 –su

5 –nji

6 –njidrialo (5-hand + 1)

7 –njidrieri (5-hand + 2)

8 –njidriena (5-hand + 3)

9 – njidriesu (5-hand + 4)

10 –bute

11 –bute panga alo

100 –bute bute

## *sounds in Moru expressing feelings*

In South Sudan different sounds are  
used to express feelings. Here are  
some examples.

A click sound deep in the throat  
means that you agree and think  
something is very good.

If you say “tytyty” with your  
tongue to the front of your mouth,  
you tell that you are surprised. That  
can be strengthened with a slap  
with your hand to your upper leg.  
Then you show that you are very  
surprised.

When it hurts you say “a-a-a”  
with the help of support from your  
stomach. If it hurts because of heat,  
like if you have burnt yourself

you say “sassassassassa” and if  
it hurts because of cold you say  
“sississississi”.

## TALKING WITH GESTURES

Many times we make gestures  
to strengthen something we say or  
instead of talking. In South Sudan  
you can say good-bye by waving  
your hand sideways with the back  
of the hand towards yourself.

When you want someone to  
come you, fold your fingers several  
times with the back of the hand  
towards yourself.

To say no, you can move your  
index-finger from side to side.

When you point to someone  
with your index-finger, that person  
should be careful.

If you put a finger in your mouth  
it means you are wrong or that  
someone did something wrong.





**SUGGESTION 1**  
*Conversation*

**CHILD RIGHTS CONVENTION**

In article 28 in the Child Rights Convention you can read that primary education should be compulsory, available and free for all. How is it in your country? How is it in Lui?

In Britain there is a law to forbid teachers from beating children since 2004. Also parents may only smack their children in a reasonable way. How is it in Lui? The girl in the story was punished with whiplashes. What do you think about that?

Article 23 in the Child Rights Conventions is about the disabled child. Daniel in the story is hard of hearing. What kind of help is there for hard of hearing and deaf children in your country? What kind of help is there for children with other disabilities?

**BASIC FEELINGS**

Talk about the feelings occurring in the story. The girls in the fight both get very sad, but for different reasons. Why? What can make you sad?

Taban gets scared when his foot slips. What scares you?



**SUGGESTION 2**  
*Prayers*

**BIBLE WORDS**

The twelve year old Jesus in the temple (Luke 2:41-52)

Jesus teaches (The Sermon on the Mount) (Matthew 5 1-10)

Chose something Jesus teaches about such as:

Praying (Matthew 6: 5-13)

Light-heartedness

(Matthew 6: 25-34)

The Golden Rule (Matthew 7:12)

The house on the mountain and the house on sand (Matthew 7:24-28)

**SÅNGFÖRSLAG:**

I'm black, I'm white, I'm short, I'm tall (CAHON 832)

The ink is black, the page Is white (CJP 601)

Jesus wants me for a sunbeam ([www.lds.org/music/library/childrens-songbook/jesus-wants-me-for-a-sunbeam?lang=eng](http://www.lds.org/music/library/childrens-songbook/jesus-wants-me-for-a-sunbeam?lang=eng))

**PRAYER**

God, we pray for all children on the earth. Let them all grow up in safe environments and not be harmed by others. Help all children so that they can go to school, make friends and learn what they need to know later in life. Amen





### SUGGESTION 3

*The National Anthem*

Listen to the national anthem from South Sudan and try to sing it.

You can find it on [www.goss.org](http://www.goss.org)

### SUGGESTION 4

*Mathematics*

Make a maths exercise out of the costs for making school uniforms. (See Facts)



### SUGGESTION 5

*Playing hopscotch*

Draw the lines for a hopscotch like in the picture. Every child who is participating uses a marker, i.e. a pebble, a pinecone, a piece of broken sticks. The first child throws the marker into square 1. If the marker stays in the square you start jumping on one leg in the rectangles and with one leg in each when the rectangle is divided into two. Jump to 9/10, turn, jump back the same way and pick up the marker on the way. Then throw the marker to square 2. Keep on until you miss a throw, then the next person starts.

Continue throwing the marker into all 10 squares. Then you throw the marker to the other side of the hopscotch, to number 11. Hide your head by pulling up your shirt and jump in blind to number 11. Stand with your back to the hopscotch and throw the marker to square 8. When you succeed you jump to number



1. On your way back to 11, the sand in the rectangle number 8 is rubbed to be dark. Continue to do the same thing with number 5, 2 and 1: Throw the maker, jump the hopscotch and rub the rectangle dark.

When all the rectangles are dark you are ready. Who is first? You can have many hopscotches next to each other and jump at the same time or you take turns on the one and change when someone makes a mistake.

11

9	10
8	
6	7
5	
3	4
2	
1	



### SUGGESTION 6

*Play with clay marbles.*

Make your own marbles of clay and play marbles like the children in Lui do.

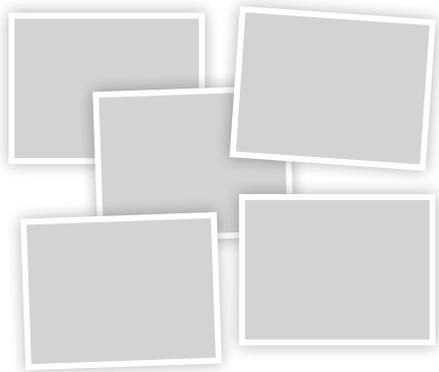
Two people play against each other and put out the marbles according to the figure below. X starts by taking one of the marbles and try to hit one of the O-marbles. If it hits, X wins the O-marble and puts it in the line of X-marbles. You play until one person owns all the marbles.

x x x x x x

o o o o o o

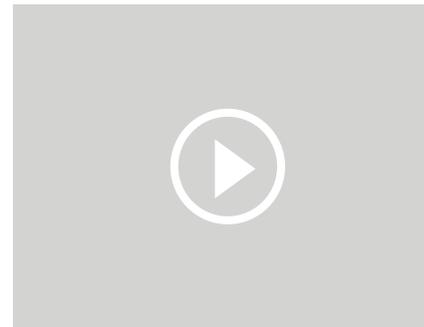


# Resources



## PICTURES

On the way to school  
Lunjini School  
School bell  
The parade  
The parade 2  
Classroom, Lunjini School  
Writing on the blackboard  
Teaching outside  
Teaching, countryside school  
Writing in the sand  
Exam under a tree  
School uniform, girls  
Playing hopscotch  
Playing marbles, boys in school uniform



## VIDEO-CLIPS

The parade  
Playing hopscotch  
Jumping game

