



FRIENDS IN SOLIDARITY

2025 PROGRESS REPORT



www.solidarityfriends.org



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

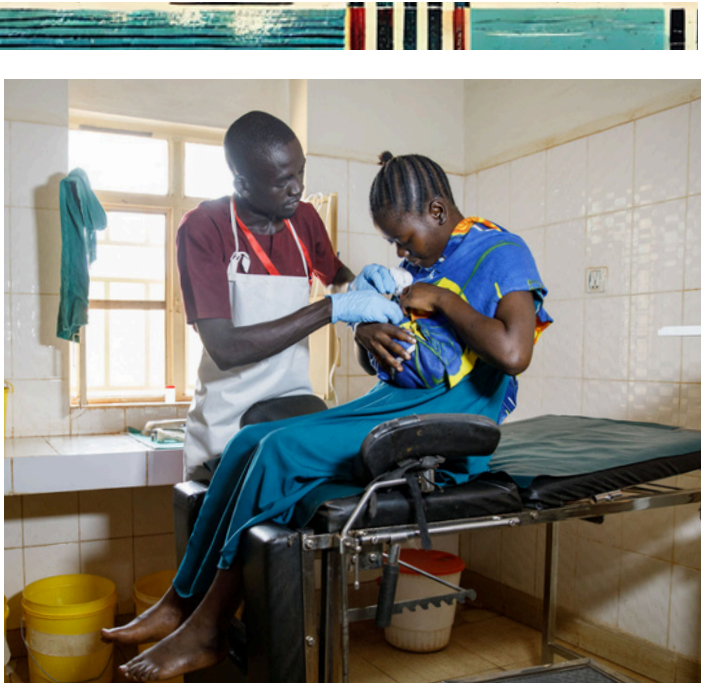
Solidarity with South Sudan espouses a unique model of ministry, one of collaboration between congregations of men and women with different charisms coming from a variety of countries. It is inspired by the call of the Congress on Consecrated Life – Passion for Christ, Passion for Humanity, held in Rome 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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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 Shepherd 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



2025 THE YEAR IN REVIEW



In 2025, South Sudan continued to face a convergence of humanitarian, economic, and political crises that deepened instability and heightened uncertainty across the country. Conflict, climate shocks, food insecurity, disease outbreaks, economic decline, and regional instability continued to strain already fragile institutions and vulnerable communities.

Economically, South Sudan continued to grapple with inflation, currency depreciation, rising food prices, and declining oil revenues. Public institutions remained under severe financial strain, limiting the government's ability to provide basic services such as healthcare, education, and public sector salaries. Rising poverty and unemployment continued to affect households across the country.

Politically, 2025 was marked by growing uncertainty surrounding South Sudan's transition process and preparations for long-awaited national elections. Elections originally anticipated following independence in 2011 have now been postponed multiple times — from 2015 to 2018, then to 2021, 2023, 2024, and now to December 2026. The postponement announced in late 2024 represented the fourth extension of the transitional period under the 2018 Revitalized Peace Agreement and reflected continued delays in implementing key provisions of the peace accord, including constitutional reforms, census preparations, voter registration, and the unification of armed forces.

A major development in 2025 was the significant reduction and restructuring of United States foreign assistance, including sharp cuts and disruptions affecting several USAID-funded humanitarian and development programs in South Sudan.

In South Sudan, the United States remained the single largest humanitarian donor; however, its contribution declined significantly between 2024 and 2025. Funding decreased from approximately \$707.5 million in 2024 (51.9% of total humanitarian response funding) to about \$281.5 million in 2025 (31.9%), representing one of the steepest year-on-year reductions in external humanitarian support. This contraction contributed to widening funding gaps across the humanitarian response and resulted in the suspension, downsizing, or closure of several USAID-supported and partner-implemented programs across key sectors.

The cuts directly affected essential sectors, including food assistance, health services, nutrition support, education, livelihoods, peacebuilding, protection services, and emergency response operations. Health systems were among the hardest hit. Aid reductions contributed to the suspension or reduction of services in a significant share of health facilities supported by international partners, further weakening an already fragile national health system, leading to increased mortality risks, particularly for children suffering from malnutrition and communities affected by disease outbreaks such as cholera. Humanitarian agencies reported that health facilities were forced to reduce services, outreach programs were scaled back, and supply chains for essential medicines and therapeutic foods were disrupted. In some areas, clinics closed entirely, leaving vulnerable populations—particularly women, children, refugees, and internally displaced persons—without access to basic healthcare.

The impact on food security was particularly severe. Reduced funding constrained food programme operations at a time when millions of people were already experiencing acute food insecurity. Across the humanitarian system, South Sudan response plan was funded at only around 45.9% by the end of November 2025, highlighting significant gaps in humanitarian support and continued pressure on life-saving operations.

Beyond immediate service delivery, the reduction in USAID funding also weakened peacebuilding initiatives, governance support, and civil society programming, reducing the capacity of local actors to support conflict mitigation and community resilience in fragile areas. Many national and local NGOs experienced staffing reductions, program suspensions, and cash-flow crises, limiting their ability to respond to escalating needs. The contraction in funding also placed additional pressure on faith-based organizations, local NGOs, and community-based structures, which increasingly became the primary providers of basic services in hard-to-reach areas.

Overall, 2025 marked a structural shift in the global humanitarian financing landscape, with South Sudan among the most affected contexts. The combined effect of reduced U.S. assistance, shrinking global humanitarian appeals, and escalating needs significantly constrained the humanitarian system's ability to sustain life-saving interventions at scale.

FOREWORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends,

I greet you with deep affection and with a heart that holds sorrow and hope in the same breath. As you receive this report, our sisters and brothers in South Sudan are living through another painful season. This year, more than ten million people - two-thirds of the population - will need humanitarian assistance to survive, and renewed fighting has displaced hundreds of thousands more, with over a quarter of a million uprooted in Jonglei alone. In April 2026, the United Nations warned that the country is at a critical juncture and pleaded for the protection of civilians. Floods have swallowed homes and harvests, markets have faltered, and just as the need grew sharpest, international aid grew thin. share these realities gently, but honestly - because love begins by refusing to look away from another's suffering. The families and individuals we walk with cannot turn from this pain, and so neither will we.

And yet, dear friends, this is not where the story ends. All through 2025, grace kept doing its quiet, faithful work. In Wau, fifty-four young women and men completed their nursing and midwifery training and stepped into clinics that had long awaited them - part of the 447 health professionals CHTI has now formed, who together reach more than a million patients each year. In Yambio and Wau, teacher-training programs welcomed their largest classes yet. In Riimenze, children arrived each morning eager to learn. And across many dioceses, catechists, mothers, young people, and women carrying the wounds of war gathered in circles of healing and reconciliation - living proof that dignity, once awakened, cannot be extinguished.

None of this is our doing alone. To our donors, to our partner congregations of women and men religious, and to every friend who chose to stand with South Sudan when looking elsewhere would have been easier, thank you, from the depths of my heart. Your faithfulness has a face: a graduate at a bedside, a teacher before a chalkboard, a young woman discovering her own voice. You have made yourselves neighbors across great distance, and your nearness is written into every page that follows. earth bless our shared work, and bring it gently to harvest.

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I also want to honor our team at Friends in Solidarity. To our board members, governing board, and staff: thank you. You are the hands and the heart of this mission, and it is my joy to walk beside you.

As we look to the year ahead, our hope is simple and stubborn: to reach further, and to hold closer those who carry the heaviest burdens. In this crisis, as in every crisis, it is women and children who suffer first and most, and so it is to them that we lean in with greater tenderness and resolve. We dream of more nurses and midwives at more delivery beds, more girls kept safely in school, more mothers gathered into circles of healing and belonging. We do not know all that lies ahead, but we trust the One who does: *"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to give you hope and a future"* (Jeremiah 29:11).

May the God who walks with the scarred and downtrodden of the earth bless our shared work, and bring it gently to harvest.

With gratitude and hope, Shukran!

Mūmbi Kīgūtha CPPS
President - Friends in Solidarity



**SR. MŪMBI
KĪGŪTHA CPPS**

President, Friends in
Solidarity





HUMANITARIAN CRISIS AMID ONGOING CONFLICT

The scale of humanitarian need expanded further during the year, affecting over 10 million people and encompassing nearly two-thirds of the national population. Armed clashes displaced thousands of families, disrupted livelihoods, and limited humanitarian access to vulnerable populations. Repeated flooding inundated villages, agricultural land, and key infrastructure, further intensifying food insecurity and cutting off communities already weakened by years of crisis. By November 2025, more than 1 million people had been impacted by floods, in six of South Sudan's ten states.

Food insecurity and malnutrition remained at alarming levels, with millions of South Sudanese requiring urgent humanitarian assistance. Women and children continued to bear the greatest burden of the crisis. Disease outbreaks, including cholera, further strained an already weakened healthcare system and increased humanitarian needs nationwide.

Regional instability in neighboring Sudan continued to significantly affect South Sudan throughout 2025. The conflict, which erupted in April 2023, stemmed from a broader political and institutional breakdown following Sudan's stalled transition to civilian rule. It escalated from a violent power struggle between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF), driven in part by disagreements over political transition arrangements and the proposed integration of the RSF into the national army, amid the collapse of Sudan's fragile civilian-led transition process.

By 2025, the Sudan conflict had evolved into one of the world's largest humanitarian crises, marked by widespread displacement, food insecurity, destruction of infrastructure, and allegations of war crimes and ethnic violence, particularly in Darfur. The ongoing violence displaced millions of people internally and across borders, including hundreds of thousands of returnees and refugees entering South Sudan through national borders. The influx placed enormous pressure on South Sudan's already overstretched humanitarian services, healthcare systems, host communities, and food supplies.

The Sudan conflict also disrupted critical trade and oil transit routes that South Sudan depends on economically. Given South Sudan's heavy reliance on oil exports through Sudan's infrastructure and pipelines, instability in Sudan continued to undermine government revenues, worsen inflation, and contribute to rising food and fuel prices across South Sudan during 2025.

Despite these immense challenges, the resilience of South Sudanese people remained evident throughout the year. Communities, churches, humanitarian partners, faith-based organizations, NGOs and civil society organizations continued to provide critical support, promote peacebuilding efforts, and sustain hope amid one of the world's most protracted humanitarian crises.

SOURCES

- UN OCHA Financial Tracking Service (FTS), South Sudan Humanitarian Funding Overview (2024–2025): <https://fts.unocha.org/countries/211/summary/2025>
- UN OCHA Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) South Sudan 2025 – Situation and Funding Analysis: <https://humanitarianaction.info/plan/1512>
- UN OCHA HRP South Sudan 2025 – Article / Funding Update Page: <https://humanitarianaction.info/plan/1512/article/south-sudan-4>



CATHOLIC HEALTH TRAINING INSTITUTE (CHTI) WAU





CATHOLIC HEALTH TRAINING INSTITUTE (CHTI) WAU

Training the Hands — and Hearts — That Save Lives

In a country where the ratio of nurses and midwives stands at just 0.71 per 1,000 people, and where 1,511 health facilities serve a population of over 11 million, the contribution of CHTI to the national health workforce is both significant and measurable. In South Sudan, access to healthcare is not guaranteed. For millions of families, this means walking long distances for care, delivering babies without skilled attendants, or going without treatment altogether. Maternal and infant mortality rates remain among the highest in the region, driven in part by a critical shortage of trained health professionals.

Behind every statistic is a simple reality: there are not enough nurses. Not enough midwives. Not enough trained professionals in the rooms where lives are saved.

The Catholic Health Training Institute (CHTI) exists to change that.

Building a Skilled Health Workforce

In June 2025, 31 nursing students graduated from CHTI—eight women and 23 men—achieving a 97% completion rate. In the same cohort, all 23 midwifery students—11 men and 12 women—successfully completed their training, marking a 100% graduation rate.

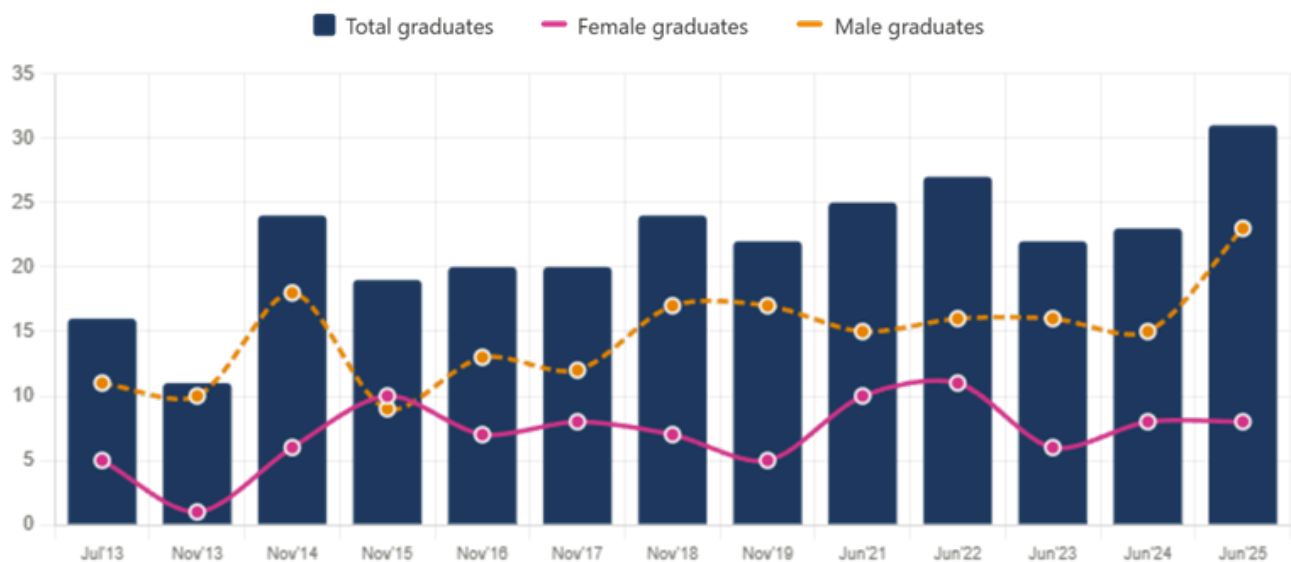
These are not just numbers. Each graduate represents a trained professional entering a health facility that may otherwise have gone without qualified staff. Since June 2022, 90% of enrolled nursing and midwifery students have passed their professional examinations, meeting the program's intended benchmarks and demonstrating consistent academic performance despite operating in a fragile context.

Nurses

GRADUATE SUMMARY BY YEAR AND GENDER



GRADUATES BY YEAR AND GENDER



Category	Jul'13	Nov'13	Nov'14	Nov'15	Nov'16	Nov'17	Nov'18	Nov'19	Jun'21	Jun'22	Jun'23	Jun'24	Jun'25	Total
Total Graduates	16	11	24	19	20	20	24	22	25	27	22	23	31	284
Female Graduates	5	1	6	10	7	8	7	5	10	11	6	8	8	92
Male Graduates	11	10	18	9	13	12	17	17	15	16	16	15	23	192

Over 2013–2025, the Nurses program has graduated **284** individuals across 13 cohorts.



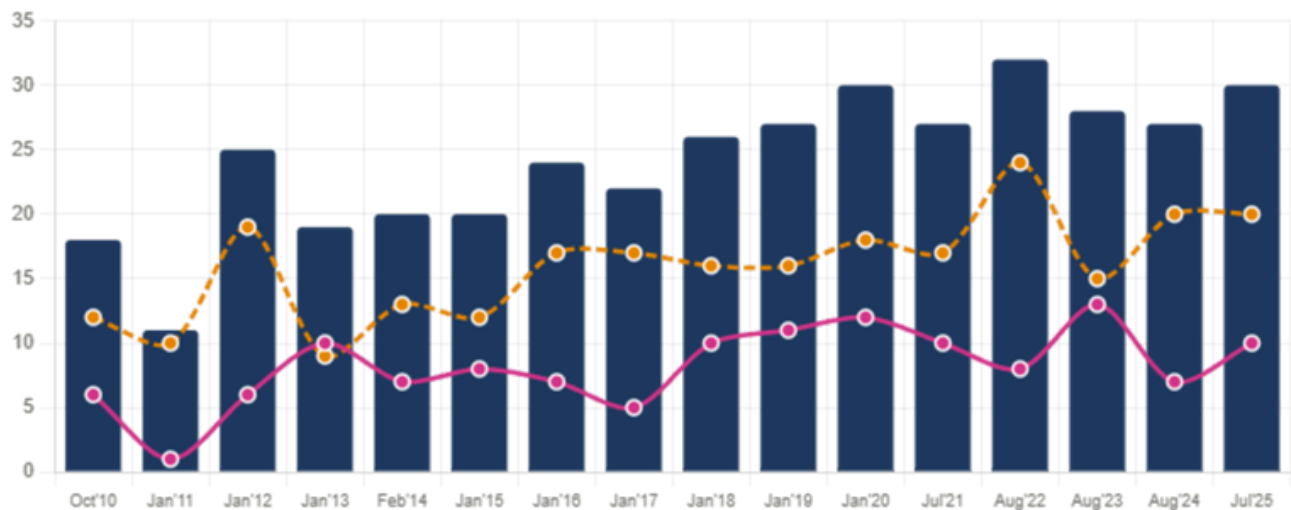
Nurses: Intake

INTAKE SUMMARY BY YEAR AND GENDER



INTAKE BY YEAR AND GENDER

■ Total intake ● Female intake ● Male intake



Category	Oct'10	Jan'11	Jan'12	Jan'13	Feb'14	Jan'15	Jan'16	Jan'17	Jan'18	Jan'19	Jan'20	Jul'21	Aug'22	Aug'23	Aug'24	Jul'25	Total
Total Intake	18	11	25	19	20	20	24	22	26	27	30	27	32	28	27	30	386
Female Intake	6	1	6	10	7	8	7	5	10	11	12	10	8	13	7	10	131
Male Intake	12	10	19	9	13	12	17	17	16	16	18	17	24	15	20	20	255

Over 2010–2025, the Nurses program recorded a total intake of **386** individuals across 16 cohorts.

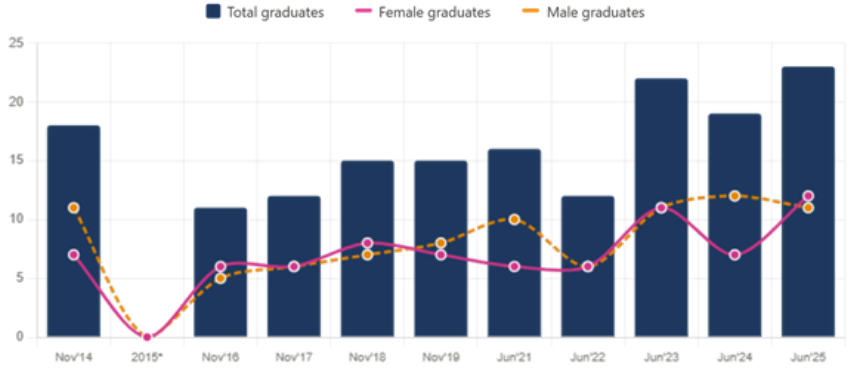


Midwives

GRADUATE SUMMARY BY YEAR AND GENDER



GRADUATES BY YEAR AND GENDER



Category	Nov'14	2015*	Nov'16	Nov'17	Nov'18	Nov'19	Jun'21	Jun'22	Jun'23	Jun'24	Jun'25	Total
Total Graduates	18	0	11	12	15	15	16	12	22	19	23	163
Female Graduates	7	0	6	6	8	7	6	6	11	7	12	74
Male Graduates	11	0	5	6	7	8	10	6	11	12	11	89

* 2015: No graduates.

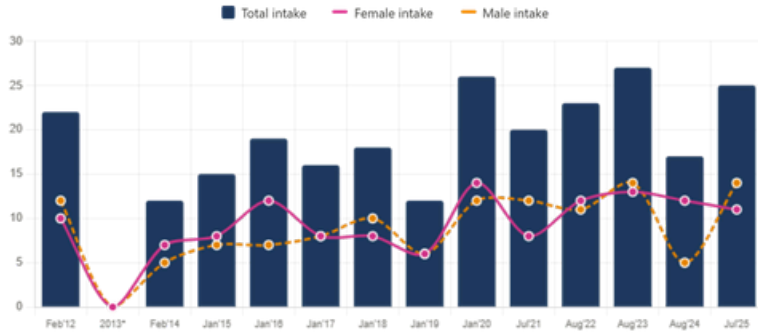
Over 2014–2025, the Midwives program has graduated **163** individuals across 10 cohorts.

Midwives: Intake

INTAKE SUMMARY BY YEAR AND GENDER



INTAKE BY YEAR AND GENDER



Category	Feb'12	2013*	Feb'14	Jan'15	Jan'16	Jan'17	Jan'18	Jan'19	Jan'20	Jul'21	Aug'22	Aug'23	Aug'24	Jul'25	Total
Total Intake	22	0	12	15	19	16	18	12	26	20	23	27	17	25	252
Female Intake	10	0	7	8	12	8	8	6	14	8	12	13	12	11	117
Male Intake	12	0	5	7	7	8	10	6	12	12	11	14	5	14	135

* 2013: No intake.

Over 2012–2025, the Midwives program recorded a total intake of **252** individuals across 13 cohorts.





Learning by Doing

Training at CHTI does not stop in the classroom. In partnership with South Sudan's Ministry of Health, the curriculum aligns with national standards and priorities, ensuring that graduates are prepared to meet the country's most urgent health needs.

Students complete supervised clinical rotations at St. Daniel Comboni Hospital, Sikka Hadid Primary Health Care Centre, and Wau Teaching Hospital. There, they provide hands-on patient care, assist in deliveries, monitor vital signs, and strengthen their clinical judgment under professional supervision.

For many patients, these students are part of the frontline health workforce.

Healing in a Post-Conflict Context

South Sudan's health challenges are inseparable from its history of conflict. Recognizing this, CHTI integrates trauma healing and peacebuilding sessions into its formation model. Students learn not only clinical skills, but also emotional resilience, ethical service, and compassionate care.

The institute also advances gender inclusion in a sector where women have historically faced barriers. Women now make up 38% of all graduates—a proportion that continues to rise. In a country where access to skilled birth attendants can mean the difference between life and death, increasing the number of trained female health professionals has transformative implications.

A Growing National Impact

By June 2025, CHTI had produced 447 healthcare professionals—284 registered nurses and 163 midwives.

Each of these professionals strengthens a clinic, supports a hospital, and expands access to essential care. Their presence reduces preventable maternal and infant deaths, improves treatment outcomes, and increases trust in local health systems.

The impact extends beyond the individual graduate. A trained midwife can safely deliver hundreds of babies over the course of her career. A registered nurse may serve thousands of patients in rural and urban facilities alike. The multiplier effect is profound.

Investing in Long-Term Sustainability

Sustainability requires more than graduating students—it requires building faculty capacity.

Since 2018, CHTI has selected graduates to pursue Bachelor's Degrees at Great Lake University in Uganda and Uzima University in Kenya. Upon completion, graduates return under a bonded agreement to serve as tutors for four years, strengthening the institute's academic foundation.

Today, five CHTI alumni serve as tutors at the institute. This growing cadre of locally trained faculty reduces dependence on external instructors and ensures that South Sudanese professionals are training the next generation of South Sudanese health workers.

Forming Health Professionals Who Build Peace

In South Sudan, divisions along ethnic and regional lines have shaped decades of conflict. For many young people, opportunities to live, learn, and collaborate across tribal identities are rare.



Yet effective healthcare delivery in a fragile nation requires trust, teamwork, and the ability to serve every patient with dignity.

At the Catholic Health Training Institute (CHTI), formation goes beyond clinical skills.

This year, students from all ten states of South Sudan, as well as from the Nuba Mountains of Sudan and Abyei region, lived together in shared dormitories. Daily life—studying, eating, praying, and preparing for exams side by side—became an experience in unity. In classrooms and common spaces, future nurses and midwives learned not only anatomy and pharmacology, but also how to listen, respect difference, and build community across tribal lines.

Clinical training was intentionally structured to reinforce this model. Mixed practice teams brought together students from diverse backgrounds to collaborate on patient care. In hospital wards and health centers, they learned to rely on one another's strengths, value different perspectives, and make joint decisions under supervision. Trust was not theoretical—it was practiced.

Structured multicultural activities, including dialogue sessions and shared cultural celebrations, further deepened understanding. Students engaged openly about identity, history, and the realities facing their communities. These conversations fostered empathy and mutual respect, laying the foundation for professional relationships that extend beyond graduation.

By the end of the reporting period, participants reported stronger bonds with peers from other regions, a deeper appreciation of South Sudan's cultural diversity, and greater confidence in working within mixed teams. Many expressed a renewed commitment to delivering healthcare in ways that promote dignity, inclusion, and national cohesion.

In a country where health facilities often serve communities shaped by displacement and trauma, these graduates carry more than clinical expertise. They carry the lived experience of unity—an essential ingredient for building both healthier systems and a more peaceful nation.

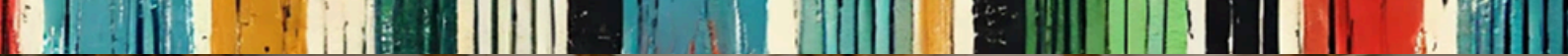
The Ripple Effect — Patients, Households and Communities

The reach of CHTI graduates extends far beyond the facilities where they work. Based on a conservative estimate of 10 patient consultations per day across a 48-week working year, CHTI's 447 graduates collectively reach an estimated 1,072,800 patients annually — providing skilled clinical care, maternal health support, and preventive services to communities that would otherwise have little or no access to trained health workers. When the ripple effect on graduates' own households is considered — at South Sudan's reported average of 5.6 persons per household — an additional 2,503 community members benefit directly from having a trained health professional in their home. In total, CHTI's graduates are estimated to positively touch the lives of over 1,075,000 people across South Sudan every year.

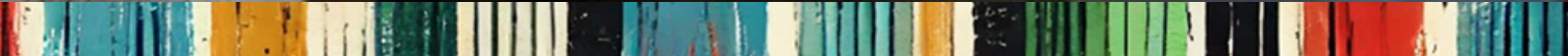
CHTI graduates represent an estimated 5.7% of South Sudan's entire nursing and midwifery workforce — meaning that nearly 1 in every 17 qualified nurses or midwives practicing in the country today trained at CHTI. Furthermore, based on the distribution of graduates across the country's health facilities, CHTI-trained health workers are estimated to be present in nearly 1 in every 3 health facilities in South Sudan. This is a profound and enduring contribution to a health system under enormous pressure.

These figures carry particular weight in a country where health worker shortages are among the most acute in the world. Every CHTI graduate who enters the workforce represents not just one health worker, but a multiplier of care — reaching patients, families, and communities across South Sudan's most underserved regions.





SOLIDARITY TEACHER TRAINING COLLEGE (STTC) YAMBIO





SOLIDARITY TEACHER TRAINING COLLEGE (STTC) YAMBIO

A Beacon of Hope in Western Equatoria

South Sudan continues to face profound education deficits. Government expenditure on education remains low, accounting for just 8.1% of total government spending in 2023. Primary school completion stands at only 26% (2012), and adult literacy at 35% (2018). Many classrooms are overcrowded, instructional resources are minimal, and teachers often enter the classroom without formal pedagogical training.

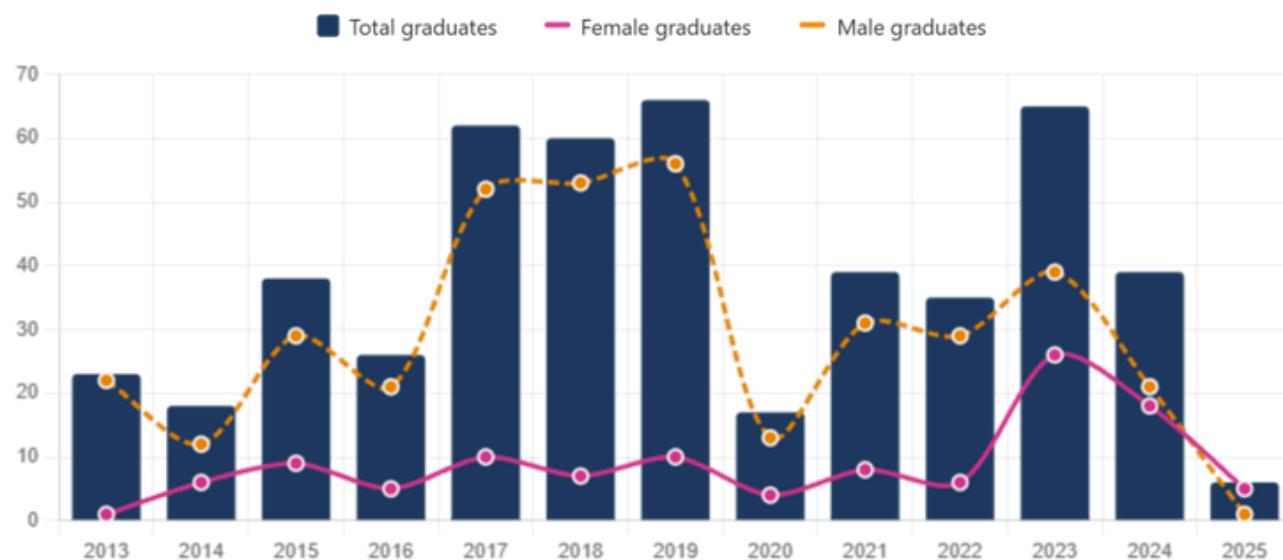
STTC addresses these systemic gaps through three complementary teacher training pathways, each tailored to distinct needs within South Sudan's education system. The two-year residential Pre-Service Certificate program prepares new primary school teachers in alignment with South Sudan's updated 2020 national curriculum, expanding the pipeline of certified educators for underserved classrooms. The In-Service Training program enables currently employed teachers with secondary qualifications to earn a formal Teaching Certificate through structured weekend instruction, improving teaching quality without disrupting classroom continuity. The Diploma program upgrades qualifications for experienced teachers, preparing them for leadership roles, advanced studies, and stronger instructional practice.

Pre-Service Program

GRADUATE SUMMARY BY YEAR AND GENDER



GRADUATES BY YEAR AND GENDER



Category	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Total
Total Graduates	23	18	38	26	62	60	66	17	39	35	65	39	6	494
Female Graduates	1	6	9	5	10	7	10	4	8	6	26	18	5	115
Male Graduates	22	12	29	21	52	53	56	13	31	29	39	21	1	379

Over the past 13 years (2013–2025), the Pre-Service Program has graduated **494** individuals, empowering future educators and leaders.

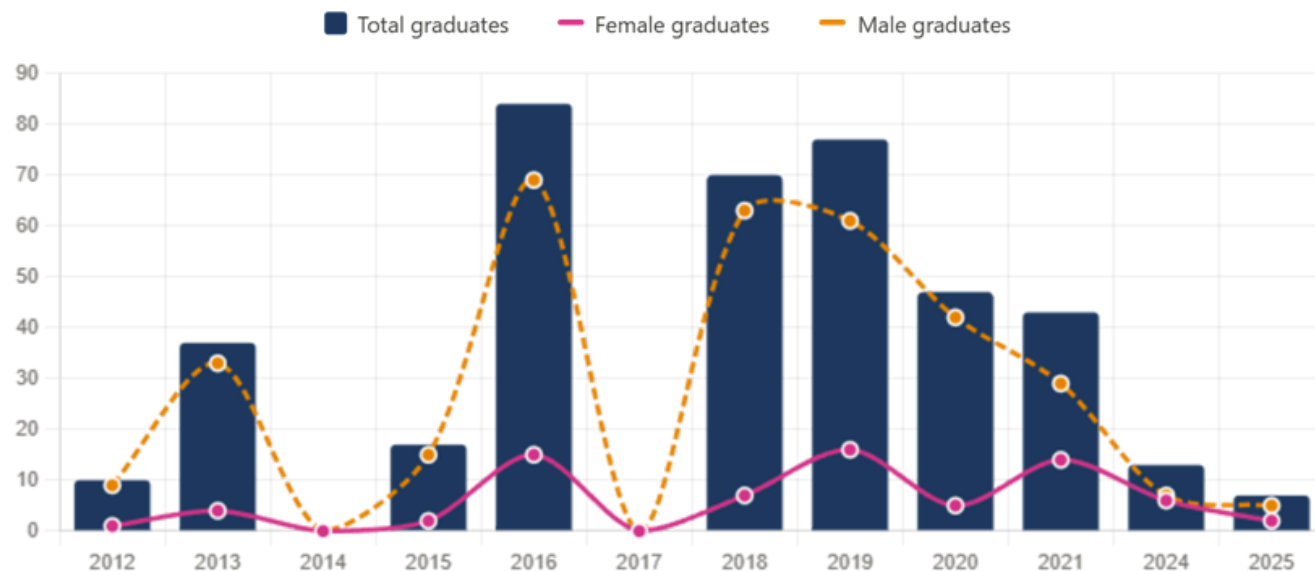


In-Service Program

GRADUATE SUMMARY BY YEAR AND GENDER



GRADUATES BY YEAR AND GENDER



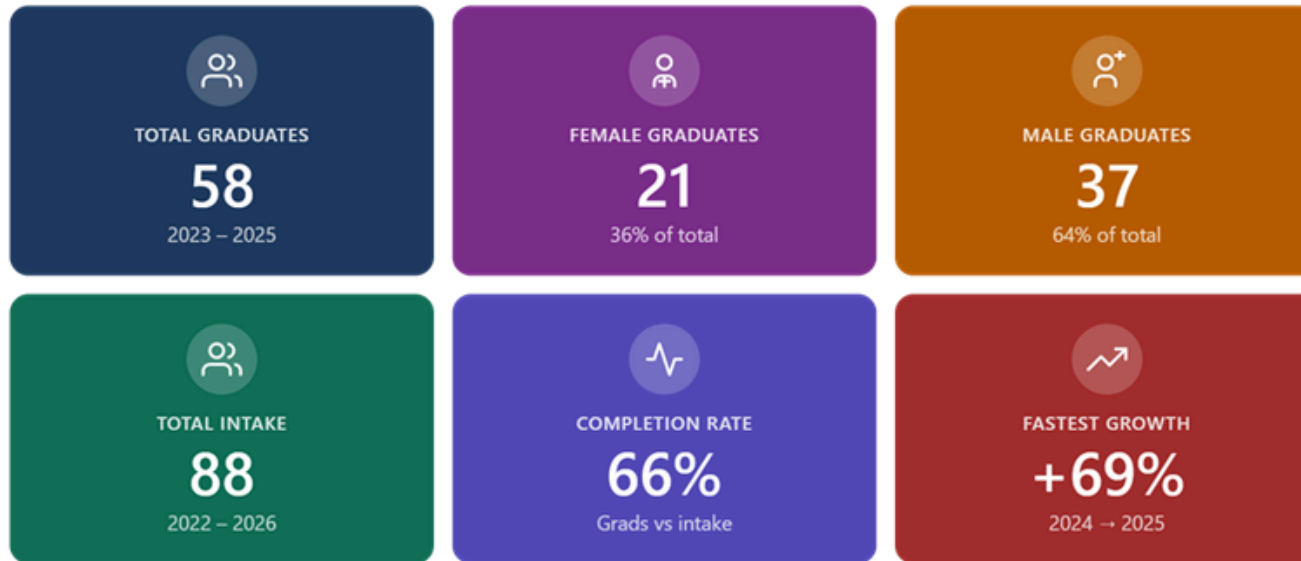
Category	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2024	2025	Total
Total Graduates	10	37	0	17	84	0	70	77	47	43	13	7	405
Female Graduates	1	4	0	2	15	0	7	16	5	14	6	2	72
Male Graduates	9	33	0	15	69	0	63	61	42	29	7	5	333

Over 2012–2025, the In-Service Program has graduated **405** individuals across 10 cohorts.



Diploma Program

GRADUATE SUMMARY



Gender Composition by Graduation Year

How the female-to-male ratio has shifted across each cohort

Female Male

2023 — 15 graduates

Female 2 · Male 13



2024 — 16 graduates

Female 4 · Male 12



2025 — 27 graduates

Female 15 · Male 12



Overall — 58 graduates

Female 21 · Male 37



★ In 2025, female graduates (56%) surpassed males for the first time in the Diploma Program's history.

The Diploma Program has grown rapidly since its first cohort in 2023, with graduates nearly doubling by 2025 and achieving a female majority for the first time.

Building a Skilled Teacher Workforce

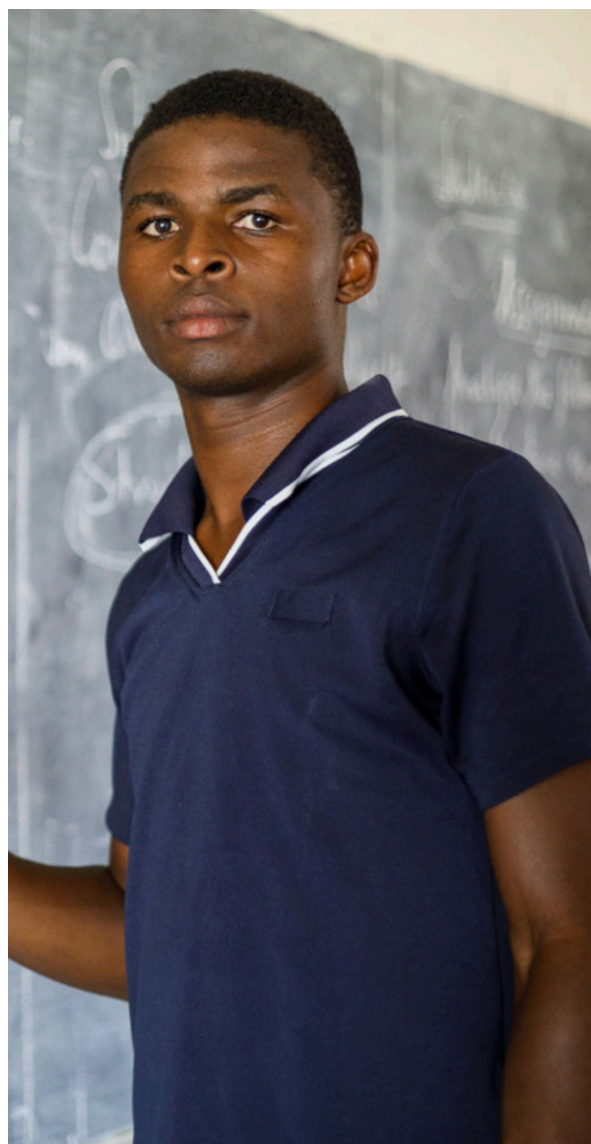
All programs at STTC are fully aligned with the national curriculum and certified by the Ministry of General Education and Instruction. Academic oversight has been provided by the University of Juba, and in 2025 STTC transitioned to affiliation with the Catholic University of South Sudan, aligning the College with a three-term academic calendar for more effective scheduling and long-term sustainability.

The College provides a holistic educational experience. Pre-Service students receive tuition, accommodation, meals, and all teaching materials for the full two-year residential course, while In-Service students continue teaching in their communities while attending weekly or holiday sessions. Diploma students receive focused professional development in pedagogy, leadership, and mentoring, preparing them to assume roles as Master Teachers, deputy principals, or curriculum leaders.

Learning by Doing

Training at STTC emphasizes practical classroom experience. Students complete supervised teaching practice in local primary schools, applying pedagogical principles and Early Childhood Education approaches, particularly in their first-year placements. They combine observation, lesson planning, and interactive teaching, using multisensory methods that integrate songs, games, and hands-on activities. These experiences ensure that graduates are prepared to manage classrooms effectively, adapt to diverse student needs, and deliver engaging, quality instruction.

Beyond the classroom, students participate in trauma healing workshops, safeguarding training, health and hygiene campaigns, and sustainable agriculture field visits. Music, art, and sports activities enhance well-being, teamwork, and leadership skills. The College's Environmental Club, renamed the "Laudato Sì Movement," reinforces ecological awareness and responsibility, integrating reflection, prayer, and practical exercises for the care of creation. These initiatives cultivate well-rounded teachers capable of serving as role models in their communities.



Healing and Unity in a Fragile Context

South Sudan's history of conflict makes social cohesion and peacebuilding essential components of teacher training. STTC recruits male and female students from every state, the Nuba Mountains, and refugee communities, promoting intercultural understanding and mutual respect. Daily reflection sessions, intercultural activities, and student committees foster dialogue, tolerance, and collaboration. Through residential life and mixed classroom teams, students learn to navigate diversity, build trust, and work toward shared goals. Graduates leave STTC equipped with technical expertise, ethical grounding, and practical experience in promoting peace.

Enrollment, Reach, and Impact

In 2025, STTC enrolled 84 students across its three programs — 41 in Pre-Service, 11 in In-Service, and 32 in the Diploma program — 39 of whom are women, representing 46% of total intake. Across all three programs, 40 students successfully graduated in 2025. Looking ahead, 2026 marks a significant expansion, with 122 new students beginning Year One — 56 in Pre-Service, 41 in In-Service, and 25 in the Diploma program. This growing enrollment reflects STTC's sustained commitment to increasing the number of qualified teachers in South Sudan and strengthening the long-term capacity of the country's education system.

Since inception, over 957 educators have been trained and are estimated to be actively teaching across South Sudan. Based on an average class size of 80 students per teacher, these educators collectively reach an estimated 76,560 children in classrooms nationwide. When the ripple effect on teachers' own households is considered — at South Sudan's reported average of 5.6 persons per household — an additional 5,359 community members benefit directly from having a trained educator in their home. In total, the institute's graduates are estimated to have touched the lives of nearly 82,000 people across South Sudan. Approximately 77% of all STTC graduates go on to teach in primary schools, directly influencing literacy, retention, and overall learning outcomes.





Gender Equity and Female Participation

STTC has placed particular emphasis on female teacher participation. In the Diploma Program, female graduates (56%) surpassed males for the first time in the program's history — a significant milestone in the institution's commitment to gender equity in education. Female teachers play a critical role as role models, promoting girls' enrolment and retention in primary education while encouraging broader empowerment and gender equality in schools and communities. The program aims to increase female participation toward 50% across all programs in the coming years, reflecting its commitment to equal opportunities and responsibilities for women and men.

Preparing a Generation for Peace and Learning

STTC graduates leave with not only the skills to teach effectively but also the values and experience to contribute to peaceful, inclusive communities. Through technical training, leadership development, cultural exchange, and ethical formation, students emerge as educators capable of transforming classrooms and communities. The College's commitment to quality education, gender inclusion, and social cohesion ensures that every teacher contributes to South Sudan's long-term stability and development. Through these achievements, STTC continues to fulfil its mission: training competent, ethical, and socially responsible teachers who shape classrooms and communities alike, advancing education, equity, and peace across South Sudan.

IN-SERVICE TEACHER TRAINING PROGRAM

WAU, SOUTH SUDAN

Expanding Quality Education Across Communities

To expand access to quality education and reach more communities, Friends in Solidarity (FiS), through its implementing partner Solidarity with South Sudan (SwSS), launched a new In-Service Teacher Training Program in Wau — the capital of Western Bahr el Ghazal State and the country's second-largest city — in February 2025. Wau was strategically chosen due to its lack of local teacher training institutions and the high concentration of unqualified primary school educators. The Ministry of Education identified 600 teachers in need of training, and the program welcomed its first cohort of 45 teacher-students.

The Wau program is a non-residential, two-year initiative designed to balance professional development with ongoing classroom responsibilities. Teacher-students continue teaching in local primary schools during the mornings and attend training sessions in the afternoons from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. During school holidays, they participate in three-week intensive study sessions, each with five full days of instruction. This structure ensures teachers strengthen their skills while remaining active in their schools, delivering immediate benefits to students and communities.

Program Implementation and Achievements

By mid-2025, the first semester of the Wau program had been successfully completed. Teacher-students participated in classroom-based practical sessions, including a module on the preparation of teaching resources — essential for enhancing instructional effectiveness. In June 2025, participants sat for their end-of-semester examinations, achieving excellent results and demonstrating the program's early impact. The program covered all teacher-student-related costs, furnished the training centre, provided learning materials, and ensured the presence of qualified tutors to deliver high-quality instruction.

Approximately 98.8% of beneficiaries are children under 18, and 37% of these are girls. The program not only improves immediate learning outcomes but also fosters long-term social stability, community engagement, and educational equity — reinforcing both public and faith-based schools and extending its reach across diverse educational settings.



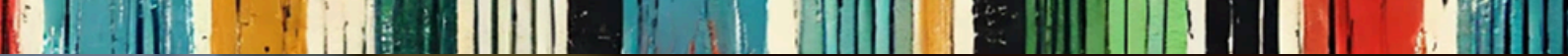


Looking Ahead: Wau In-Service Program — 2026 and Beyond

The establishment of a dedicated training centre in Wau positions the program for meaningful expansion in 2026. The upcoming intake will include approximately 40 new teacher-students beginning Year One, alongside 33 second-year participants progressing toward graduation and certification. By the end of 2026, the program will serve a total of 73 teacher-students, ensuring that more communities benefit from qualified, professionally trained teachers.

Each trained teacher reaches an average of 80 children annually, amplifying the program's educational impact and directly improving learning outcomes for thousands of children across the region. The first graduation is scheduled for the end of 2026 — a significant milestone that will mark the Wau program's transition from a promising initiative to a proven contributor to South Sudan's teaching workforce.

This initiative exemplifies what targeted, community-embedded teacher training can achieve: strengthened classrooms, empowered educators, and a more equitable foundation for education across South Sudan.

A photograph of three young children in a classroom. In the foreground, a young boy with a shaved head is smiling broadly at the camera. He is wearing a light-colored, ribbed long-sleeved shirt. Behind him, another child is partially visible. To the right, a girl with a shaved head is looking upwards and to the right. They are all sitting at a wooden desk. The background is slightly blurred, showing a classroom setting with wooden walls and other children.

ST. DOMINIC SAVIO PRIMARY SCHOOL RIIMENZE, YAMBIO



ST. DOMINIC SAVIO PRIMARY SCHOOL (RIIMENZE, YAMBIO)

A Beacon of Hope in Western Equatoria

Formerly known as St. Paul Primary School, St. Dominic Savio Primary School was renamed to more fully reflect the spirit and patronage of its guiding saint, Saint Dominic Savio. Located in the quiet village of Riimenze, near Yambio in Western Equatoria, the school continues to stand as a beacon of hope for families striving to secure a better future for their children through education.

South Sudan's economic hardship, inflation, and limited income opportunities weigh heavily on rural communities. Yet enrollment at the school continues to rise—a powerful testament to the value families place on learning.

During the first term of the 2025 academic year, the school enrolled 276 pupils: 135 boys and 141 girls. This near gender balance reflects steady progress toward inclusive access to education. The school serves Primary 1 through Primary 8 (the equivalent of Grades 1–8), with particularly strong enrollment in the lower grades. Ninety-two children entered Primary 1 alone, signaling both community trust and the urgency of strengthening foundational literacy and numeracy. Alongside the primary school, St. Dominic Savio Kindergarten provides early childhood education for the youngest learners in Riimenze.

In Primary 8 class, nine candidates—three boys and six girls—sat for national examinations. This builds on the previous year’s achievement, when all seven candidates passed and transitioned successfully to secondary school. These outcomes signal growing academic resilience and aspiration within the community.

The program focuses on strengthening infrastructure, expanding teacher capacity, improving security, and ensuring essential classroom materials are available to support the school’s expanding student body.

Strengthening Teaching and Learning

The school currently operates with nine teaching staff serving eight classes. Four teachers are fully qualified. One seminarian is serving temporarily while discerning his vocation, and four teachers—though committed and hardworking—remain unqualified and are paid directly by the school, placing strain on already limited financial resources.

Encouragingly, two of the qualified teachers completed the Diploma in Education at the Solidarity Teachers Training College (STTC) and have returned to serve their community. Their training—made possible through the support of Friends in Solidarity—has strengthened classroom practice, instructional leadership, and mentorship within the school. Their presence is already influencing pedagogical standards and inspiring colleagues to pursue further professional development.

Academic life is structured and intentional. Teachers begin each day with prayer, discipline, and kindness, grounding instruction in Gospel values. Weekly staff meetings provide space for reflection, lesson planning, and shared growth. Even within modest and temporary facilities, learning remains purposeful and focused on measurable progress.





School Readiness and Holistic Growth

The overall goal of this program is to ensure that vulnerable children have access to quality early childhood education within a safe, nurturing, and supportive environment—laying strong foundations for future schooling, personal development, spiritual growth, and holistic formation.

Many of these children would otherwise have no access to formal early education. Most families in the area rely on subsistence farming, face food insecurity, and have limited access to basic services. Girls and displaced children remain particularly vulnerable to exclusion from education.

The curriculum focuses intentionally on school readiness—strengthening early literacy, foundational numeracy, discipline, and social-emotional skills. This year alone, 150 kindergarten children are prepared to transition into Primary 1 equipped with the confidence and competencies necessary for success.

Nutrition, Health, and Child Well-Being

Learning is inseparable from health. A consistent daily feeding program ensures that children receive at least one nutritious meal per day. The school's small farm produces maize and sorghum to support this effort, while additional food is purchased locally—supporting community farmers and strengthening local markets.

For many children, this meal may be the only complete meal of the day. Improved nutrition directly enhances concentration, attendance, and overall well-being.

Access to health care in Riimenze remains extremely limited. The school therefore plays a preventive health role by teaching hygiene practices, maintaining safe drinking water, and ensuring clean facilities. Annual Yellow Fever vaccinations are administered to both children and teachers. Small but meaningful infrastructure improvements—including the construction of a new pit latrine (outdoor toilet facility) and bathroom for teachers—have enhanced dignity and hygiene on campus.



Formation Beyond the Classroom

Education at St. Dominic Savio extends beyond academics. Nineteen internally displaced children have been fully integrated into the school community, ten of whom are prepared to enter Primary 1—evidence of the school's inclusive spirit and commitment to healing through education

During the month of October, dedicated to the Rosary, daily prayer gatherings led to the formation of a children's devotional group affectionately called "Mama Mary's Kids," nurturing spiritual identity and emerging young leadership. Cultural Fridays fill the compound with drumming, dancing, and laughter—affirming joy and resilience amid hardship.

Tree planting initiatives have become a cherished routine, teaching environmental stewardship and care for creation. Through these experiences, children learn responsibility, teamwork, and respect for their surroundings.

Community Partnership and Shared Responsibility

The heart of St. Dominic Savio Primary School lies in its community. Parents, despite limited financial means, contribute through modest school fees and collective farming initiatives. The Parent-Teacher Association actively mobilizes families to expand agricultural activities, harvest produce, and support school operations. Sensitization meetings throughout the year reinforce the value of education and shared responsibility.

The school also creates local employment opportunities for teachers, cooks, cleaners, and watchmen—strengthening livelihoods within the community and reinforcing local ownership of the institution.



Fostering Learning and Resilience

Rooted in Gospel values and inspired by the gentle example of Saint Dominic Savio, the school's vision is to lead in early childhood and primary education by fostering a community grounded in care, compassion, and the dignity of every child. Its mission is lived daily: providing a safe and engaging environment where children can explore, grow, and prepare for the next stage of their learning journey.

As enrollment continues to rise, the need for additional qualified teachers, strengthened infrastructure, and adequate learning materials becomes increasingly urgent. Yet the momentum is clear. Families believe in the school. Children arrive eager to learn. Teachers continue to grow in professionalism and purpose.

St. Dominic Savio Primary School is committed to shaping not only classrooms—but futures—advancing education, resilience, and hope in Riimenze and beyond.



PASTORAL CARE AND TRAUMA HEALING





PASTORAL CARE AND TRAUMA HEALING

Strengthening Faith, Service, and Pastoral Leadership

Through a week-long Catechist Formation Workshop, pastoral leadership at parish level was strengthened as 66 catechists from seven parishes of the Eastern Deanery of the Archdiocese of Juba received formation and training.

In a context marked by social hardship, displacement, and limited pastoral resources, catechists remain the backbone of parish life, accompanying families, preparing children for the sacraments, and sustaining faith communities in both rural and urban areas. The formation week was designed to renew their spiritual foundation while strengthening the practical skills needed for daily ministry.

Sessions focused on the identity and vocation of the catechist, psycho-social-spiritual accompaniment, liturgy and the sacraments, moral life, and the call of the Church through the Synod on Synodality. Through prayer, group reflection, and shared pastoral experience, participants deepened their understanding of their role as servants of the Gospel and builders of unity within their communities.

The workshop also created an important space for mutual support among catechists serving in challenging circumstances. Many returned to their parishes with renewed confidence, strengthened commitment, and a deeper sense of mission—better prepared to guide families, respond to community tensions, and promote reconciliation and peace.

Strengthening Women Leadership, Faith, and Community Resilience

Across the deaneries of Central, Terekeka Pastoral Region, and Eastern, Catholic women continue to play a vital role in sustaining family life, parish communities, and local initiatives, often while facing significant social and economic hardship. Limited access to education, leadership opportunities, and income-generating activities—combined with the effects of conflict, poverty, and displacement—frequently restrict women’s ability to participate fully in decision-making within both Church and society.

In response, a series of Women’s Empowerment Workshops designed to strengthen the capacity of members of the Catholic Women’s Association (CWA) through holistic formation rooted in faith, dignity, and Catholic Social Teaching, were undertaken.

Three participatory workshops brought together 209 women from parishes across the three deaneries. They integrated spiritual renewal, leadership development, gender awareness, economic skills, health education, and peacebuilding, recognizing that lasting change requires attention to the whole person.

Throughout the workshops, women engaged in reflection, group discussion, and practical training, exploring the connection between faith, service, and social responsibility. Particular emphasis was placed on strengthening confidence, encouraging participation in parish structures, and equipping women with the skills needed to support their families and respond to community challenges.

The impact of the program has been visible across the deaneries. Participants have taken on new leadership roles within their parishes, coordinated Catholic Women’s Association activities, and initiated savings groups and small income-generating projects such as poultry farming, tailoring, and soap-making. Others have begun facilitating dialogue within their communities, promoting reconciliation and cooperation in areas affected by division and hardship.

Equally important has been the strengthening of solidarity amongst women participants. Networks formed during the workshops continue to provide mutual support, encouragement, and opportunities for collaboration across parish and deanery boundaries. Many participants report renewed spiritual commitment, greater confidence in public speaking, and a deeper sense of responsibility for the life of the Church.

Promoting Youth Formation, Peace, and Community Unity

Young people across the Diocese of Yei continue to face the effects of conflict, displacement, and limited opportunities for education, employment, and constructive social engagement. In such a context, providing spaces where youth can gather safely, grow in faith, and build

relationships across parish and cultural boundaries is essential for strengthening both the Church and the wider community.

Through support to the Bishop Annual Youth Tournament held at St. Peter Parish, Mundri, youth from multiple parishes came together for a program that combined sports, faith formation, and community-building activities. The tournament gathered approximately 1,500 young people from nine parishes, with a much wider reach through community participation during the final events. Beyond athletic competition, the gathering offered an important opportunity for encounter, dialogue, and reconciliation among young people from diverse ethnic and social backgrounds.

Throughout the event, participants took part in prayer, reflection, and group discussions led in collaboration with the diocesan youth chaplaincy and pastoral team. These moments of formation helped the youth deepen their faith while encouraging discipline, teamwork, and responsibility toward their communities. Activities such as evening bonfire reflections and community service exercises created space for young people to share their experiences, strengthen friendships, and reflect on their role as builders of peace.

In a setting where many young people are exposed to violence, substance abuse, or recruitment into armed groups, the tournament provided a safe and structured environment that encouraged positive peer relationships and constructive use of their energy and talents. The initiative also strengthened collaboration among parishes, clergy, and pastoral partners, reinforcing a shared commitment to the formation of the next generation.

Despite logistical challenges and limited resources, the gathering demonstrated the strong desire of young people to remain connected to the life of the Church and to contribute positively to their communities. Many participants returned to their parishes with renewed confidence, a deeper sense of faith, and a stronger commitment to promoting unity and reconciliation.





Strengthening Young Women's Skills, Leadership, and Community Resilience

Across six deaneries in Central and Western Equatoria, a series of training workshops were conducted for 368 young women who had discontinued from school. The initiative aimed to equip participants with practical vocational and entrepreneurial skills while fostering personal development, leadership, and social transformation.

In a context marked by limited educational opportunities, social barriers, and economic hardship, the workshops provided a safe and supportive environment for young women to gain marketable skills, develop confidence, and strengthen their capacity to contribute positively to their families, parishes, and communities. Practical training included baking, sewing, knitting, handicrafts, small business management, and vegetable gardening, complemented by lessons in home management, financial literacy, and social responsibility. Spiritual formation and trauma healing were integrated throughout, helping participants address past challenges, build resilience, and embrace their potential as community leaders.

The workshops had a notable impact on participants and their communities. Many young women reported enhanced self-esteem and a stronger sense of purpose, while peer networks established during the sessions provided ongoing support for personal growth. Several participants began small-scale vegetable gardening and home-based enterprises, applying the skills they had learned to generate income and support their households. Spiritual and emotional support strengthened resilience and fostered a deeper sense of vocation and responsibility, equipping participants to contribute meaningfully to community life. Parish and deanery-based women's groups were established, creating platforms for collaboration, mentorship, and peer support that extended the benefits of the workshops beyond individual participants.

Trauma Healing and Reconciliation Workshops for Women in South Sudan

Trauma healing and reconciliation workshops took place across several dioceses to support women affected by years of conflict, displacement, gender-based violence, and extreme poverty. Workshops focused on providing psychosocial support, promoting reconciliation, and strengthening emotional resilience among women who continue to face the long-term consequences of civil unrest and social instability.

Through a series of structured workshops and follow-up activities, participants were offered safe and supportive spaces where they could share their experiences, reflect on the effects of trauma, and begin the process of healing. The workshops combined faith-based reflection, psychosocial support methods, meditation practices, and reconciliation exercises to address both emotional and spiritual needs. This holistic approach helped participants regain confidence, rebuild relationships, and restore a sense of dignity and hope.

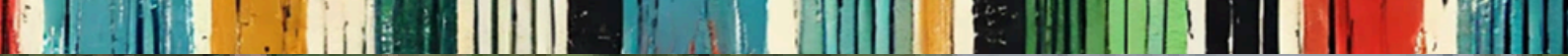
Workshops were held in multiple diocesan locations, bringing together women from different ethnic, social, and cultural backgrounds. Despite challenges related to insecurity, seasonal flooding, transportation difficulties, and the remoteness of many communities, the program successfully reached approximately four hundred women. Participation remained strong throughout the year, demonstrating the significant need for trauma healing and reconciliation services in these communities.

The workshops helped participants recognize and acknowledge the emotional wounds caused by violence, loss, and displacement. Many women shared their experiences for the first time in a supportive environment, an important step in the healing process. Facilitators guided participants in developing practical coping strategies, including stress-management techniques, peer support practices, and methods for addressing anxiety and emotional distress.

A central focus of the program was promoting forgiveness, reconciliation, and peaceful coexistence within communities that have been divided by conflict. Group discussions and guided exercises encouraged dialogue, mutual understanding, and the rebuilding of trust. Participants also reported increased confidence in engaging with their families, parishes, and local communities after the workshops, leading to stronger social connections and greater participation in community life.

One of the most significant outcomes of the program was the formation of supportive peer networks among participants. These networks continue to provide encouragement, solidarity, and mutual assistance beyond the workshop setting, contributing to ongoing healing and community stability.





FUNDING STREAMS



FUNDING STREAMS

ADVANCING MISSION IMPACT IN 2025

Funding Streams Advancing Mission Impact

DONOR CATEGORY SUMMARY — 2025

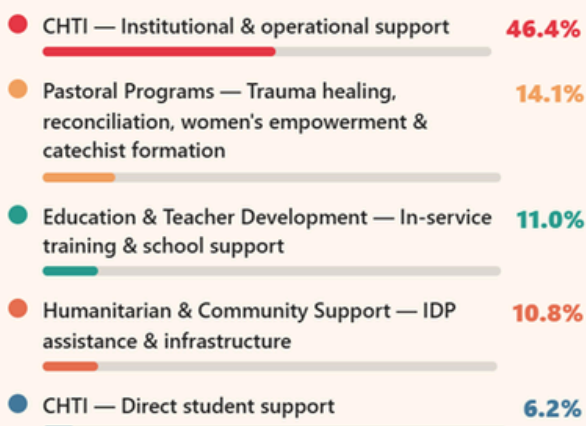
DONOR CATEGORY

Religious Congregations

88.5%

of total contributions in 2025

SUPPORTING



DONOR CATEGORY

Foundations

11.5%

of total contributions in 2025

SUPPORTING



PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITY

Foundation support is currently focused on CHTI student funding. There is significant opportunity to expand partnerships into Education, Pastoral, and Humanitarian programs.

Combined Donor Contribution Share



Religious Congregations support all 5 program areas

Foundations support CHTI only

In 2025, Religious Congregations remained the primary funding source, supporting all five programmatic areas. Foundation funding was directed entirely toward CHTI direct student support.

The donor contribution portfolio reflects a strong partnership between faith-based institutions and philanthropic foundations in advancing holistic community development initiatives. Religious congregations constituted the majority of support, contributing significantly toward institutional sustainability, pastoral outreach, education, humanitarian assistance, and infrastructure development.

A substantial proportion of funding was directed towards strengthening the Catholic Health Training Institute (CHTI), including both direct student support and broader operational and institutional needs. This investment underscores continued confidence in healthcare workforce development and long-term capacity building.

Pastoral and community-centered initiatives also received meaningful support, particularly in trauma healing, reconciliation, women's empowerment, and catechist training programs aimed at strengthening social cohesion and spiritual resilience in communities affected by conflict and displacement.

Additional contributions supported educational advancement through teacher training and school support initiatives, while humanitarian and infrastructure-focused interventions addressed the needs of internally displaced persons and community rehabilitation efforts.

Overall, the funding distribution demonstrates a balanced commitment to education, healthcare, pastoral accompaniment, humanitarian response, and institutional strengthening, reflecting an integrated approach to sustainable community impact.





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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