2025



# CHANGE STORIES



"After graduation, I will return and serve my community — they will understand why I have been away for so long... to study and return home with skills that will help them."

- MARIA TUIL, MIDWIFERY STUDENT, CATHOLIC HEALTH TRAINING INSTITUTE

### FRIENDS IN SOLIDARITY

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Maria Tuil, 22 years old, a midwifery student at the Catholic Health Training Institute (CHTI), Wau town, has helped deliver several children at the St. Daniel Comboni Hospital, Wau, during clinical placement. Students are placed in and are required to work at various hospitals in Wau under the supervision of their tutor and other qualified hospital staff.

"I come from Warrap State, located in the Bahr el Ghazal region. I heard about CHTI because I have lived in Wau, close to the institute, since primary school. I would always see students from the institute who would tell me how good it is, and I dreamed of one day studying there, especially because since high school, I have wanted to study in the medical field. Additionally, my community in Warrap State does not have many people who studied medicine, so we thought it would be good if I did. My mother has also been encouraging me to continue with my studies because she doesn't want me to live the same kind of life she lived."

"I was happy to be admitted to CHTI, and because I am studying under a scholarship, I was required to sign a bonding agreement which requires me to work for two years at a location of their choice and then after graduation, I can work wherever I want. This is a good agreement because my family would not have been able to afford the fees for medical training. My father died before I was born, leaving my mother, a farmer, to struggle as a single mother. I am the last child. None of my siblings are educated. They had to sell some cows to educate me through primary and secondary school."

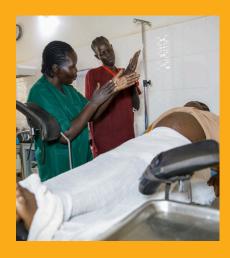




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"I enjoy the clinical placements. They give real-life experience regarding how it will be when you graduate and work in the communities. The placement helps the student to learn and avoid mistakes in future. We usually consult our tutors and experienced staff members. After graduation, I will work with confidence. I will return and serve my community - they will understand why I have been away for so long... to study and return home with skills that will help them."







"Rolinda Rocco conducts deliveries at the Maternity Ward of St. Daniel Comboni Hospital in Wau. She plays another very important role tooshe is one of many staff members who work alongside CHTI students, such as Maria Tuil, during their clinical placements. She guides them and corrects them where necessary so that when they graduate, they can go out and provide quality healthcare wherever they work across South Sudan."

"I used to be a traditional birth attendant. I thank the hospital because first, they trained me as a nurse's aide for nine months, and then after another nine months of midwifery training, I became a trained traditional birth attendant. They allowed me to conduct deliveries only after the training."

"CHTI has known me for four years. They had invited me to enrol as a student, but I could not because, apart from it being a boarding school, I have children to take care of, including one with disability. When the institute's students come here for practice, I teach them while they are in their first, second and third years. In the first year of school, during practicals, they learn how to make the patients' beds, receive the patients and clean the wards, among other things. In the second year,

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they are allowed to touch the patients. They can assess the patients. In the third year, they learn all the things about midwifery, and they also have to do a case study. They do actual deliveries, do injections, give medication, do abdominal palpations and are taught how to manage the ward."



"When they graduate, they join us as staff. They become senior staff - my bosses, but we still respect each other. For example, Roselyn graduated from CHTI; we worked together as midwives, and then they put her in charge of the ward. After some years, she was put in charge of the Antenatal Clinic, where she is still working. Over the years, I have helped over thirty CHTI students. An important thing is that the students come from all over South Sudan. No matter what tribe each person comes from, they all work together without discrimination. As a health personnel, you cannot treat people differently based on where they come from. You have to be friends with all the patients. You have to love them all."

THIS CHANGE STORY IS SIGNIFICANT because it highlights how access to training at CHTI is preparing young people like Maria to answer the critical shortage of healthcare workers in South Sudan. Her journey shows the impact of scholarships, mentoring, and hands-on clinical experience — equipping her to return home with the confidence and skills to serve her community and safeguard the lives of mothers and newborns.



## STAY CONNECTED

Maria's story is a testament to the power of education and personal determination. It shows how training at CHTI is preparing young leaders to transform healthcare in South Sudan. Want to learn more about how we're making a difference? Stay connected with us — follow our journey on social media, explore more stories, and discover how you can get involved. Together, we can create more opportunities for lasting change.



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**SOLIDARITY IN MOTION**