

114TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 6006

To establish a pilot program to provide fellowships to certain former Sudanese refugees, known as the “Lost Boys and Lost Girls of Sudan”, to assist in reconstruction efforts in South Sudan.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 13, 2016

Ms. BASS (for herself, Mr. CAPUANO, Ms. LEE, Mr. CICILLINE, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. CONYERS, Ms. MOORE, Ms. PLASKETT, Mr. ELLISON, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, and Ms. CLARKE of New York) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

A BILL

To establish a pilot program to provide fellowships to certain former Sudanese refugees, known as the “Lost Boys and Lost Girls of Sudan”, to assist in reconstruction efforts in South Sudan.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Lost Boys and Girls
5 Rebuilding Infrastructure to Sustain Enduring Peace in
6 South Sudan Act” or the “Lost Boys and Girls RISE
7 Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 Congress finds the following:

3 (1) The 21-year civil war between the North
4 and the South in Sudan, which ended with the sign-
5 ing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement on Janu-
6 ary 9, 2005, caused many Sudanese people to flee
7 their homes to seek refuge elsewhere in Sudan, in
8 neighboring countries, and in the United States.

9 (2) During the civil war, government troops
10 burned villages in southern Sudan, killed the adults,
11 and enslaved both women and girls. Among the refu-
12 gees from the conflict was a group of at least 20,000
13 children, aged 5 to 17 years, who were homeless or-
14 phans as a result of the war.

15 (3) The children suffered tremendous hardships
16 during their flight, enduring attacks not only from
17 the army and marauding bandits but also from lions
18 and hyenas. Many others died from starvation or
19 thirst.

20 (4) A few years after the children arrived at the
21 Panyindo refugee camp in Ethiopia, armed soldiers
22 forced them to leave the camp by crossing the swol-
23 len Gilo River, and at least 1,000 children either
24 drowned or were eaten by crocodiles while they
25 crossed. The children then began their journey to a
26 refugee camp in Kenya.

1 (5) In 1999, the United Nations High Commis-
2 sioner for Refugees determined that repatriation was
3 no longer an option for these children. Approxi-
4 mately 3,800 of the 20,000 children were granted
5 priority resettlement status in the United States,
6 with minors placed in foster homes and those over
7 18 resettled as adults throughout the United States
8 with assistance from the Department of Health and
9 Human Services.

10 (6) The story of these children, known as the
11 “Lost Boys and Lost Girls of Sudan”, has been doc-
12 umented in a number of books and films in the
13 United States.

14 (7) The Lost Boys and Lost Girls of Sudan
15 have acquired a reputation for being a resilient and
16 highly motivated group of individuals, with many of
17 them gaining employment and pursuing higher edu-
18 cation simultaneously.

19 (8) Many of the Lost Boys and Lost Girls of
20 Sudan have publically expressed interest in return-
21 ing to their homeland to contribute to reconstruction
22 efforts.

23 (9) South Sudan is currently engulfed in a new
24 civil war and faces a humanitarian catastrophe and
25 an upsurge of violence between ethnic groups. Many

1 of the Lost Boys and Lost Girls have gained experi-
2 ence, education, and skills in the United States, and
3 want to return to South Sudan to assist in efforts
4 to rebuild the infrastructure of the country.

5 **SEC. 3. PILOT PROGRAM TO ASSIST RECONSTRUCTION EF-**
6 **FORTS IN THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH SUDAN.**

7 (a) PILOT PROGRAM.—

8 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator of the
9 United States Agency for International Development
10 (in this Act referred to as the “Administrator”)
11 shall establish a pilot program to provide fellowships
12 to up to 500 eligible individuals to assist in devel-
13 oping agricultural, business development, edu-
14 cational, medical, technological, or transportation in-
15 frastructure in South Sudan.

16 (2) DURATION.—

17 (A) IN GENERAL.—The pilot program es-
18 tablished under paragraph (1) shall begin on
19 the date on which the Administrator determines
20 that the condition specified under subparagraph
21 (B) is satisfied and shall terminate on the date
22 that is three years after the date of such deter-
23 mination.

24 (B) CONDITIONS SPECIFIED.—The pilot
25 program may begin after the Secretary of State

determines that it is safe for United States citizens, especially citizens of Sudanese or South Sudanese descent, to travel to South Sudan and lifts the general travel warning for South Sudan.

(3) ADMINISTRATOR AND STAFF.—The Administrator shall detail not fewer than two full-time employees of the Agency to conduct the following:

(A) Identifying and recruiting individuals who would be eligible, pursuant to subsection (b), to participate in the pilot program.

(B) Evaluating applications submitted by individuals to participate in the pilot program.

(C) Approving methods proposed by individuals participating in the pilot program to provide assistance in accordance with paragraph (1).

(D) Preparing orientation and debriefing materials, regarding South Sudan and the nature of the assistance provided through the pilot program, to be given to individuals participating in the pilot program not later than one week before and one week after such participation, respectively.

1 (E) Assisting individuals participating in
2 the pilot program to locate adequate housing in
3 South Sudan for the duration of their participa-
4 tion.

5 (F) Distributing to individuals partici-
6 pating in the pilot program any amounts
7 awarded under subsection (c).

8 (b) ELIGIBILITY.—An individual shall be eligible to
9 participate in the pilot program if the individual—

10 (1) is a citizen of the United States;

11 (2) was admitted to the United States as a ref-
12 ugee under section 207 of the Immigration Nation-
13 ality Act (8 U.S.C. 1157) from a refugee camp in
14 Africa and identified by the Secretary of State under
15 the worldwide refugee application processing priority
16 system as “Priority-2” (P-2); and

17 (3) commits to participating in the pilot pro-
18 gram for a period of not less than one year and not
19 more than three years.

20 (c) AWARD AMOUNT.—The Administrator may make
21 available to each individual participating in the pilot pro-
22 gram, on a first-come, first-served basis—

23 (1) any amount necessary to cover the round-
24 trip travel of such individual between the United
25 States and South Sudan;

1 (2) not more than \$300 per month, to cover
2 lodging and living expenses for the duration of the
3 participation of such individual;

4 (3) not more than \$25,000, over the duration
5 of such participation, toward the repayment of any
6 Federal student loan of such individual that is made,
7 insured, or guaranteed under title IV of the Higher
8 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070 et seq.) or
9 any other loan made, insured, or guaranteed by the
10 Federal Government to such individual for enroll-
11 ment in an institution of higher education, as de-
12 fined in section 102 of such Act (20 U.S.C. 1002);

13 (4) any amount necessary to cover costs in-
14 curred during such participation due to an emer-
15 gency or under exigent circumstances; and

16 (5) such other costs that the Administrator may
17 determine to be appropriate and associated with par-
18 ticipation in the pilot program.

19 (d) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
20 gress that, in carrying out the pilot program, the Adminis-
21 trator should—

22 (1) consult with the members of the “Lost Boys
23 and Lost Girls of Sudan” community in the United
24 States, for purposes of identifying potentially eligible

1 individuals and notifying such individuals about the
2 pilot program; and

3 (2) consider for participation in the pilot pro-
4 gram individuals who are recommended to the Ad-
5 ministrator by a Member of Congress.

6 (e) REPORT AND EVALUATION.—

7 (1) REPORT.—Not later than six months after
8 the date of the termination of the pilot program, the
9 Administrator shall submit to the appropriate con-
10 gressional committees a report summarizing the re-
11 sults of the pilot program and making recommenda-
12 tions for changes.

13 (2) EVALUATION BY INSPECTOR GENERAL.—
14 Not later than six months after the date of the en-
15 actment of this Act and annually thereafter until the
16 date of the termination of the pilot program, the In-
17 spector General of the United States Agency for
18 International Development shall submit to the ap-
19 propriate congressional committees a report evalu-
20 ating the pilot program.

21 (3) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-
22 TEES.—In this section, the term “appropriate con-
23 gressional committees” means the Committee on

- 1 Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives and
- 2 the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate.

