



Students read books received as prizes during the opening of the Educational Resource Center in Kauda, Blue Nile state, June 2009. Photo: Creative Associates International.

All were delighted by the range of opportunities the center afforded.

The visiting students celebrated with songs, dances, and a poem entitled “The Plight of the Girl Child,” about an adolescent girl forced to marry and leave school at a very young age. The poetry moved some at the launch to want to redress this plight and a spontaneous fundraiser to support girls’ education began. More than 300 Sudanese pounds (\$150) was raised, and the money was handed over to the school headmaster in the presence of over 300 teachers, learners and other community members.

New Resource Center Brings Information to the Nuba Mountains

In the remote Nuba Mountains, information from the outside world has always come at a premium. But in June, the Internet came to a group of teachers, students and community members in Kauda, Blue Nile state, and its introduction changed the way some people thought about girls’ education.

The USAID-sponsored Educational Resource Center is part of the Health Education and Reconciliation (HEAR Sudan) project, implemented by Creative Associates International. The center is the first of its kind in Kauda, and is available to teachers, student teachers and students in the community and its environs. The center has a well-stocked library as well as electronic resources, including state-of-the-art Internet facilities.

The launch of the center attracted political leaders, government officials from the regional education and health offices and students from the nearby St. Vincent Primary School and Kauda Model School.

The money paid off outstanding school fees for one of the girls who helped recite the poem so that she could finish out the school year. She was understandably thrilled.

Teachers, pupils, staff from the Education and Health Ministries, and members of the general public area now doing research and other tasks at the new Educational Resource Center.

The students who attended the launch were given school books. For one of the Kauda students, Najua, it was her first book. She wrote carefully on the inside cover, “It was on the 17th of June, 2009 when I went to Kauda for the opening of the ERC by HEAR Sudan that I got this book.” ♦

A Radio Exchange Program Fosters Peace through Journalists

The eight reporters jammed into the studio of Nhomlaau FM were dancing, laughing, singing, and the community in this remote corner of Northern