

# The Riimenze Community

Newsletter – February 2026

Sustainable Agriculture Project and Community Development



## The fruits of the training in Bazungua

Horticulture remains a vital activity for local livelihoods and economic development. Our beneficiaries in Bazungua, having taken part in training courses on agricultural management, are now reaping the rewards of their extraordinary hard work. In the photos, Martin Ismail and Mary proudly show off the results of the program led by our Livelihoods Officer, Onyango Samuel. Thanks to the skills they have acquired — from the correct nursery bed management to transplanting crops into rows — they have transformed their work into a thriving and highly productive farm.



## Visit by the Executive Director of Solidarity

Recently, the Riimenze community hosted Father Loua SJ, Executive Director of Solidarity, and the Quality Assurance Manager, Joseph Ohide. It was a significant occasion for discussion and appreciation: Fr Loua praised the SAP-R team for the results achieved and the dedication shown in the field, urging everyone to keep alive the spirit of collaboration and hard work that characterizes the farm. Sr Veronica ICM and Br Godfrey BSJ did the honors, warmly welcoming the visitors and



emphasizing the importance of these moments of fellowship for the project's growth.



## Safeguarding Awareness in Riimenze

The Quality Assurance Manager (QAM), together with the Project Manager of the Sustainable Agriculture Project, held an important awareness-raising session on Solidarity's Safeguarding Policy. The meeting involved both staff and casual workers, emphasizing that protection and safety are fundamental pillars of the organization. During the session, the QAM reiterated the absolute importance of implementing and adhering to these guidelines, noting that any violation of the

Policy will result in the immediate termination of the employment relationship. Strict adherence to these standards is not only an act of ethical responsibility but an essential requirement to ensure compliance with donors' legal criteria and the achievement of the highest international standards of protection.

## Intensive Training

As part of the capacity-building program, a quarterly intensive training course for Community Extension Workers (CEWs) has come to an end. The session, coordinated by the Livelihoods Officer, focused on horticultural and livestock farming practices. Specifically, the program explored key topics such as animal health and hygiene, veterinary treatments, livestock nutrition, seedbed preparation and Integrated Pest Management (IPM). The initiative aims to equip CEWs with the skills needed to provide high-quality advisory services to their communities.



## Apiary

The apiary is another activity carried out at the demonstration farm of the Sustainable Agriculture Project in Riimenze (SAP-R). The activity is aimed at producing honey and wax. In addition to its economic value, the apiary plays a vital educational role, serving as a study center for students and agricultural experts (Extension Workers). The wax is used to make candles, and our honey is highly valued by the local community not only as a source of energy rich in protein and vitamins, but also for its recognized medicinal properties.





## Nutrition Program

The Nutrition Training Program aims to equip women with practical skills and effective strategies for infant and child nutrition. As an integral part of the SAP-R project, the initiative recognizes the well-being of young children as a cornerstone of community development. In Makpandu, the Nutrition Officer trained mothers to

promote proper feeding practices and ensure a balanced diet for both women and their children. The training program covers key topics such as the composition of a balanced diet, the importance of maternal and infant feeding, and food availability and safety.



## Oxen plough Technology

A pair of young calves are currently being trained in animal traction, an improved farming system that combines tradition and innovation. The use of the ox plough plays a vital role in modern land management: it helps to break up and aerate the soil, improving water absorption and promoting healthy root growth, resulting in increased crop yields. A local trainer has been appointed for this task and is guiding the farm workers through the training process. This initiative aims to optimize production and increase the farm's income, drastically reducing the high costs of manual labor and making agricultural management more efficient and sustainable.

## New space for the little ones in Riimenze

At the Saint Dominic & Savio Nursery School in Riimenze, we are upgrading our facilities to accommodate our ever-growing number of children. In fact, the kitchen renovation works are almost complete and, at the same time, the construction of the "Tori", a large gazebo-style structure, has been finished. This area has been designed to provide a spacious shaded space where the children can eat together and carry out other activities sheltered from the sun.

