



# 2024 PROGRESS REPORT

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## OUR MISSION

Friends in Solidarity is a collaborative ministry initiated by Institutes of Women and Men Religious in the United States supporting the people of Africa, especially South Sudan, through capacity building initiatives that include the training of teachers, health care professionals and pastoral teams. Compelled by the suffering of our African brothers and sisters, we are committed to raising awareness of their situation and working in collaboration with the Church in Africa as it accompanies, equips and empowers the people to create a sustainable future where their full human potential may be realized.

## OUR VISION

We envision a just and peaceful society in Africa built upon the values of collaboration, inclusivity and solidarity between and among peoples, cultures, generations and nations.

## MODEL OF MINISTRY

Solidarity with South Sudan espouses a unique model of ministry, one of collaboration between congregations of men and women with different charisms coming from a variety of countries. It is inspired by the call of the Congress on Consecrated Life – Passion for Christ, Passion for Humanity, held in Rome in 2005. The Congress invited religious to search for... a new paradigm.....born of compassion for the scarred and downtrodden of the earth – around new priorities, new models of organization and open and flexible collaboration between men and women of goodwill

**Friends in Solidarity is inspired by this call and the collaborative model.**



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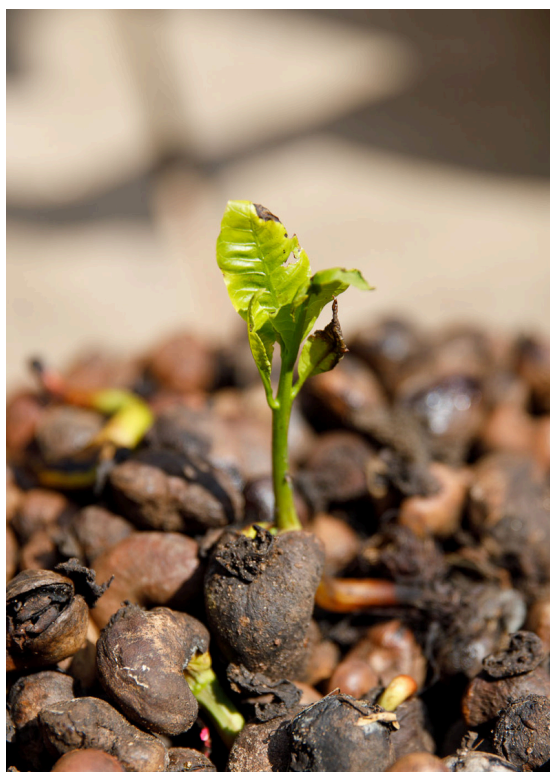
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# ACRONYMS

ADA – Austrian Development Agency  
CHTI – Catholic Health Training Institute  
CSA – Catholic Social Teaching  
CUSS – Catholic University of South Sudan  
CWA– Catholic Women Association  
ECD – Early Childhood Development  
FAO – Food and Agriculture Organization  
FIS – Friends in Solidarity  
GSPC – Good Shepard Peace Center  
MoGEI – Ministry of General Education and Instruction  
PHCC – Primary Health Care Center  
PS – Pre-Service  
PTSD – Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder  
SAP-R – Sustainable Agriculture Project in Riimenze  
SCBC – Sudan Catholic Bishops’ Conference  
SDCCH – St. Daniel Comboni Catholic Hospital  
SDG – Sustainable Development Goal  
STTC – Solidarity Teacher Training College  
SwSS – Solidarity with South Sudan  
UKOU – UK Open University  
UN – United Nations  
UNMISS – United Nations Mission in South Sudan  
USSRF – US-based Sudan Relief Fund  
WES – Western Equatoria State

# 2024 THE YEAR IN REVIEW

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In 2024, South Sudan faced significant challenges across humanitarian, economic, and political sectors. The humanitarian situation deteriorated due to the cumulative effects of years of conflict, intercommunal violence, food insecurity, and climate change. An estimated 9.4 million people, including 4.9 million children and over 300,000 refugees, required humanitarian assistance.

The country also experienced severe flooding, displacing thousands of families and exacerbating the humanitarian crisis.

Economically, South Sudan grappled with a collapsing currency, a significant drop in oil revenue, and the imposition of taxes on international aid and UN peacekeepers' supplies. These factors led to widespread strikes and abandonment of duties among civil servants, soldiers, police, and teachers, resulting in heightened criminal activity.

Politically, the government postponed general elections scheduled for December 2024 to December 2026, citing the need to complete institutional processes such as creating a census system, a permanent constitution, and registering political parties.

These developments underscore the complex challenges South Sudan faced in 2024, highlighting the urgent need for comprehensive humanitarian assistance, economic stabilization, and political reforms.



# FOREWORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends of FiS,

In the day-to-day operations of FiS, and in light of the ongoing humanitarian and development needs in South Sudan, sometimes all of the needs and challenges seem insurmountable.

However, in this progress report a different picture comes to light. A picture of small steps that have added up to making significant changes in the lives of individuals and communities.

Indeed, the journey of a thousand miles begins with one step and that is what FiS did at its founding and has continued to do due to your prayers and generous support.



**SR. MŪMBI  
KĪGŪTHA CPPS**

President, Friends in Solidarity

As you will read in this report, the dreams we have for South Sudan and the projects that we support there are big, however, we believe that they too will be realized in due time. With former students staffing our educational institutions and with more roles taken on by South Sudanese, Solidarity missionaries are able to give their time and expertise to visioning and growth. This has resulted in a teaching diploma, which allows those who have attained the two-year teaching certificate to upgrade their studies and qualify for university entrance when such an opportunity arises. In Wau, a new teacher's in-service program is moving ahead at full speed, with the demand far outweighing the supply.

At the Solidarity Agricultural Project, the missionaries have in recent days responded rapidly to newly displaced families as they arrived seeking safety and shelter, by providing farming implements and constructing ablution blocks, while also providing emergency food supplies in the interim. And the pastoral team continues to intervene by supporting trauma healing and faith formation around the country.



To visit South Sudan is to experience hope in action and this in large part is due to the overwhelming support from friends like you from all walks of life and from around the world. May this progress report also ignite an unshakeable hope in you our dear benefactors.

Shukran!

**Sr. Mūmbi Kīgūtha CPPS**

President, Friends in Solidarity



## HUMANITARIAN **CRISIS** AMID **ONGOING** CONFLICT

South Sudan, the world's newest nation, gained independence from Sudan in 2011 with hopes that its oil wealth would bring peace and prosperity. However, by December 2013, political tensions erupted into ethnic conflict between forces loyal to President Salva Kiir and those backing his former deputy, Riek Machar.

The 2018 Revitalized Peace Agreement aimed to end five years of civil war, establishing a power-sharing government with five vice presidents. Yet key provisions, such as the unification of rival military forces, remain unfulfilled. National elections, originally slated for December 2024, have now been delayed to December 2026—the fourth postponement under President Kiir—due to slow reform progress, low political will, and inadequate funding.

Recent unilateral actions, like the dismissal of senior officials without consultation, have raised concerns about violations of the power-sharing deal. Despite ongoing peace efforts, South Sudan's political future remains uncertain. Yet the resilience of its people continues to shine through. As Dr. John Garang de Mabior said, "Our journey is long, but our determination is stronger."

As of September 2024, catastrophic flooding affected over 735,000 people in 38 of 78 counties, compounding an already dire humanitarian crisis. The disaster worsened food insecurity, economic hardship, disease outbreaks, and the effects of conflict in both South Sudan and neighboring Sudan.



In 2024, 9 million people—including refugees—were projected to face urgent needs. Between April and July, 7.1 million required food assistance, with women and children most affected. As of September 2024, South Sudan had received 797,189 returnees, refugees, and asylum seekers, stretching its limited resources even further.

Nearly half the population—5.83 million people—faced high levels of acute food insecurity, and over 7.5 million were food insecure. Malnutrition affected 1.65 million children, highlighting the country's ongoing humanitarian emergency.

## **BUILDING RESILIENCE: FIS AND SWSS'S COMMITMENT TO SOUTH SUDAN**

This report highlights the progress of activities carried out through Friends in Solidarity's dedicated implementing partner, Solidarity with South Sudan (SwSS). The partnership between FIS and SwSS continues to foster impactful interventions in education, healthcare, trauma healing, agriculture, pastoral care, and community empowerment, driving positive change in the lives of those affected by conflict.





# CATHOLIC HEALTH TRAINING INSTITUTE (CHTI)







## CATHOLIC HEALTH TRAINING INSTITUTE (CHTI)

South Sudan faces critical healthcare challenges, particularly in maternal and child health, with only 39.7% of births attended by skilled health personnel. The country's infant mortality rate stands at 63.8 deaths per 1,000 live births, while the under-five mortality rate is alarmingly high at 98.8 deaths per 1,000 live births. Life expectancy remains low at 55.57 years, and the severe shortage of healthcare professionals is evident, with only 7.1 nursing and midwifery personnel per 10,000 people. These dire statistics underscore the urgent need for institutions like the Catholic Health Training Institute (CHTI) in Wau, which plays a vital role in strengthening South Sudan's healthcare system by training competent, service-oriented nurses and midwives to address the country's critical shortage of skilled health workers.

The Solidarity Catholic Health Training Institute (CHTI) in Wau is the first institution in South Sudan to offer a registered nurses and midwives certification program. It is officially recognized by the Republic of South Sudan and follows the Ministry of Health's curricula for training diploma-level nurses and midwives. The program spans three years of full-time academic study and clinical rotations, culminating in certification for graduates, as allowed by current regulations. CHTI works closely with both National and State Ministries to ensure students are assessed in compliance with official standards.

# GENESIS OF THE PROGRAM

In 1980, a health training institute established by the Conference of Catholic Bishops of Sudan was built in Wau. The facility trained medical officers for four years until military activities in the region necessitated its closure and the relocation of students to safer areas. In 2008, the Sudan Catholic Bishops' Conference (SCBC) invited Solidarity with South Sudan (SwSS) to assist in renovating the institute and establishing a training program for health professionals. The Catholic Health Training Institute (CHTI) underwent complete renovation, and in 2009, the first cohort of students began their nursing degree training. Since then, new intakes of registered nurses have occurred annually, and the first group of midwifery students commenced a certified diploma program in January 2012.

## PROJECT BACKGROUND

The Solidarity Catholic Health Training Institute (CHTI) is dedicated to strengthening South Sudan's healthcare system by training competent, service-oriented nurses and midwives who meet the national standards set by the Ministry of Health. Through rigorous academic programs, practical clinical experience, and a commitment to service, CHTI plays a vital role in addressing the country's critical healthcare needs while fostering professional excellence among its graduates.

The impact of this initiative is evident in several key outcomes. Full scholarships have been provided to students, ensuring accessibility to quality education regardless of financial background. The number of trained healthcare professionals in South Sudan continues to grow, directly contributing to improved healthcare services across the country. This, in turn, supports efforts to reduce maternal and infant mortality rates by equipping medical facilities with well-trained personnel. Beyond healthcare, CHTI also promotes peacebuilding and gender equality by creating an inclusive learning environment where men and women receive equal opportunities to advance their careers and contribute to national development.

## CHTI GRADUATION AND ENROLLMENT OVERVIEW

Since its inception in 2010, the Catholic Health Training Institute (CHTI) in Wau has graduated a total of 393 students, including 253 nurses and 140 midwives. Notably, 38% of these graduates are women (148 students). CHTI is committed to encouraging more South Sudanese women to pursue training in healthcare, with the aim of achieving gender balance, targeting a 50% male-female ratio. The institute hopes that female graduates will inspire other girls and young women to pursue healthcare careers.

An impressive 92% of CHTI graduates are employed within South Sudan's health sector, demonstrating the institute's significant impact on the nation's healthcare system.

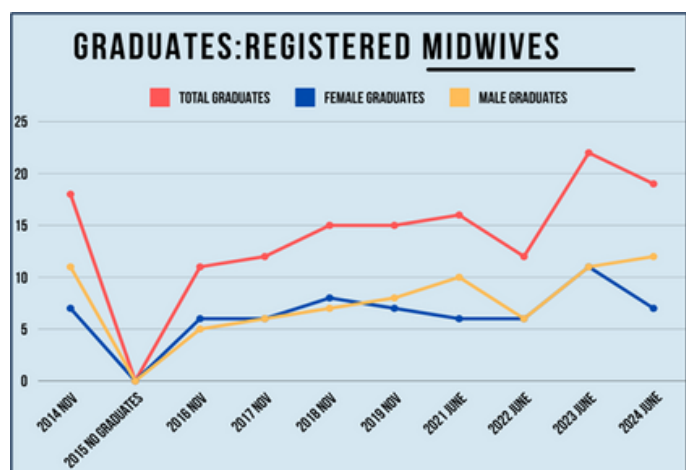
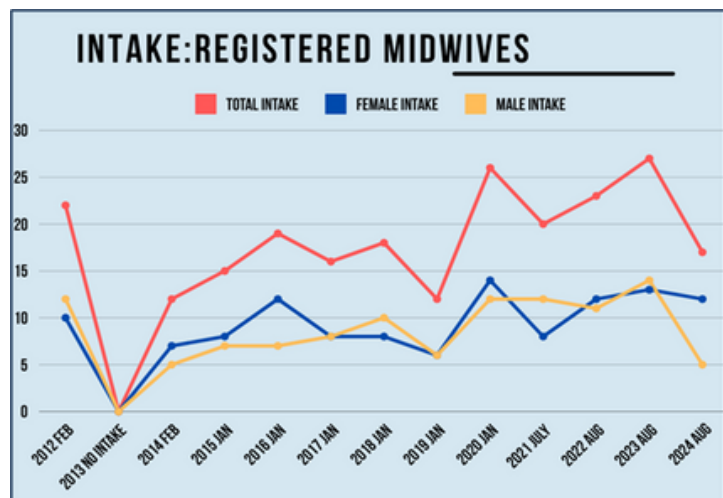
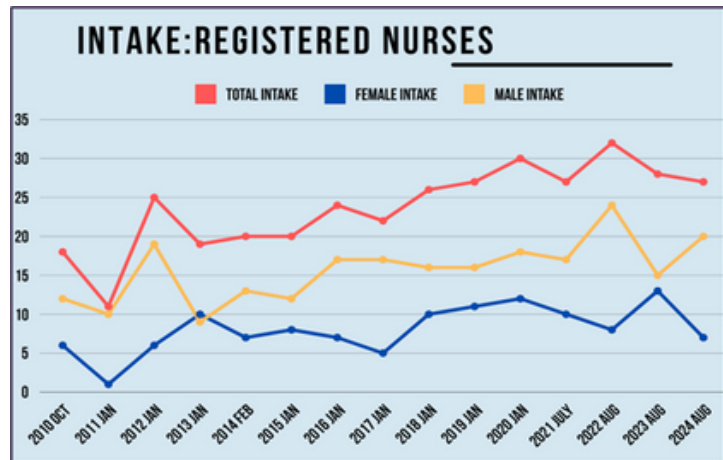


The most recent graduation session took place on June 27, 2024, with 42 students completing the program (23 nurses and 19 midwives). Throughout their three years of study, these students received clinical training and were assessed in hospital ward management.

In August 2024, CHTI welcomed 44 new students (27 nurses and 17 midwives) into Level 1. With a total of 154 students currently enrolled (87 nurses and 67 midwives), 42% of them are women (65 students). At each academic year, an orientation week is organized to familiarize new students with the institute's rules, regulations, and the importance of upholding high professional standards.

### ***Sustainability Through Further Studies***

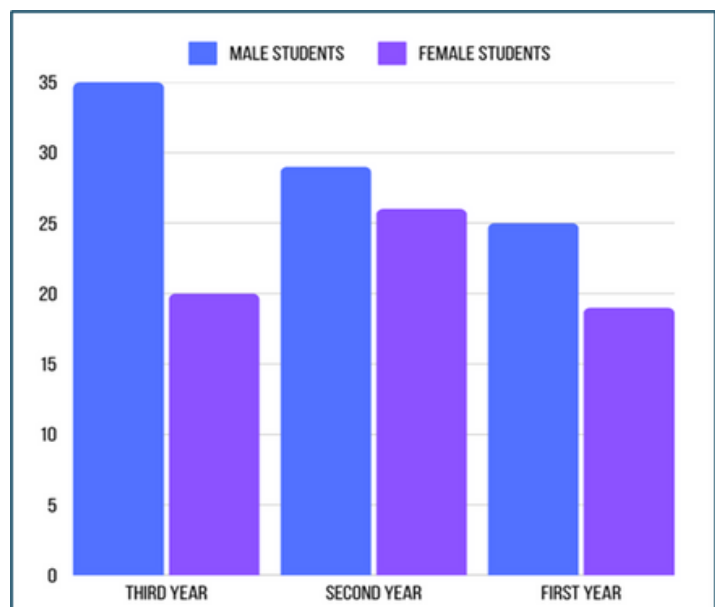
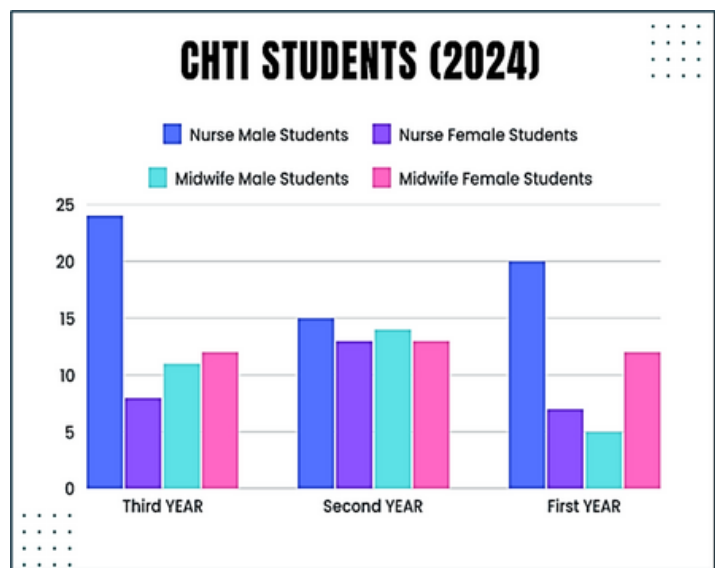
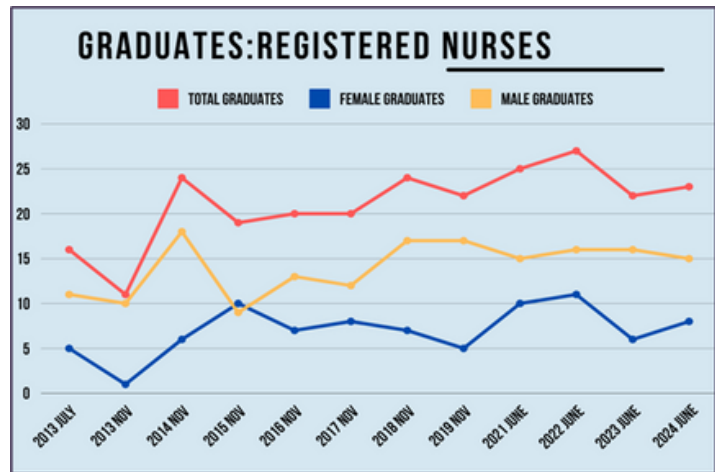
To ensure the long-term sustainability of the Catholic Health Training Institute (CHTI), the program has selected two graduates annually from 2018 to 2023 to pursue Bachelor's Degrees at universities in Uganda and Kenya (Great Lake University and Uzima University). Upon completing their studies, these graduates return to CHTI to work as tutors for a four-year period, honoring their bonded agreement. Currently, five CHTI graduates are serving as tutors at the institute, contributing to the training of future healthcare professionals.



## Empowering Women in South Sudan

In South Sudan, women face prejudice, violence, and limited access to education, with traditional values often promoting early marriage and motherhood. Solidarity is committed to supporting women's educational aspirations, offering training opportunities in nursing, midwifery, teaching, administration, and agriculture. These professional women, having gained skills equal to those of men, serve as role models for other South Sudanese women. CHTI aims to inspire girls and young women to pursue their own career paths by showing them the success of female graduates in skilled professions.

With a current student body of 154 (42.21% women), CHTI strives to achieve gender balance, aiming for a 50%-50% male-female ratio. At the local level, the institute promotes women's rights, especially the right to education, through awareness-raising activities. This aligns with the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 4: "Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all."





### ***Commitment and Peaceful Coexistence***

CHTI students demonstrate great commitment to their studies, achieving excellent results in exams. A key aspect of CHTI's success is the peaceful coexistence fostered between students and teachers who live together at the center for the entire duration of their three-year program. In a country like South Sudan, where conflict has deeply impacted social relations, this harmonious environment promotes peace and reconciliation. CHTI's curriculum not only focuses on professional skills but also on educating students about teamwork and unity, reinforcing the importance of national cohesion.

### ***Impact of CHTI Graduates***

CHTI graduates are positively contributing to South Sudan's healthcare system. They receive hands-on training through partnerships with hospitals such as St. Daniel Comboni Catholic Hospital and primary healthcare centers like Sikka Hadid PHCC. Both students and hospitals benefit from this collaboration, as students gain practical experience while providing essential services to the community. Additionally, Solidarity community members are employed at these institutions, further strengthening the ties between CHTI and the health sector.

### ***Holistic Training and Extracurricular Activities***

Beyond technical proficiency, the Catholic Health Training Institute (CHTI) instills in its graduates a deep passion for healthcare and a strong work ethic. Students participate in a range of extracurricular activities that enhance their professional and personal growth, with a strong emphasis on the human aspect of nursing and midwifery.

In addition to structured training, students engage in daily prayer and lead community service initiatives that foster teamwork and social cohesion. They gain leadership experience through student elections, and library study groups support their academic growth. Regular sports activities—such as football matches with both internal and external teams—encourage physical health and camaraderie, while the CHTI choir's monthly parish outreach strengthens ties with the wider community. Recreational gatherings featuring music, dance, and communal meals further reinforce a spirit of unity among the students.

CHTI marks key observances to reinforce its core values: on International Midwifery and Nursing Day it recognizes healthcare contributions; on International Women's Day it promotes gender equality in education; during Cultural Week it celebrates South Sudan's diverse ethnic heritage through music and dance; and throughout the Season of Creation it encourages environmental stewardship through tree planting and ecological awareness activities.







## ***Promoting Peace and Social Cohesion***

Located in a region where conflict is prevalent, CHTI plays a crucial role in fostering peace and reconciliation. The institute brings together students from various backgrounds and regions, creating a community built on respect and mutual understanding. This environment prepares graduates not just as healthcare professionals but as agents of peace in South Sudan.

# **FUTURE OF THE PROJECT**

## ***Graduation And New Enrollments***

The next cohort of 55 students (32 nurses, 23 midwives) will graduate in June 2025, while another 55 students will commence their studies in August 2025. The recruitment process, beginning in March 2025, maintains a progressive admission policy, with a 55% pass threshold for female applicants and 70% for male applicants.

## ***Strategic Growth And Expansion***

In alignment with the 2023-2027 Solidarity with South Sudan Strategic Plan (SwSS), CHTI aims to sustain high-quality nursing and midwifery education while exploring opportunities for additional courses, including degree programs in Nursing and Midwifery, as well as new departments such as a Medical School, Clinical Officer Training, and Laboratory Technician courses. Additionally, CHTI remains committed to maintaining its national identity by recruiting students from all dioceses and states, including Nuba and Abyei, while actively promoting gender equality in education.





# SOLIDARITY TEACHER TRAINING COLLEGE (STTC)







## SOLIDARITY TEACHER TRAINING COLLEGE (STTC)

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South Sudan's education sector faces severe challenges, with a high out-of-school rate of 66.3% for females and 55.6% for males at the primary and lower secondary levels. Literacy rates remain alarmingly low, with only 34.5% of women and 28.9% of men over the age of 15 able to read and write. The shortage of trained teachers further exacerbates the situation, as only 50.25% of pre-primary teachers meet the minimum required training standards. Despite an 82% gross enrollment ratio in primary schools, the education system struggles with inadequate resources, insufficient teacher training, and low government expenditure on education, which stands at just 3.3% of the total national budget.

In this context, the Solidarity Teachers Training College (STTC) plays a crucial role in addressing these gaps by equipping educators with the skills necessary to improve the quality of teaching and learning across the country. By training competent and dedicated teachers, STTC contributes to increasing literacy rates, reducing dropout rates, and fostering a more inclusive and equitable education system. Investing in teacher training is essential for South Sudan's long-term development, as well-trained educators serve as the foundation for rebuilding communities, promoting gender equality in education, and strengthening the country's human capital.

# GENESIS OF THE PROGRAM

STTC was established in Malakal in 2008 but closed in 2014 due to armed conflicts in the region. The school was then relocated to Yambio. The first phase of the program aimed to provide teacher training to enhance the capabilities of current educators in using English as the language of instruction and to help them attain recognized qualifications. The second phase involved initiation of distance learning programs and in-service training program. The third phase focused on increasing the number of teachers qualified to teach in English by offering a two-year, full-time pre-service education program.

## PROJECT BACKGROUND

### *Teacher Training and Workforce Impact*

Since 2008, STTC has played a crucial role in strengthening South Sudan's education sector, graduating 854 teachers through its In-Service and Pre-Service certificate programs. Approximately 77% of these graduates are currently employed in the education sector, helping to address the country's critical shortage of qualified teachers and improving access to quality education.

### *Structure of the Pre-Service Program*

Students enrolled in the STTC Pre-Service Certificate course (Mode 1) undertake a rigorous two-year residential program. In addition to tuition, they receive board, lodging, and all essential teaching materials. The program is structured into four semesters, with examinations required at the end of each semester to assess students' progress. Those who successfully complete the course receive a nationally recognized teaching certificate from the Ministry of Education, enabling them to teach in public and private primary schools.

### *Implementation of the New Curriculum*

Since 2021, STTC has been implementing a new curriculum aligned with the South Sudanese government's 2020 education framework. This revamped curriculum follows the initial teacher training guidelines established by the Curriculum Foundation, ensuring that STTC students receive training that meets national standards. The University of Juba has been actively involved in monitoring the program, regularly sending lecturers to evaluate the curriculum and assess students' academic progress.

### *Transition to the Catholic University of South Sudan*

Currently, STTC is undergoing a structural transition by shifting its academic affiliation from the University of Juba to the Catholic University of South Sudan. While the program will remain a two-year residential course, this transition will introduce adjustments to the curriculum, examination schedules, and enrollment procedures, ensuring continued alignment with national education policies.



## ***Diversity and Nationwide Reach***

STTC has consistently welcomed students from all states of South Sudan, including the Nuba Mountains and refugee camps outside the country. The college's inclusive approach has created a diverse student body representing various linguistic, cultural, and ethnic backgrounds. Many graduates return to their home communities to teach, playing a vital role in improving education accessibility and quality across the nation.

## **EXPANDING TEACHER TRAINING PROGRAMS**

In addition to the residential Pre-Service Certificate program (Mode 1), which provides students with accommodation and meals for two years, the Solidarity Teacher Training College (STTC) has expanded its offerings to include various programs tailored to different teaching needs. These programs aim to enhance teacher qualifications and improve the quality of education across South Sudan.

### ***Certificate In-Service Program***

Launched in August 2022, the Certificate In-Service Program is designed for teachers already employed in primary schools who possess only a secondary school qualification but seek to obtain a formal Teaching Certificate and Qualified Teacher status. This two-year program follows a weekend-based schedule, with classes held on Fridays and Saturdays. While students do not reside at STTC, they receive all necessary study materials and meals during class days. This flexible format enables working teachers to continue their professional development without interrupting their teaching duties.

### ***Diploma Program for Advanced Teacher Training***

Introduced in July 2022, the STTC Diploma Program is a one-year, non-residential course aimed at elevating the qualifications of teachers who have completed the Certificate program or equivalent training. The Diploma program aligns with teacher training standards in neighboring countries and prepares graduates for roles in peer mentoring, middle management (such as deputy principals), and other leadership positions within the education sector. Additionally, high-achieving graduates will have the opportunity to pursue further studies, qualifying for Bachelor of Arts programs in Education at the Catholic University of South Sudan (CUSS) in Juba and Yambio, as well as at the University of Juba.



## ***New In-Service Training Program in Wau***

Beginning in January 2025, Solidarity with South Sudan expanded its teacher training efforts by launching an In-Service Teacher Training Program in Wau, the capital of Western Bahr el Ghazal and the second-largest city in South Sudan. This initiative responds to a pressing need, as Wau currently lacks a formal teacher training program despite having a significant number of unqualified primary school teachers. The Ministry of Education has identified 600 teachers in Wau requiring training, and the program prepared to start with an initial cohort of 45 teacher-students.

The Wau In-Service Training model is a two-year, non-residential program divided into four semesters. Participants continue teaching in local primary schools during the mornings and attend in-service training sessions in the afternoons from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Additionally, during school holidays, they participate in three intensive study sessions, each lasting five full days. This structure ensures that teachers can improve their skills while remaining active in their schools, directly benefiting their students and communities.





# 2024 GRADUATION AND NEW ENROLLMENTS

The Solidarity Teacher Training College (STTC) held its last graduation ceremony in September 2024, celebrating the achievements of 20 students—9 women and 11 men. Following the reopening of the college, final examinations for the second-year students—comprising Pre-Service (PS4), In-Service, and Diploma program groups—were conducted between November and December 2024.

## *Suspension of New Enrollments in 2024*

Due to the temporary closure of the college and the subsequent efforts to resume suspended courses, there were no new enrollments in 2024. However, as mentioned earlier, the transition from the University of Juba to the Catholic University of South Sudan will bring about a revision of the academic calendar. The college's academic schedule will now align with the Catholic University's three-term system, which will impact the timing and organization of future enrollments.

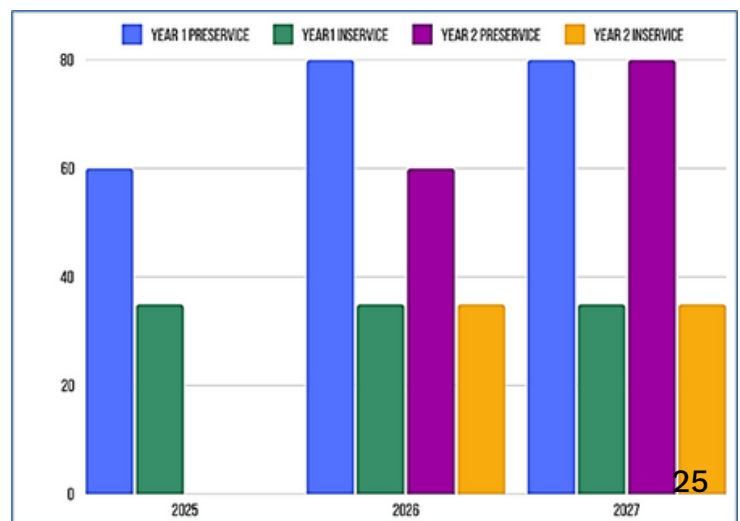
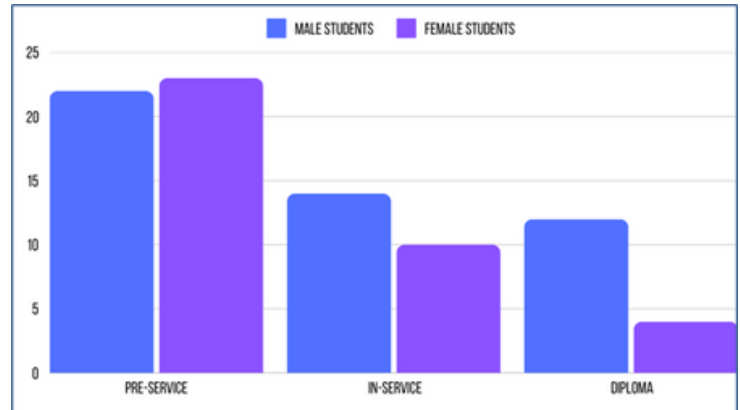
## *Changes in Academic Calendar: Two-Semester to Three-Term System*

Under the previous system, STTC operated on a two-semester academic year for its two-year Certificate Program. Each semester consisted of two levels, with approximately 40 new students admitted each semester, totaling 80 students annually. However, starting in January 2025, the college will implement a new three-term system for its two-year Certificate program. The new structure will consist of Year 1 and Year 2 (Level 1 and Level 2), each with three terms:

- ☀ Term 1: January 1 – April 30
- ☀ Term 2: May 1 – August 31
- ☀ Term 3: September 1 – December 31



STTC Enrollment – September 2024



New admissions will be processed once a year, with 80 students for Mode 1 (Pre-Service) and 35 students for Mode 2 (In-Service) enrolled annually, starting from 2025. Examinations will be held at the end of each academic term and year.

### ***Enrollment Process and Future Graduations***

The new admissions process began in December 2024, and the new batch of 115 students (80 for Mode 1 and 35 for Mode 2) will commence their studies in January 2025. As for those enrolled under the previous system, all students will have graduated by June 2025.

## **FURTHER STUDIES AND COLLABORATIVE EFFORTS**

To promote sustainability and enhance the quality of teacher training, two selected STTC graduates were sent to Tangaza University in Nairobi (Kenya) between 2018 and 2022. The selected graduates undergo a four-year bachelor’s degree in education under a bonding scholarship agreement. Upon completion of their studies, they are expected to return to STTC and teach for four years. As of December 2024, two students were enrolled at Tangaza University, with their graduation anticipated in 2025. Additionally, a collaboration was established with the UK Open University to offer specialized distance learning modules, providing STTC students with further educational opportunities. Currently, one STTC tutor is enrolled at Open University.

### ***Maintenance and Infrastructure Development***

During the temporary suspension of classes, significant progress was made on infrastructure projects. New classrooms were built, and a solar system was installed to improve sustainability. A new building, named “St. Joseph’s Block,” was completed by April 2024, with support from the US-based Sudan Relief Fund (US). The building houses two large lecture halls and an administrative office. The dedication ceremony, held on 4 May 2024, included a blessing by Bishop Eduardo Hiiboro of Tombura-Yambio diocese, who encouraged the students to commit to becoming the best, most effective, and caring teachers.

The quiet period also provided an opportunity to reorganize and update the college’s library, including processing a large backlog of books. A new section on School Leadership and Management was created, supporting the Diploma students. Furthermore, the syllabus for Initial Teacher Training was revised to align with the Ministry of General Education and Instruction (MoGEI) guidelines, ensuring all courses and modules are well-structured.

### ***Student Engagement and Extra-Curricular Activities***

Upon resumption of classes, students participated in a variety of extra-curricular activities in addition to their academic work. These included music lessons, traditional dance, art workshops, and sports such as football and volleyball. Students also participated in local competitions and thematic workshops on topics like Trauma Healing and Empowerment, Safeguarding, and Sustainable Agricultural Development.

A key focus in the teacher training curriculum is Early Childhood Education (ECD), in line with South Sudan’s new guidelines. The first-year students conducted a highly successful two-week teaching practice at Solidarity Nursery School in Riimenze, incorporating multisensory teaching methods and ECD principles in their lessons.



Environmental sustainability is also emphasized at STTC, with a dedicated Environmental Club, “Laudato Si Movement,” leading initiatives on waste management, tree planting, water conservation, and recycling. Students and staff regularly engage in activities that promote environmental consciousness and care for God’s Creation.

### ***Promoting Peace and Coexistence***

STTC recruits students from various states across South Sudan, as well as from refugee camps, representing a wide range of languages, cultures, and ethnic groups. The college fosters an environment of peace and coexistence by emphasizing respect for all tribes and cultures, tolerance of differences, and peaceful interactions. Daily reflection and sharing sessions are held, and intercultural activities are regularly organized to promote unity.

The college places a special focus on women’s empowerment, encouraging female students to pursue their education and careers. Through awareness campaigns on gender equality and freedom of expression, STTC supports women in completing their studies and entering the workforce confidently.

### ***Measuring Progress and Success***

STTC ensures that students meet high academic standards by setting exams every semester. Students who fail in Levels 1 and 2 may be given a second chance, while those in Level 3 cannot repeat the semester and must pass all subjects. By the end of Level 4, students must pass their final exams, and graduation is held at the end of each trimester to allow graduates to receive their certificates promptly.

### ***Certification and Recognition***

STTC adheres to the Republic of South Sudan’s Ministry of Education and the General Education curriculum, ensuring that all graduates meet the required standards. The college is recognized for producing well-trained teachers, with students praised for their proficiency in English, their ability to manage large classes, and their commitment to teaching. STTC graduates are highly regarded for their professional skills and their ability to handle the complexities of classroom teaching, including creating lesson plans and schemes of work.

Many STTC graduates go on to become leaders in their schools, often taking on roles as head teachers or lead tutors. Their training equips them with the tools necessary for both teaching and life in general, fostering lifelong relationships and community-building skills.

### ***Employment Outcomes***

Approximately 77% of STTC graduates go on to teach in primary schools across South Sudan, with an average class size of 80 students. This indicates a significant impact on the country’s education system, as STTC graduates play an essential role in shaping the future of South Sudan’s young learners.



# **PASTORAL CARE AND TRAUMA HEALING**





## GENESIS OF THE PROGRAM

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In 2009, the Solidarity Pastoral program was established to support the formation of clergy, religious, and lay people, as well as to design and lead a peace and reconciliation project. In the years that followed, the program further expanded its efforts by helping to build a peace network among women in South Sudan through Solidarity Pastoral Workshops.

Between 2010 and 2021, the Pastoral Services program provided a range of initiatives aimed at fostering peace and community development. These included support for the "101 Days of Prayer for a Peaceful Referendum," workshops focused on trauma healing, liturgy, conflict transformation, and peacebuilding, as well as seminars on Catholic Social Teaching and the African Synod. The program also facilitated discussions on Consecrated Life and the roles of religious men and women, organized workshops promoting women's roles as healers and peacebuilders, emphasized youth leadership, and offered ongoing formation for catechists.

In 2020, Solidarity undertook a significant restructuring of the Pastoral Services department, transforming it into a cohesive Pastoral team. Based in Kit, this team travels to all eight dioceses across the country to deliver workshops on trauma healing, counseling, women's empowerment, catechetics, and lay leadership formation—all at the invitation of the bishops. This reorganization has enabled the program to provide a more coherent framework and foster improved relationships with individual dioceses and the National Pastoral Commission.

# PROJECT BACKGROUND

South Sudan, the world's newest country, achieved independence on July 9, 2011. However, since then, the country has struggled with civil wars in 2013 and 2016, ongoing subnational conflicts, and political controversies, which have significantly hampered progress and intensified humanitarian challenges. The recent conflict in Sudan has further exacerbated the crisis, driving many to seek refuge in South Sudan.

The civil war, which began shortly after the country's independence, has displaced 4.5 million people and resulted in widespread psychological distress. The enduring legacy of decades of conflict has left deep psychological scars, particularly among women and children. Mental health resources are critically insufficient, with only two practicing psychiatrists nationwide as of 2019. Many South Sudanese rely heavily on trauma-healing programs organized by NGOs and local groups to address their experiences and cope with the pervasive psychological impact.

Since 2022, the project has implemented a series of trauma healing and wellness workshops conducted at Protection of Civilians (PoC) camps, Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) camps, and the Good Shepherd Peace Center (GSPC). These workshops aim to address the psychological distress faced by those affected by conflict in South Sudan. The need for such programs is particularly acute in densely populated Protection of Civilians (PoC) and Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) camps, where living conditions are dire and youth face shattered expectations of safety, shelter, and opportunities.





# TRAUMA HEALING

## ***TRANSFORMATION WORKSHOPS FOR VISUALLY AND HEARING IMPAIRED PARTICIPANTS***

In response to a request from Rajaf Blind School – Buluk, the pastoral program held three workshops in Juba to address trauma among visually and hearing impaired individuals: a three-day session at Rajaf Buluk Eye Center with 26 participants; a five-day workshop at the Union of Persons with Hearing Impairment with 40 participants; and a five-day session at Buluk Rajaf Educational Center for the Blind with 33 participants. Each location provided tailored support—braille materials and sign language interpreters—while activities like Tai Chi and Pal Dan Gum exercises promoted physical well-being and social interaction. Facilitators used Paulo Freire’s “body literacy” approach alongside Capacitar exercises to enhance energy flow, emotional balance, and self-care, empowering participants to process trauma and build resilience.

A community-centered communication strategy—active listening, authenticity, self-disclosure, and Capacitar’s feedback methods—helped participants feel heard and validated. Attendees reported a clearer understanding of trauma and PTSD, improved mind–body balance, and enhanced well-being. A stronger sense of community emerged—marked by greater trust, empathy, and teamwork—and practical skills plus assistive technologies equipped participants with tools for improved mobility and communication.

## ***PSYCHO-SOCIAL AND SPIRITUAL SUPPORT WORKSHOP FOR SUDANESE RETURNEES***

Two multi-day workshops supported 79 Sudanese returnees (45 in the first, 34 in the second), all selected for their need of emotional and spiritual healing as they reintegrated into South Sudan. These sessions combined therapeutic exercises, stress-management techniques, spiritual reflections, and community-building activities to create a safe space for sharing experiences. Faith-based reflections, pastoral counseling, and reconciliation discussions underscored the link between spiritual health and emotional well-being, while practical strategies addressed stress, anxiety, and reintegration challenges.

By fostering solidarity, the workshops built a supportive network and helped identify long-term needs for sustainable reintegration. Participants shared personal displacement stories to express pain and form mutual support. Trauma-awareness sessions taught recognition and management of emotional triggers, and therapeutic exercises—mindfulness, stress management, and self-care—provided concrete coping tools. Daily prayers, scriptural reflections, and guided meditations deepened faith and inner peace. Discussions on forgiveness and reconciliation emphasized spiritual healing, and role-playing exercises encouraged belonging.

Economic empowerment was another focal point. Facilitators introduced cooperative farming initiatives, small business ventures, and self-help groups to address livelihood challenges. In the end, returnees were better equipped to process trauma, reconnect with their faith, and explore sustainable economic opportunities—all while gaining a renewed sense of community and clearer pathways to social and economic integration.

# PASTORAL CARE

## ***HOLY CHILDHOOD FORMATION AND MOTIVATION PROGRAM***

The seven-day Holy Childhood Formation and Motivation Program in the Central Deanery of Tambura-Yambio Diocese engaged over 800 children from seven parishes. Its goal was to strengthen the Holy Childhood Society by equipping animators and deepening children's understanding of the Catholic faith. Animator formation meetings throughout the week focused on the Society's mission, child engagement, and best practices for faith formation. Meanwhile, children participated in prayer sessions, learned basic prayers and Rosary recitation, and joined Eucharistic adoration and liturgical celebrations to nurture their spiritual lives.

Religious materials—prayer booklets, rosaries, T-shirts—and simple rewards like sweets and sports equipment fostered unity and enthusiasm. Providing meals ensured that even vulnerable children could fully participate. Personal testimonies offered pastoral caregivers opportunities to guide children through struggles and encourage their faith journey. By week's end, many children exhibited increased prayer life and commitment to Church activities. Animators gained confidence and leadership skills, preparing them to guide youth in their parishes. Parish priests supported mobilization, led liturgies, and ensured smooth execution, reinforcing the program's impact on both children and leaders.

## ***PARISH COUNCIL TRAINING***

A three-day training in the Diocese of Malakal brought together 40 Parish Council members to enhance leadership, pastoral care, and administrative skills. The program clarified Council roles in parish governance, emphasizing collaboration, spiritual formation, and community engagement. Sessions highlighted charity, social justice, and care for marginalized groups (elderly, persons with disabilities, trauma survivors), encouraging members to be agents of peace and reconciliation. Practical workshops covered parish operations—financial management, communication strategies, transparency, and accountability—and promoted Small Christian Communities (SCCs) for evangelization. Interactive teaching methods, including group reflections and case studies, enabled participants to apply concepts to real parish scenarios. By the end, members expressed renewed commitment to strengthening SCCs, advancing social justice, and improving parish administration, laying a foundation for more vibrant and responsive parish leadership.

## ***CATECHISTS CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAM***

In collaboration with the Archdiocesan Pastoral Office of Juba, a six-day program convened 63 catechists from six parishes to enhance pastoral, spiritual, and psychological skills. Recognizing the challenges of serving remote, conflict-affected areas, facilitators—local priests and a psychological expert—employed a participatory methodology combining lectures, group discussions, and practical exercises. Topics included liturgy, scripture, and sacramental preparation, while psychological sessions provided self-care tools to address trauma in their communities. Daily Mass and evening Rosary nourished participants' spiritual lives, reinforcing their vocation. By program's end, catechists demonstrated deeper theological knowledge, improved liturgical practice, and greater emotional resilience. Strengthened peer networks across parishes fostered collaboration, equipping these leaders to serve as effective peacebuilders and faith educators in areas with limited priestly presence.





### ***EMPOWERING CATHOLIC WOMEN ASSOCIATION***

Three workshops at Good Shepherd Peace Center involved 163 Catholic women from the Central, Eastern, and Terekeka deaneries, focusing on spiritual formation, economic empowerment, peacebuilding, and health education. Participants were selected for leadership potential and readiness to grow. Spiritual and leadership sessions encouraged women to assume active roles in their communities, while vocational training covered tailoring, soap-making, and financial management to support economic independence. Health education addressed maternal care, family planning, and disease prevention. Peacebuilding modules taught conflict-resolution skills, resulting in several women organizing community dialogues that bridged ethnic divides. Cross-deanery collaboration strengthened as participants formed WhatsApp groups to share ideas. Many women gained confidence in leading prayer sessions, organizing meetings, and advocating for gender equality. Peer learning circles emerged, providing ongoing mentorship and addressing issues like gender-based violence. Plans to expand the program to other deaneries were discussed, ensuring sustainable impact.

### ***SMALL CHRISTIAN COMMUNITIES (SCC) TRAINING***

A three-day formation session gathered 37 participants—catechists, SCC leaders, and lay faithful—to reinforce the role of Small Christian Communities in parish life. The training underscored SCCs as modern expressions of early Christian groups, centered on prayer, fellowship, and mission. Grounded in *Ecclesia in Africa*, sessions combined Bible sharing, group discussions, and role-playing to explore how SCCs address gaps in faith practice, foster cooperation, and deepen awareness of God's presence. Practical exercises developed facilitation skills, leadership strategies, and methods for sustaining vibrant, self-supporting communities. Participants left with renewed enthusiasm, pledging to launch regular Bible-sharing sessions, expand membership, and engage in pastoral outreach, thereby strengthening evangelization at the grassroots level.

## ***CELEBRATION OF THE LIGHT***

Over two days at Good Shepherd Peace Center, around 150 participants—50 persons with disabilities, their families, and friends—gathered from various parishes in Juba for the Celebration of the Light organized by Faith and Light communities. Supported by the Archdiocese, transportation, accommodation, and meals were provided to ensure inclusivity. The event combined prayer, reflection, testimonies, music, and games to uplift participants and their caregivers. A key moment was the Ceremony of the Light during Holy Mass, symbolizing Christ as the Light of the World, during which nine individuals were baptized and seven prepared for First Holy Communion.

This gathering offered psycho-social and spiritual support, addressing stigma, social exclusion, and economic hardship faced by persons with disabilities. Families found emotional encouragement, and the broader community deepened its commitment to advocacy and inclusion. The event reinforced collaboration among parishes and highlighted the Church's dedication to integrating differently-abled individuals into a welcoming faith community.

## **SOCIAL COHESION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

### ***EMPOWERMENT WORKSHOPS FOR OUT-OF-SCHOOL GIRLS***

Over twenty-five days, six workshops in Yambio, Nzara, Ave Maria, Ezo, Rimenzii, and Meridi trained 368 young women—many of whom had never attended school—in vocational and entrepreneurial skills, leadership, and personal development. The program's objectives were to foster critical thinking, self-esteem, and faith, while promoting gender awareness and economic self-sufficiency. The curriculum combined theory and practice: girls learned baking, sewing, knitting, and small-scale business management alongside vegetable gardening and market-based ventures. Spiritual and social support featured group prayers, trauma-healing sessions, and leadership modules incorporating African proverbs and role-play. Discussions on identity, gender roles, and ecofeminism helped participants challenge unjust norms.

By the end, many reported increased confidence—several had begun home-based businesses or gardens—and formed women's groups to continue collaboration. Prayer and counseling sessions provided emotional healing, while conversations about gender equality sparked broader community discussions on women's roles.

### ***BRIDGING GAPS AND BUILDING PEACE: TELEVISION ACCESS AND SPORTS FOR SOCIAL CHANGE***

At a school near Good Shepherd Peace Center, girls' dormitories lacked a television while boys' had one, limiting girls' access to educational and recreational content. By installing a TV in the girls' common room, the program provided equal access to learning resources, news, and entertainment, fostering academic enrichment and social interaction. Students reported greater engagement and appreciation for this resource.

Sports initiatives further promoted unity: the 4th Peace Cup Championship in Kit spanned 30 days with eight teams competing in round-robin and knockout stages under professional referees. Emphasizing teamwork, discipline, and fair play, the tournament brought youth from diverse backgrounds together.

The Bishop Annual Youth Tournament at St. Peter Parish in Mundri involved 1,500 youth from nine Yei Diocese parishes, with 270 actively playing and an estimated 15,000 attendees overall. Beyond competition, both events integrated faith-based activities—bonfire discussions, prayer sessions, and leadership workshops—to reinforce Catholic values and community service.

These sports programs provided safe spaces that diverted youth from negative influences, taught leadership and conflict-resolution skills, and strengthened social cohesion. Continued enthusiasm for these events underscores their role in nurturing resilient, united communities.

## RELIGIOUS INSTITUTES AND CLERGY

### ***SEVENTH GENERAL CHAPTER ONGOING FORMATION PROGRAM-STAGE 2***

The four-day Stage 2 formation for the Apostles of Jesus Missionaries was held at Good Shepherd Peace Center, Kiit, with 13 of 16 missionaries in attendance. This program deepened participants' Charismatic Identity and apostolic commitment while fostering fraternity. Sessions opened with mission reports and a review of the institute's history. Subsequent days focused on understanding their pontifical charism, reinforcing religious consecration, and exploring ways to build a supportive community life. Reflection periods allowed missionaries to share personal experiences and lessons learned in the field. By the end, participants reported renewed clarity about their evangelizing role, stronger bonds of brotherhood, and a reinforced sense of belonging to the Apostles of Jesus.

### ***SPIRITUAL RETREAT FOR ORDINATION CANDIDATES OF DIOCESE OF YEI***

Over five days at Good Shepherd Peace Centre in Kiit, Juba, three deacons and one seminarian prepared for ordination through prayer, scriptural meditation, and pastoral formation. The retreat emphasized deepening their relationship with Christ via communal and personal prayer, centering on the Eucharist as the core of their future ministry. Candidates reflected on the Sacrament of Reconciliation and received spiritual direction to strengthen their servant-leader identity. Guided discussions addressed pastoral challenges specific to South Sudan. Participants left equipped with renewed spiritual focus and a strengthened commitment to fulfill their priestly or diaconal vocations.

### ***DEACON'S PRIESTHOOD PREPARATION RETREAT, DIOCESE OF BENTIU***

A five-day retreat was held for the deacons of the newly established Diocese of Bentiu as part of their preparation for priestly ordination. Centered on the theme "Here I am, I come to do your will" (Hebrews 10:7), the retreat provided a dedicated time for prayer, spiritual reflection, and a deeper understanding of their future ministry.

The retreat aimed to help the deacons deepen their understanding of the priestly vocation and mission, renew and strengthen their identity as servant leaders in the Diocese, and prepare spiritually and pastorally for their forthcoming responsibilities. It offered an opportunity to embrace their vocation as a response to God's will, root their identity in Christ's mission, and commit to a life of obedience and service.

Additional reflections focused on cultivating a deeper love for the Eucharist, navigating the joys and challenges of priestly ministry, and fostering fraternal communion as they transition into priesthood.



## ***BENTIU DIOCESE LEADERS WORKSHOP***

Over three days, 70 women leaders from seven parishes gathered to develop leadership and teamwork skills, critical thinking on gender roles, and faith-based service. The workshop emphasized women's roles in Church and society, integrating biblical teachings on servant leadership. Activities included participatory dialogue, group exercises, and culturally resonant songs and dances. Although many participants had limited formal education, interactive methods encouraged them to share insights, discuss gender challenges, and propose solutions. By the close, attendees displayed increased confidence in leadership, greater awareness of human dignity, and a determination to apply these lessons in parish ministries.

## ***ANNUAL DIOCESAN PRIESTS***

Over fourteen days—seven in Juba and seven in Rumbek—priests from both dioceses joined retreats under the theme *Instaurare Omnia in Christo* (“To Renew All Things in Christ,” Ephesians 1:10). In Juba, 36 priests participated in daily Mass, adoration, reconciliation, and reflections on pastoral ministry during crises. Rumbek's retreat, with 14 priests, followed a similar structure, emphasizing personal holiness, missionary zeal, and resilience, especially for those in remote areas. Both gatherings rekindled participants' faith, deepened their understanding of priestly service, and reinforced solidarity among clergy who often lack opportunities for such renewal.

## **LAUDATO SI INITIATIVE**

### ***TREE PLANTING PROJECT IN THE ARCHDIOCESE OF JUBA***

The Tree Planting Project in the Archdiocese of Juba, inspired by Pope Francis's *Laudato Si'*, advances environmental conservation and community stewardship. Implemented with the Justice and Peace Commission (JPC), it raises awareness about reforestation and climate change while integrating ecological responsibility into the Church's pastoral mission.

Launched to promote sustainable land use and environmental justice, the project began with an orientation at St. Kizito's Parish, where JPC members from the Central Deanery prepared local communities. Following this meeting, tree saplings were distributed to four parishes, and community members—youth, catechists, and local leaders—planted them on church grounds, school compounds, and in public spaces.

Early results show that these parishes have appointed caretakers and mobilized youth groups and catechists to nurture and protect the saplings. This engagement has already fostered a stronger sense of ecological responsibility. Plans are underway to extend the initiative to six additional parishes, reflecting growing momentum.

To ensure long-term impact, each parish has designated individuals for tree care, and the JPC will conduct periodic visits to monitor growth. Over time, the project will expand to more dioceses, schools, and pastoral centers, cultivating a sustainable culture of environmental care across the Archdiocese.





# SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURAL PROJECT (SAP-R)







## GENESIS OF THE PROGRAM

The SAP-R project began in Riimenze in 2011 and continued until 2012, focusing on land surveying and infrastructure development, which included road construction and defining land boundaries. From 2012 to 2015, 26 acres were cleared, fenced, and planted with various crops while employing local community members. Between 2016 and 2021, a five-year initiative funded by the Austrian Development Agency in collaboration with Caritas Austria supported smallholder farmers by providing agricultural inputs and training to enhance production and nutrition. From 2021 to 2022, the program aimed to sustain and expand the successes achieved in sustainable agriculture.

## PROJECT BACKGROUND

The Sustainable Agriculture Project in Riimenze (SAP-R), at Yambio region in South Sudan, aims to boost sustainable community farming and support Solidarity Teachers Training College. It is in Western Equatoria State, the second largest in South Sudan, which borders the Democratic Republic of Congo and the Central African Republic. Positioned in the green belt ecological zone, this region receives nine months of rainfall annually (1,100-1,500 mm) and has a bi-modal crop calendar, making it a key agricultural area in South Sudan, often called the 'breadbasket' for its crop farming potential. The region experiences two agricultural seasons per year: March to June and August to October, due to its long rain season from March to November. Despite fertile soils, it is fragile with low water retention and slight acidity. Traditional shifting cultivation dominates, providing family income. During the dry season, additional income comes from hunting and fishing. SAP-R aims to enhance the livelihoods of rural communities in Western Equatoria State, which have been impacted by post-war situations and internal conflicts in South Sudan. Specific objectives include improving food security and production capacity for 75% of 457 farmer households, enhancing the nutritional status of at least 75% of targeted children, and bolstering the economic status while safeguarding the environment for rural women households.



## ***Implementation Overview***

The Sustainable Agriculture Project (SAP) in Riimenze made significant progress during the first year of implementing its new strategic plan. The profiling of 270 beneficiary households was completed, with 60 households selected for livestock support—30 for goat farming and 30 for pig farming. Additionally, 150 women from the 270 beneficiary households received their first training on sustainable farming practices. These women were divided into six groups, each operating in a different project location.

### ***Nutrition Component***

A total of 288 children under five were assessed for malnutrition, and local nutritional supplements, including peanut butter, soya paste, and moringa powder, were produced for distribution. The first module of nutrition training reached 270 beneficiaries across six project locations, with 45 beneficiaries attending per location. These beneficiaries are now receiving support from Community SAP workers to implement what they have learned. The second module of nutrition training is scheduled for April and May 2025.

### ***Livestock Component***

Livestock training was consolidated into a single comprehensive session, followed by the procurement and distribution of 90 pigs and 90 goats. Distribution is ongoing, with 50% of the livestock already provided to beneficiaries. Each household receives three animals (two females and one male). As of now, 15 households have received goats and 15 have received pigs. By the end of March 2025, all 60 selected households will have received their livestock. Community Extension Workers are assisting beneficiaries in constructing suitable shelters for the animals, delivering veterinary kits, and providing follow-up training.

### ***Horticulture Component***

For horticulture training, 150 women received initial instruction on farming techniques. Procurement of seeds and tools was completed, with full distribution planned for April. Community Extension Workers continue to monitor and support these women in each project location.

### ***Model Farm & Agricultural Training***

The SAP model farm serves as a demonstration and training site for beneficiaries. Training covers various farming techniques, including farm planning, kitchen gardening, crop spacing, plant protection, irrigation, crop rotation, and livestock integration. Workshops, conducted both at the Riimenze SAP demonstration farm and in village settings, blend theoretical and practical instruction.

A total of 35 acres were sustainably cultivated in the past year, producing sorghum, groundnuts, maize, bananas, horticultural crops, sweet potatoes, and pineapples. Additionally, farm tools, improved seeds, and irrigation equipment were procured for the demonstration farm, with approximately one acre allocated specifically for hands-on learning.

During this period, the demonstration farm became a productive model, yielding 10,959 kg of food. The principal crops cultivated included maize, groundnuts, sorghum, rice, soybeans, green gram, cowpea, mung bean, sweet potato, banana, coffee, pineapple, papaya, and jackfruit. Of this production, 65% was used for home consumption, 2% for seed production, and the remaining was sold in the market.



## ***Livestock Management***

*Pigs:* The piggery enterprise grew significantly, increasing from 43 to 91 pigs. The indoor rearing system contributed to better yield in other farming enterprises through manure usage. The pigs were primarily fed with rice bran, maize bran, and papaya, ensuring healthy growth. Currently, there are 36 mature pigs and 60 piglets.

*Cows:* The cattle enterprise maintained an indoor management system, ensuring clean housing conditions. The farm started the year with 10 cattle, selling four, leaving six for demonstration purposes and manure production.

*Goats:* The goat enterprise faced challenges, with six out of ten goats dying due to disease. The remaining four are kept under an indoor management system and primarily serve for demonstration purposes.

*Rabbits:* Rabbits play a crucial role in integrating livestock and crop production, providing nutrient-rich droppings (NPK) for crops. The farm currently houses 15 healthy rabbits, primarily fed on potato vines and other pasture.

*Donkeys:* Donkeys are primarily used for farm transport and demonstration. Initially, there were four donkeys, but two succumbed to sickness, leaving two under a semi-intensive management system.



## ***Community Awareness & Engagement***

SAP actively promotes agricultural awareness through radio talk shows, discussing topics such as sustainable agriculture, horticulture, poultry keeping, livestock management, savings schemes, improved nutrition, climate-smart agriculture, and market access. Monthly radio programs on Anisa Radio provide valuable information to the wider community, encouraging the adoption of best agricultural practices.

## ***Women Beneficiaries & Empowerment***

Women form a significant portion of SAP's beneficiaries, representing 500 out of 810 total participants. The project prioritizes women due to their critical role in rural households as caregivers, food producers, and income generators. Selection criteria focus on vulnerable women, including widows and single mothers, who face challenges such as limited access to resources, knowledge, and income opportunities.

Through training in sustainable agriculture, poultry keeping, and access to improved farming inputs, SAP empowers women to enhance food security, increase productivity, and improve household nutrition. Additionally, practical demonstrations at the model farm and community training sessions foster women's leadership in community resilience and sustainable development. Of the 270 profiled households, 150 were specifically supported in vegetable production across six project locations, working in groups of 25 members per location.

The assessment of children under five for malnutrition in the targeted project area was successfully conducted, identifying 288 children with varying degrees of malnutrition. Among them, 234 children were classified as at risk (109 males and 125 females). Additionally, 47 children were diagnosed with moderate acute malnutrition (21 males and 26 females), while 7 children had acute malnutrition (5 males and 2 females).





## ***Beneficiary Selection Process***

Beneficiaries were selected based on profiling criteria that assessed their interest and capacity to participate. Meetings facilitated by Solidarity Community Extension Workers (CEWs), in collaboration with local leaders, ensured a fair selection process. Families were required to be actively farming less than approximately 3.2 acres per agricultural season and possess land suitable for project activities.

## ***Impact & Changes Over Time***

*Environmental Protection:* SAP promotes climate-resilient farming methods and integrated livestock systems, contributing to agro-ecological green forests and improved soil fertility. The use of improved cooking stoves further supports environmental conservation.

*Gender Equality:* With 62.5% of beneficiaries being women, SAP strengthens female participation in agricultural activities, nutrition training, and community leadership.

*Inclusion of People with Disabilities:* SAP remains committed to inclusivity, ensuring people with disabilities participate in project activities with respect and dignity

## ***Sustaining Impact: Empowering Communities for a Resilient Future***

The Sustainable Agriculture Project continues to empower communities through improved farming techniques, nutrition awareness, and inclusive participation, ensuring long-term impact in Riimenze and beyond.





# FUNDING



# EMPOWERING CHANGE: 2024 DONOR CONTRIBUTIONS AND ENGAGEMENT IN FIS MISSION

The unwavering support of FiS donors in 2024 has been truly extraordinary. Because of their generosity, FiS received \$ 856,297.72, empowering it to continue its mission and make a lasting, meaningful difference in the communities it serves. Every dollar they have given has ignited hope, strengthened lives, and uplifted those in need. They are not just donors—they are partners in transformation.

## DONORS ENGAGEMENT AND CONTRIBUTION BREAKDOWN: STRENGTHENING FRIENDS IN SOLIDARITY'S (FIS) MISSION

FiS is deeply grateful for the generosity of its donors. Because of donors commitment, FiS can sustain vital programs and reach even more individuals in need. FiS remains dedicated to stewarding these resources with care and responsibility to ensure the greatest impact. These remarkable gifts reflect FiS' donors dedication to serving others and making a profound impact

The pie chart below illustrates the distribution of donations across different donor categories, with trusts contributing the highest share at 38%. Following closely were Ministries (Women) at 26%, and corporate donations, which accounted for 18%. Ministries (Women) exhibited the widest range of donations, spanning from \$71 to \$60,000, indicating a highly diverse donor base. Individual donations, while lower in average value, still represented a significant portion of the total at 12.17%.

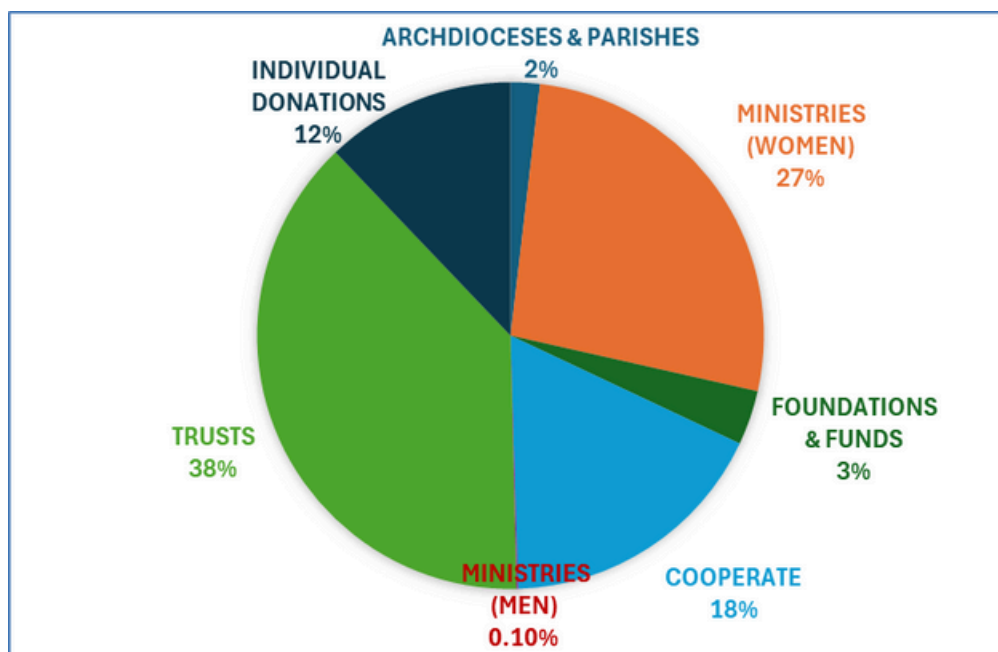


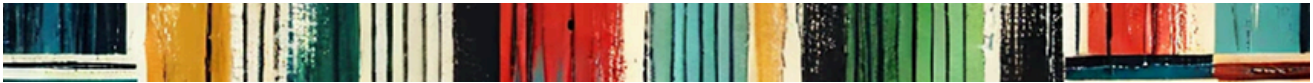
FIGURE 1: PERCENTAGES (BY DONOR CATEGORIES), OF 2024 DONATIONS RECEIVED



The table below provides a breakdown of donor categories, detailing the number of donors, average donation amounts, smallest and largest donations, and median amounts. The Corporate and Trusts categories stand out with exceptionally high average donations of \$150,000 and \$327,500, respectively—each representing a single donor. Religious Congregations (Women) displayed a wide range of donations, with an average of \$8,156.99 and a median of \$30,035.50, reflecting a broad base of support. In contrast, Religious Congregations (Men) had smaller donations, with an average of \$425.00 and a median of \$275.00. Foundations & Funds and Archdiocese & Parishes had moderate donations, with averages of \$7,441.25 and \$5,313.03, respectively. Individual Donations accounted for the largest number of donors (57), though the average donation was smaller at \$1,821.89. This table highlights the diversity of donation amounts and donor types, showcasing varying levels of engagement and support.

Individual Donations	Number of Donors	Average Amount Donated \$	Smallest Amount Donated \$	Largest Amount Donated \$	Median of Amounts Donated \$	Amount Donated \$
Archdiocese & Parishes	3	5,313.03	4,939.10	6,000.00	5,469.55	15,939.10
Religious Congregations (Men)	2	425.00	50	500.00	275.00	850.00
Religious Congregations (Women)	28	8,156.99	71	60,000.00	30,035.50	228,395.62
Foundations & Funds	4	7,441.25	65	26,500.00	13,282.50	29,765.00
Corporate	1	150,000.00	150,000.00	150,000.00	150,000.00	150,000.00
Trusts	1	327,500.00	327,500.00	327,500.00	327,500.00	327,500.00
Individual Donations	57	1,821.89	10	39,492.84	19,751.42	103,848.00

The largest donation, \$327,500, came from a Trust, while the smallest donation was \$10 from an individual donor. This range illustrates the spectrum of support—from modest contributions to substantial philanthropic gifts. While the Corporate and Trusts categories were dominated by single high-value donors, Individual Donations engaged the most people, with 57 contributors giving a total of \$103,848. This reflects strong community support across varying levels of commitment. Each of these contributions represents a commitment to healing, educating, training, and uplifting communities in South Sudan. Thanks to these generous donors, FiS continues to sustain impactful initiatives, touching more lives and bringing light where it is needed most.





# SOUTH SUDAN COUNTRY FACT SHEET



The image shows a map of Sudan with a blue pushpin in the north. The map highlights the Nile River, Khartoum, Omdurman, and the border with South Sudan. The title 'SOUTH SUDAN COUNTRY FACT SHEET' is overlaid at the top.





## GEOGRAPHY

🌐 Total Area: 644,329 sq km

🌤️ Climate: Hot with seasonal rainfall, heaviest in the southern uplands and decreasing northward.

💎 Natural Resources: Petroleum, fertile agricultural land, gold, diamonds, hydropower, hardwoods, and minerals such as iron ore, copper, and zinc.

## PEOPLE AND SOCIETY

👤 Population: 12,703,714 million

📈 Population Growth Rate: 4.65%

👥 Ethnic Groups: Major groups include Dinka (35-40%), Nuer (15%), and various other ethnic communities such as Shilluk, Azande, and Bari.

🗣️ Languages: English (official), Arabic (Juba and Sudanese variants), and indigenous languages like Dinka, Nuer, Bari, and Zande.

🕌 Religions: Christian (60.5%), folk religions (32.9%), Muslim (6.2%), and others (<1%).

## GENDER AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

📊 Adolescent Birth Rate: 158.1 per 1,000 women aged 15-19 (2008), up from 155.22 per 1,000 in 2007.

👤 Gender-Based Violence: In 2018, 26.7% of women aged 15-49 reported experiencing physical and/or sexual violence by a current or former intimate partner in the past 12 months.

👤 Family Planning: Only 5.6% of women aged 15-49 had their need for family planning met with modern methods.



## EARLY MARRIAGE

Child Marriage:

👰 Married before age 15: 8.9% of women aged 20-24.

👰 Married before age 18: 51.5% of women aged 20-24.

## EDUCATION

📖 Out-of-School Rate (Primary and Lower Secondary Education): Female: 66.3% and Male: 55.6%

📖 Literacy Rate (15+): Female: 34.5% and Male: 28.9%

📖 Education and Teacher Training: Teachers with Minimum Required Training (Pre-primary Level): 50.25%

📖 School Enrollment (Primary): 82% (gross enrollment ratio)

💰 Government Expenditure on Education: 3.3% (of total government expenditure)

## HEALTH

Maternal and Child Health:

👤 Births Attended by Skilled Health Personnel: 39.7%

👤 Infant Mortality Rate: 63.8 deaths per 1,000 live births

👤 Under-Five Mortality Rate: 98.8 deaths per 1,000 live births

📊 Life Expectancy at Birth: 55.57 years

👤 Nursing and Midwifery Personnel: 7.1 per 10,000 population

## WOMEN GOVERNANCE:

🏛️ Proportion of Seats Held by Women in National Parliament: 32.66%

## ECONOMY:

💰 Total GDP: \$6.5 billion

# BUILDING SOLIDARITY, CREATING CHANGE

Every milestone we've reached this year highlights the impact of compassion, collaboration, and shared commitment. Change is taking place every day through your support. Stay engaged with us—follow our updates on social media, explore ongoing project highlights, and learn how you can continue contributing to sustainable, life-changing opportunities.



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