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# ANNUAL REPORT

2023 DEVELOPMENT

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**TOGETHER**

FOR A FUTURE OF  
HOPE AND RECONCILIATION





# About us



Solidarity is a project of **UISG** and **USG**, both the female and male Unions of Superiors General, initiated at the request of the **Conference of Bishops of Sudan**, supported by over 260 congregations, private donors and international agencies with funding, personnel, and expertise.

Together, congregations work in harmony to accompany and empower the people of South Sudan helping to heal the wounds caused by the armed conflict, and walking together towards a better future. In all of our projects and initiatives, we endeavour to prevent gender violence and we are particularly careful to ensure that South Sudanese women and girls have equal access to education and training.



# Timeline



**2005**

Solidarity with South Sudan was born as a request from the SCBC (Sudan Catholic Bishop Conference).

**2006**

UISG and USG sent a delegation of religious, headed by Sr Cathy Arata (SSND) to South Sudan.

**2008**

Solidarity with South Sudan launched the first two projects. Together for a future of Hope and Reconciliation.

**2023**



**2022**

20 religious women and men, representing 15 different congregations are working together in 4 projects in South Sudan.

**2019-2022**

External Evaluations to monitor the impact, the relevance, the efficiency and the Sustainability of Solidarity with South Sudan.

# Letter from the President

In the Letter to the People of God published at the end of the first session of the Synod on Synodality (25 October 2023), reference is made to “the prophetic voice of consecrated life, the watchful sentinel of the Spirit’s call”. A beautiful image of consecrated life, which I read as an invitation to live fully what we are called to be.

For 15 years now, the members of our communities in South Sudan have striven to be “prophetic voices” and “watchful sentinels”, giving the best of themselves for the development of the country and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, the Lord of peace and the guarantee of fullness of life.

There are many reasons to give thanks:

- to the Lord, who has blessed us throughout these fifteen years
- to the people who have welcomed us with open arms
- to the institutions that have given and continue to give their support to the project
- to the congregations seriously committed, especially through the sending of some of their members.

A special thank you, however, is due to our sisters and brothers in South Sudan. And we do so in the words of the Pope during his visit to the country: “I would like to thank you for everything that you do amidst so many trials and tribulations. Thank you, on behalf of the entire Church, for your dedication, your courage, your sacrifices, and your patience. Thank you! Dear brothers and sisters, I pray that you will always be generous pastors and witnesses, armed only with prayer and love; pastors and witnesses allowing yourselves, in meekness, to be constantly surprised by God’s grace; and that you may become a means of salvation for others, pastors and prophets of closeness who accompany the people, intercessors with uplifted arms”.

May the Blessed Virgin Mary protect you.

May the Blessed Virgin Mary protect you.

Br. Emili Turú Rofes, FMS - President of Solidarity with South Sudan





# Letter from the Executive Director

## A Welcome Visitor

2023 started with the widely anticipated ecumenical pilgrimage for peace of Pope Francis, the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Moderator General of the Church of Scotland. This historic pilgrimage, originally planned for July of 2022, eventually took place in February 2023 with great numbers of people participating in the various events and worship. The visit was unique in that it was an ecumenical affair and not a 'victory' parade for one Church. It was also the first time that the country and the Churches successfully hosted a series of large public events in a smooth and well-organized manner.

The messages given were many: about peace, reconciliation, and development. However, one message that remains with me was given during the Pope's meeting with religious and priests in the Cathedral in Juba. He said that as a Church we can be tempted to ... 'think we can find an answer to people's suffering and needs through human resources, like money, cleverness or power. Instead, everything we accomplish comes from God'. I find this message particularly apt for us religious and especially for us in Solidarity.

The Holy Father went on to say 'Our first duty is not to be a Church that is perfectly organized – any company can do this – but a Church that, in the name of Christ, stands in the midst of people's troubled lives, a Church that is willing to dirty its hands for people. We must never exercise our ministry by chasing after religious or social prestige – the ugliness of careerism – but rather by walking in the midst of and alongside our people, learning to listen and to dialogue, cooperating as ministers with one another and with the laity. Let me repeat this important word: together. Let us never forget it: together.'

The Pope is reminding us of the essential mission of Solidarity with South Sudan: We are not simply project managers or implementors. We are invited to be 'together with', 'in solidarity', 'in the midst of'. This message is something that we bear in mind as we prepare the next phase of our strategic plan, 2024-2027, an activity that has taken a large portion of our time during this year. We strive to be faithful to our core mission of building capacity in others by always being conscious of the needs and the situation of the people and the church in our conflicted land. It can never be 'business as usual' but continually interrogating ourselves as to what is right, appropriate and beneficial to those we serve.

This fidelity does not always happen smoothly or in anticipated ways. Sometimes there are surprises and moments of tension. In our fifteen years of presence in South Sudan, this is the one constant: the need to verify that we are not doing 'projects' to satisfy our own standards. Being open to outside voices from students, beneficiaries, local church or others is something that ensures we remain relevant and walking 'together' with those we serve.

Pope Francis invites us to listen and to dialogue. Our strategic plan is simply as response to this continuous listening in which we are asked, everyday, to engage.

Ephphata – let our minds and hearts remain open!

*Fr. Jm Greene, M.Afr.* - Executive Director of Solidarity with South Sudan





# Laudato Si: our commitment

As Pope Francis teaches us, ecological conversion can inspire us to greater creativity and enthusiasm. In this spirit we, as members of Solidarity with South Sudan (SwSS), have come together to explore how we can best respond, personally and collaboratively, to the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor in our own Laudato Si' Action Plan.

We have organized a Laudato Si' Team for the purpose of sharing among ourselves our efforts, challenges, and achievements so that we can better discern and plan for what is needed.

Father Jim will send the General Action Plan to all our projects, and each of the projects will respond by submitting a specific Action Plan, adapted to their own context, for the year.

The Seven Laudato Si' Goals provide guidance on urgent and immediate actions that each one of us can take in the care of our common home. "All of us can cooperate as instruments of God for the care of creation, each according to his or her own culture, experience, involvements and talents". LS'14.

- Father Christy, Good Shepherd Pastoral Team
- Brother Joseph, Sustainable Agriculture Project
- Sister Winne, Catholic Health Training Institute (CHTI)
- Sister Guille and Laudato Si' Movement Members Josephine and Asadik, Solidarity Teacher Training College (STTC)
- Father Jim, Executive Director

*The Solidarity Laudato Si' Team*

# Laudato Si: SwSS Action Plan



## Goal 1 RESPONSE TO THE CRY OF THE EARTH

**STRATEGY:** Implement a plan that impels us to protect our Mother Earth.

**ACTIONS:**

- Planting trees: this first year we agree to planting trees. According our possibilities different kinds of trees, – in all the SSS institutions.
- We will promote this activity with our neighbors too within this period.



## Goal 2 RESPONSE TO THE CRY OF THE POOR

**STRATEGY:** Adopt a collective plan that addresses that all may have life in fullness.

**ACTIONS:**

- Giving opportunities for the students to interact and contact with the neighboring communities.
- Organizing workshops in our neighborhood especially with vulnerable people, schools, and parishes, community.



## Goal 3 ECOLOGICAL ECONOMICS

**STRATEGY:** Socially responsible investing as an ongoing reality.

**ACTIONS:**

- Educating our members and students to be simple in buying and consuming.
  - Introducing ecofriendly life in purchasing.
  - Organizing debates on the topics.
  - People talks sessions.



## Goal 4 ADOPTION OF SIMPLE LIFESTYLES

**STRATEGY:** Decrease resources consumption where we live and work, (moderation) in the use of resources and energy.

**ACTIONS:** REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE

- Promoting balance and vegetarian diet; ➤ Encouraging use of public transport; ➤ Decrease the use of personal vehicles; ➤ Using reusable bags; ➤ Collaborate with gardeners for sustainable gardening practices and careful use of resources, including the planting of drought-resistant trees and plants.



## Goal 5 ECOLOGICAL EDUCATION

**STRATEGY:** Education and action about global and local crisis on how to address.

**ACTIONS:**

- imparting the knowledge of 'laudato si' through workshops; ➤ Placing printed banners and posters in our institution; ➤ Building networks with other partners; ➤ Working closely with the education department to apply the 'laudato si' principals; ➤ Forming 'LAUDATO SI' club at schools around our institutions; ➤ Using available diocesan broadcasting for radio show; ➤ Educate to be responsible in using natural resources.



## Goal 6 ECOLOGICAL SPIRITUALITY

**STRATEGY:** Ecological conversion through the action of prayer and contemplation that permeates and motivates all we say and do.

- ACTIONS:**
- Organizing and promoting liturgical activities at Parish/Schools/Universities; ➤ Introducing 'LAUDATO SI' prayers into our assemblies – especially during the season of creation and special dates;
  - Commit to personally set aside time to walk, gaze, stare, be quiet in nature recognizing and celebrating that the world is a joyful mystery to be contemplated with gladness and praise



## Goal 7 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND PARTICIPATORY ACTION

**STRATEGY:** Connections with diverse groups and organizations on water issues and planting trees.

**ACTIONS:**

- Building up dialogue with chief and elders to collaborate to build community; ➤ Reaching out local parish;
  - Collaborate with county and state to bring awareness on what is earth and natural resources conservation and why it is necessary;
  - Visiting other churches organizing common program to work together to preserve the mother earth



# Our Projects



**CHTI**  
WAU



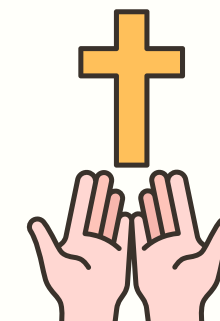
**STTC**  
YAMBIO



**SAP**  
RIIMENZE



**Pastoral project**  
all around  
SOUTH SUDAN





# Catholic Health Training Institute

**CHTI, based in Wau, is working to train certified health professionals, to protect the health of women and their children, and to promote women's empowerment and peace building.**


Some results:



351

**Nurses (230) and Midwives (121) graduated at CHTI**

Every year, CHTI trains nurses and midwives from different tribes and parts of the country. After a three-year course, they will receive a nationally recognised certificate to work in all of the health facilities of South Sudan.



38%

**of all graduates are women.**

The presence of female personnel enhances women's access to health services.



85%

**of all graduates works in the health facilities of South Sudan**

CHTI is regarded as one of the best training institutes for health personnel in the country.



39%

**of the students currently attending CHTI are women**

Solidarity works each year to increase the percentage of female students enrolling at CHTI.

## **Women are promoters of peace**

Providing them with professional training in a multicultural context promotes consciousness raising that values the rights of women and children, peaceful coexistence, exchange and unity among the South Sudanese people.



# Solidarity Teacher Training College



**STTC, based in Yambio, trains primary school teachers through a two-year course at the end of which they have a certification in line with the National Curriculum and recognized by the Ministry of Education.**

STTC provides various training programs according to the different needs and degrees of the students-teachers.

**1) Pre-Service Programme ---** A two year residential course in the College. Students are prepared with an holistic education to become qualified primary school teachers.

**2) In-Service & Weekend Course ---** Teachers already employed in schools can be adequately trained and acquire a Qualified Teacher Status.

**3) Diploma programme ---** a one-year degree course to further enhance the qualification of graduates from STTC or other equivalent institutions, bringing them to teacher training standards in neighboring countries.

Some results:

804

**graduated at STTC**

teachers have graduated through pre-service and in-service programs since the beginning of the project

54%

**of students were women in the last enrolment in the pre-service course**

72%

**of the graduates are currently working in education sector, in their communities**

## Holistic approach

The STTC aims to prepare competent, highly motivated, and committed teachers, equipped with skills for peace building, respectful dialogue, and gender equality. The holistic education offered is in accordance with the National Professional Standards for Teachers in South Sudan.



# Sustainable Agricultural Project

**Improve food security through farmer training, natural resources protection, and promotion of biological diversity.**

Some results:



**22 of crops harvested in 2022**



**756 households are benefitting from agricultural training, nutrition education, distribution of pigs, chicken and goats**



**2028 participants in workshops in 2022**



**65 of participants in workshops in 2022 are women**

**Environment friendly approaches**

via implementation of smart climate farming methods and controlled integrated livestock keeping.





# Pastoral Project



**The pastoral team of Solidarity with South Sudan is based in the Good Shepherd Peace Centre in Kit. The international inter-congregational pastoral team organises activities to empower the people of South Sudan, and to build a more just and peaceful society.**

Some results:

2928

**Participants in Trauma healing workshops since the beginning of the project in 2008**

389

**participants in peacebuilding workshops focused on healing and reconciliation since 2008.**

2122

**participants in activities dedicated to supporting women since 2008**

2973

**participants in workshops on formation of small Christian communities, training for catechists and support the Diocesan Pastoral Teams**

## **IDP Camp in Malakal**

A member of Solidarity, Father Mike Bassano (M.M.), has been caring for the 37,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) living in the Malakal Protection of civilian camp (POC) for years, bringing comfort, celebrating mass and animating life of the Christian community.



# Financial Performance



	2022	2021
Total Income	\$ 2,321,698.86	\$ 2,494,000.00
Operational Expenditure	\$ 1,516,000.00	\$ 1,384,000.00
Personnel Expenditure	\$ 878,000.00	\$ 923,000.00
Capital Expenditure	\$ 68,000.00	\$ 118,000.00
Depreciation	\$ 13,000.00	\$ 13,000.00
Extraordinary Expenses	\$ -	\$ -
total Expenditures	\$ 2,475,000.00	\$ 2,438,000.00
Surplus/Deficit	\$ -153,301.14	\$ 56,000.00

- 2022 income were smaller than in 2021 due to the economic crisis and to the war in Ukraine
- Capital expenditure mainly refers to new generator for CHTI and STTC, and to power backup for Juba
- Operational Expenditures increased due to the rise of costs worldwide.
- Personnel expenditure decreased thanks to a reorganization of the offices.



# Special thanks



The impact of *Solidarity* is clear and visible at the level of individual persons whose lives and futures have been changed by their experience. Over the course of their training, students and participants in our programs have learned not only to become good teachers, farmers, catechists, nurses and midwives, but they have also learned essential life skills that will support and sustain them in their personal and professional lives. Students and participants themselves acknowledge not only the professional and technical competence they have acquired through *Solidarity's* efforts, but even more how they have been personally impacted by the witness of Solidarity Community members who provide living examples of important virtues—such as commitment, patience, punctuality, and cooperation—each day. In one of the most fragile regions in the world, *Solidarity* has stepped in to accompany the people. A representative of the Diocese of Tombura said: “The highest award we can give Solidarity, was that they never departed. They decided to stay and showed their commitment and sacrifice, putting into action the gospel values Solidarity by which they claim to live”. **We could never have reached these results without you! Thank you!**







# Contacts

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