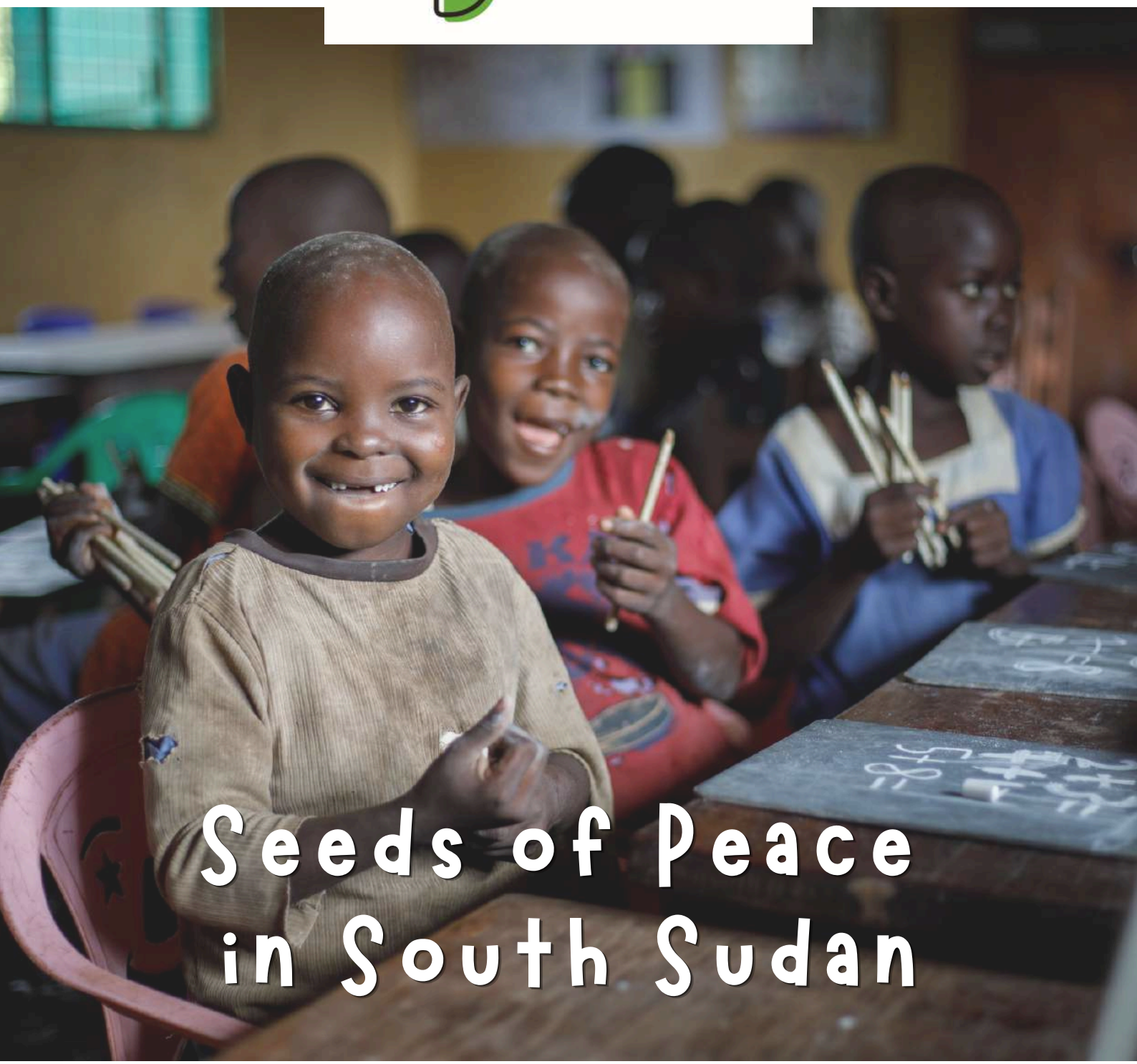
Solidarity with South Sudan



Seeds of Peace in South Sudan

APRIL 2026

Introduction

Once again, South Sudan is going through a delicate and complex phase in its young history. Political and social tensions are intertwined with deep-seated structural weaknesses: institutions still in the process of being established, widespread insecurity, limited access to essential services, and a population that continues to pay the highest price. The signs of a possible resurgence of civil conflict cannot be ignored and threaten to compromise once again a peace process that remains unfinished.

In this context of uncertainty, the value of "resilience" and of "staying put" emerges clearly as a conscious choice of responsibility and unwavering commitment.

We are so grateful to all those who continue to live and work in South Sudan, contributing every day to support such a vulnerable yet resilient society. Among them, the missionaries represent an important presence: discreet, concrete, rooted in the daily life of the communities. Their choice to remain, despite difficulties and risks, is a sign of dedication that deserves respect, without the need for emphasis.

In such a complex situation, even the simplest gestures take on profound significance. Training a teacher, supporting a nurse to qualify, promoting sustainable agricultural practices: these are actions that speak of the future. It is not merely a matter of carrying out projects, but of creating conditions in which people can rediscover trust, dignity and autonomy.

Every educational achievement, every new competence acquired, every community strengthened is a concrete response to the uncertainty of the present and a testament to the fact that hope for tomorrow can be put into daily practice.



Moreover, as the missionaries of Solidarity with South Sudan who are currently experiencing this situation themselves point out, standing alongside the South Sudanese people is not an act of heroism, but the consistent fulfilment of their mandate. Below are some extracts from some of their testimonies, which explain better than any analysis why it is worth staying:



"In the silence of Rii-menze, the night often carries the weight of uncertainty and the shadow of fear. As I close my eyes each night I can only whisper to God a short prayer: "In You Lord, I entrust everything". As I open my eyes in the morning my lips murmur a prayer of gratitude: I am alive, a profound realization. (...) To remain in South Sudan amidst the threat of violence is a daily choice. In my silent moments I ask myself why am I still in Riimenze? I have only one answer: Call to Mission. God has sent me through my ICM congregation to witness to God's faithful love, God's mercy. If I am still here and choose to stay it is only because of my FAITH. The faith that moves me to action, to trust, to embrace and to let go even of my fear so that God can use me to ensure His presence as a living, breathing reality for our people."

Sister Agnes Lozano Marcelino, ICM,
Riimenze Kindergarten Supervisor



"Over time, I have come to see that every challenge I encounter in South Sudan is also shaping my own missionary journey. The struggles, uncertainties, and even the moments of fear have become part of a deeper process of growth.
Despite everything, serving the people of South Sudan brings a profound sense of peace and purpose. Accompanying communities in their search for healing, reconciliation, and hope is a privilege.
In the midst of many difficulties, the resilience and faith of the people here continue to inspire me. Their courage to keep moving forward despite hardship reminds me that hope is still alive.
And that is why I remain. Because in places where suffering is great, the presence of those who stand with the people becomes a powerful sign that hope has not been lost."

Father Christy John, CMF, Solidarity
Pastoral Programme Administrator

South Sudan

South Sudan, one of the world's poorest nations, faces immense challenges:



Socioeconomic Hardships

Ranked 192 out of 193 countries on the UNDP Human Development Index, with a value of 0.388-0.39. The population is over 12.4 million, with a primarily agricultural economy heavily impacted by ongoing conflict and lack of infrastructure.

Humanitarian Crisis

Since 2013, civil conflict has displaced over 2 million internally and 2.3 million as refugees. Recent flooding has affected over 710,000 people, exacerbating food insecurity and disease outbreaks, including a severe cholera outbreak with over 24,000 cases and around 500 deaths.

Food Insecurity and Malnutrition

Around 7–7.5 million people (more than 50% of the population) are facing acute food insecurity. Of these, a significant proportion are in an emergency situation. It is estimated that around 2.1–2.3 million children are malnourished and over 1 million pregnant or breastfeeding women are in the same condition.

Health and Mortality

Life expectancy is approximately 60 years, significantly below the global average. Maternal mortality rate (according to WHO 2024-25) is among the highest globally: 1,223 deaths per 100,000. This staggering figure is compounded by high neonatal mortality (about 40 per 1,000 live births) and stillbirths (26 per 1,000).

Education and Vulnerable Groups

2.8 million children are out of school, mostly girls, and 52% of girls marry before 18. The ongoing war in Sudan has displaced 1,3 million people, with vulnerable groups including children, the elderly, and pregnant women.



Solidarity with South Sudan

Solidarity with South Sudan is an inter-congregational mission of the members of the Unions of Superiors General, women and men. It responds to the call of the Sudan Catholic Bishops' Conference who requested help in 2005 to address needs in the country after decades of civil war. Following an exploratory visit in 2006, the first projects were launched in 2008. As of March 2026, Solidarity has 26 religious members from 22 different congregations and 14 countries working on four projects. Additionally, Solidarity employs over 100 lay people, mostly South Sudanese.

Vision

Solidarity envisions a just, peaceful and inclusive South Sudan where all people and communities are empowered to lead and develop themselves and their country along with the local church as an active participant in this transformation.

Solidarity with South Sudan

Mission

Solidarity empowers, equips and accompanies people in South Sudan with a focus on women to become dedicated, service-oriented practitioners in primary education, health, agriculture and pastoral services throughout the country. In doing this, Solidarity continues to collaborate with the Sudan and South Sudan Catholic Bishops' Conference.

By developing capacities in people and institutions, Solidarity aims to create a sustainable future in which the people of South Sudan become agents of change in their society, living and promoting the values of the Gospel.

As an inter-congregational collaborative commitment, Solidarity promotes harmonious intercultural living, witnessing to the Gospel.

Strategy 2023-2027



Ethos

Living and promoting the Solidarity ethos will contribute to a culture of peace and assist to creatively live with diversity across ethnic groups in South Sudan. Those who are immersed in the Solidarity ethos will contribute to the ongoing transformation of society.

Solidarity aims to embed its ethos in its members, programmes, and collaborations so that they help to develop a peaceful and just society. Solidarity aspires to sustain its ethos through the people of South Sudan who have been formed by its programmes and activities.

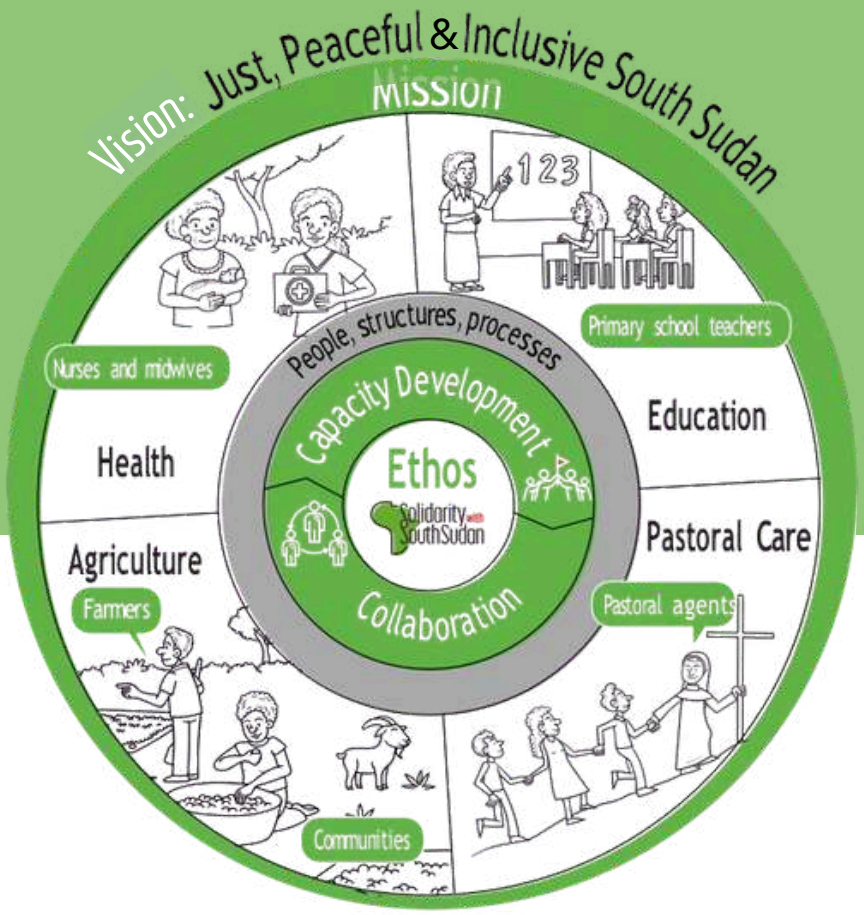
Capacity Development

Based on the conclusions of our most recent Relevance & Sustainability Review, the development of professional capacity in the key sectors of education and health remains highly relevant to meeting the needs of the people of South Sudan. In addition, given the enormous levels of food insecurity, capacity development in the agricultural sector is also essential. Furthermore, capacity development within the local church, training, formation, religious accompaniment and addressing the areas of trauma and peace building remain relevant.



How we do it

Solidarity aims to continue to develop the capacities of the people in South Sudan in primary school teaching, health care, agriculture and pastoral services and to prepare more robust institutions in view of a future transition.



EDUCATION

To prepare effective, service-oriented primary school teachers committed to lifelong learning, service and the development of the sector. There will be a strong focus on Inservice certificate training for teachers across the country and diploma level training at Solidarity Teacher Training College (STTC) in Yambio. STTC maintains its national character (recruiting students from all Dioceses and States including Nuba Mountains and Abyei) while the Inservice training provides primary teacher formation to individual Dioceses and counties.

AGRICULTURE

To promote sustainable livelihoods in families and communities through the promotion of healthy diversified diets and good nutrition practices and providing income-generating opportunities while enhancing environmental protection and maintaining biodiversity.

HEALTH

To prepare effective, service-oriented nurses and midwives committed to lifelong learning and service. Emphasis will be placed on continuing to provide the highly sought after and necessary nursing and midwifery education and exploring opportunities to provide for additional courses. The Catholic Health Training Institute (CHTI) is a national institution recruiting students from all Dioceses and States including Nuba Mountains and Abyei.

PASTORAL

To continue to support the local Church in South Sudan in spiritual and pastoral formation of all its members by working with and through the National Pastoral Office, local Dioceses and parishes, and religious congregations.

Solidarity Teacher Training College

899 TEACHERS

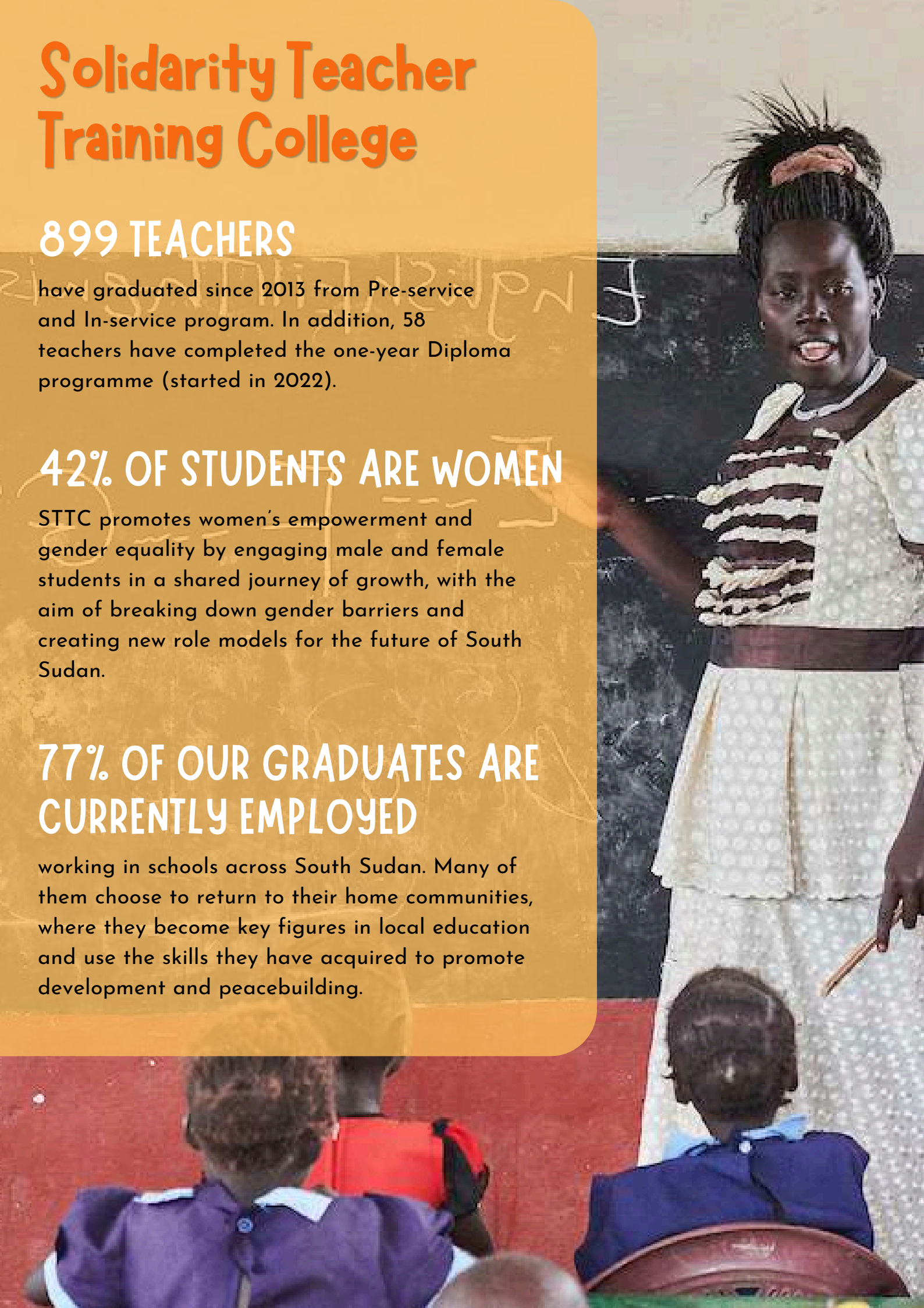
have graduated since 2013 from Pre-service and In-service program. In addition, 58 teachers have completed the one-year Diploma programme (started in 2022).

42% OF STUDENTS ARE WOMEN

STTC promotes women's empowerment and gender equality by engaging male and female students in a shared journey of growth, with the aim of breaking down gender barriers and creating new role models for the future of South Sudan.

77% OF OUR GRADUATES ARE CURRENTLY EMPLOYED

working in schools across South Sudan. Many of them choose to return to their home communities, where they become key figures in local education and use the skills they have acquired to promote development and peacebuilding.



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:

- **Pre-service residential program** for students from different tribes and state of the country who want to become primary school teachers.
- **In-service training** for practicing teachers without a qualified training. Currently underway in Yambio and from 2025 in Wau.
- A one-year **Diploma program** for skilled teachers who want to upgrade their academic qualification, preparing them for leadership and mentorship roles within schools and education systems.

Today, the **objectives** of the STTC programs are:

- Continue to prepare **competent**, highly motivated and effective **teachers**.
- To equip student teachers with **peace-building** skills, ethical principles, and a critical mindset for addressing current challenges.
- To enhance the educational **opportunities for women** and girls in South Sudan.
- To explore options for the **further educational development** for the advancement of primary school teachers
- Continue to expand the accredited Inservice Program across Dioceses and partner with stakeholders to **increase access to teacher training**.



"I liked my time at STTC because while there, I gained a lot of knowledge, my self-confidence was built, and I got the momentum in life that I needed. The academic aspect was the best part of the college, including how the lessons were delivered and how the tutors nurtured and turned us into teachers."

Justin Luba Enosa, STTC graduate, currently teaching in M-3 Modern Nursery, Primary and Secondary School in Jondoki

Catholic Health Training Institute

393 GRADUATES

in nursing and midwifery from CHTI. Every year, around 50 young students become qualified nurses or midwives.

38% OF GRADUATES ARE WOMEN

The CHTI promotes women's empowerment by offering young women access to high-quality healthcare training, transforming them into qualified nurses and midwives capable of driving change within their families, communities and the wider South Sudanese society.

92% OF GRADUATES ARE CURRENTLY EMPLOYED

in healthcare facilities across South Sudan. Beyond providing qualified healthcare personnel, the CHTI promotes, through a holistic education, a culture of peace and brotherhood capable of transforming the social fabric of the country.



Catholic Health Training Institute

CHTI addresses the shortage of qualified personnel by training registered nurses and midwives from different tribes and parts of the country. The three-year residential courses, aligned with Ministry of Health and Higher Education curricula, include theoretical classes and practical internships.



CHTI, also known as CHSI (Catholic Health Science Institute) is widely regarded by government ministries and by many other health agencies as **the best health training facility in the country**.

Today, the **objectives** of the CHTI programs are:

- Continue to prepare **competent**, highly skilled and motivated **nurses and midwives**.
- Elevate the Institute to offer **Bachelor's degrees in Nursing and Midwifery**, enhancing leadership and patient care in Church-supported facilities and aligning with global standards.
- Planning and implementation of **a new Diploma in Medical Laboratory Sciences** that will strengthen diagnostic capacity, improve public health surveillance, and reduce reliance on foreign assistance in South Sudan.
- To empower student teachers with **peace-building** skills, professional ethics, and a critical mindset.
- To offer educational opportunities for **women** and girls in South Sudan. The presence of female personnel enhances women's access to health services.



"After constant practice, it becomes easier to help real patients. By having more qualified midwives, problems would be dealt with instantly, awareness creation would be done, and women would be encouraged to attend ante-natal clinics and to deliver in hospital. I feel happy and proud to be a midwife and hope to upgrade to Obstetrics and Gynecology. With this, I will be able to help our mothers even more. I also wish for a better healthcare system in South Sudan."

Ngelego Raphael, Midwifery Student, at CHTI

Sustainable Agricultural Project in Riimenze

810 HOUSEHOLDS

Since the beginning of the project, we have supported more than 2770 households. In the ongoing phase 2024-2027, 810 families and 360 children are the direct beneficiaries of the project.

63% OF BENEFICIARIES ARE WOMEN

through comprehensive training in agriculture and livestock farming, better nutrition, savings management, transforming their potential into a driving force for food security and economic self-reliance within their communities.

360 CHILDREN

at risk of malnutrition are supported through weight monitoring and the distribution of local natural food supplements, as well as through training for mothers on correct nutrition.

79 RADIO TALK-SHOW

conducted in recent years to raise awareness on sustainable agriculture, livestock farming and animal management, environmental protection and climate challenges.



Sustainable Agriculture Project in Riimenze

The SAP-R provides training and support to local farmers to educate them in the practice of sustainable farming techniques, livestock breeding, proper family diet and savings practices, in a community development perspective.



To date, **more than 2.700 families** were helped to increase and to **improve their capacity** and technical knowledge of **agricultural and nutritional practices**.

Today, the **objectives** of the SAP-R are:

- To continue **local training**, promoting sustainable farming and livestock keeping practices in a balanced, long-term **agro-ecological system** in 6 locations in the area.
- To develop and grow the **women's savings and loans scheme**.
- To promote **balanced and nutritious diets** with a focus on **malnourished children**, supporting them with distribution of **locally produced nutritional supplements.**
- To continue to develop a **demonstration farm** in which efforts and results are properly documented with a research component.
- Develop the commercial aspect of the farm, cultivating a variety of crops and livestock for sale in view of **promoting a self-sustaining farm**.
- To continue **to support the communities** through the **kindergarten** that cares for **more than 350 children**, the primary school and evening classes for adults.



"Before Solidarity's interventions, I only grew maize and peanuts to feed my family, which did not allow me to get money to meet all the family needs. But following training on agriculture and other good farming practices, I decided to till the soil and start producing vegetables. Thanks to constant visits and valuable advice from the Solidarity team, I was able to achieve a bountiful harvest which motivated me to focus on and increase the production as a source of livelihood. I am now a model farmer in my community, where many of my neighbours come to see my farm and learn from it. I share my knowledge with farmers who visit my farm."

Martin Ismail, SAP-R beneficiary

Pastoral Care and Services

4217 PARTICIPANTS

in Trauma Healing and Healing of Memories workshops to help them process the wounds of the past inflicted by the war and support them on their journey towards reconciliation and a return to life.

4760 WOMEN

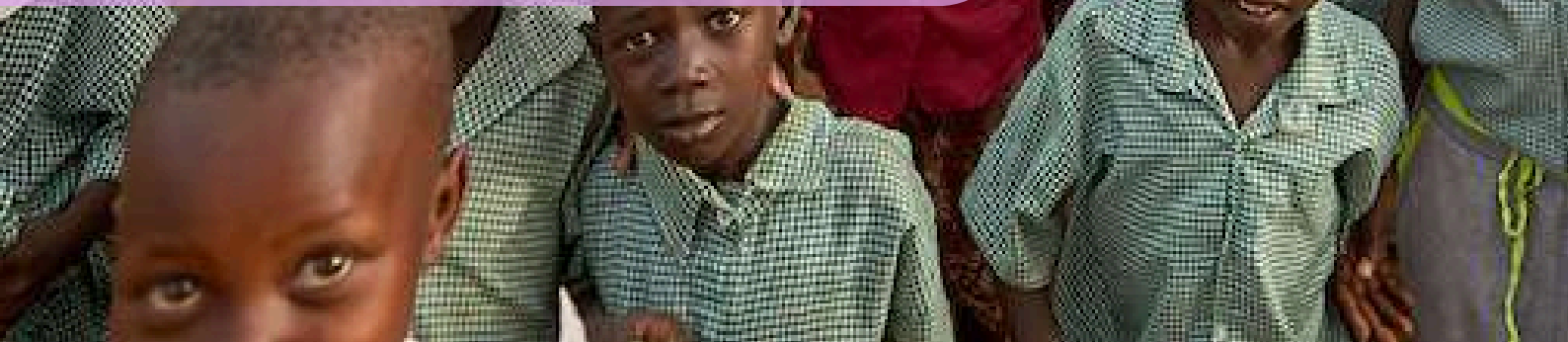
have attended activities dedicated to supporting them. Through workshops on capacity building, self-esteem, leadership and gender equality, women are given the tools to recognize their own worth and potential.

4511 PARTICIPANTS

have attended our workshops for the formation of Catechists and small Christian communities.

4157 YOUTH

participated in activities centred on empowerment, leadership, and reconciliation. In addition, every year, the Peace Trophy tournament brings together over 800 young people in a football competition that is a powerful instrument of social cohesion and peace-building.



Pastoral Care and Services

The Solidarity Pastoral Program aims to empower South Sudanese people towards a just and peaceful society through many activities, including trauma healing initiatives.



The program focuses on supporting **vulnerable groups,** particularly **women**, young people, displaced persons and people with disabilities. It works with the **local Church** and encourages reconciliation. It also collaborates with the National South Sudanese Pastoral Coordinator and provides **ongoing formation** for clergy, religious, and lay individuals.



"The Solidarity Pastoral Team organizes and implements pastoral programs to empower South Sudanese people to build a more just and peaceful society. (...) At the Parish Women's Desk, we handle the matters of women who are not only parishioners but also other vulnerable women who live in our parish. We transform them through adult education so that they can know how to read and write; by helping them understand what Liturgy is; by building up their faith to bring them back to God, and by supporting those struggling due to the economic crisis currently being experienced. We also provide training on various topics, (...) and we talk to them about Gender-Based Violence"

Catherine Gale Jonathan, chairperson of the Women's Desk at the St. Kizito Parish, Juba Archdiocese

Today, the **objectives** of the Pastoral Program are:

- To promote the **empowerment of women** in church and society through capacity development programs.
- To collaborate with the local Church in the pastoral and **spiritual formation of youth**.
- ·To facilitate programs of **retreats and spiritual accompaniment** at the Good Shepherd Peace Centre in Kit.
- To promote **trauma healing** and **reconciliation** in an integrated manner.
- To further develop the **capacity of pastoral agents** by responding to diocesan requests, supporting the training programmes of Catholic institutes, and assisting the National Pastoral Office in its capacity building.

An integral part of all projects

Moving towards greater sustainability

By strengthening relationships with local institutions, ensuring academic and professional standards in line with Solidarity principles, establishing clear policies for administration, human resources, finance and asset management. We recognize the evolving role of Solidarity members in the institutions and projects, encourage staff and beneficiaries involvement and promote sustainable levels of expenditure, local funding sources and student financial contribution.



Promoting gender equality

By promoting Catholic Social Teaching on gender, implementing affirmative action in recruitment, promoting respectful relationships between men and women, ensuring a safe environment for women, creating spaces for women's reflection and support, providing leadership opportunities, and supporting men to promote women's full participation in all aspects of life in South Sudan.



Peace Building

Solidarity promotes peace as a core, cross-cutting value. Beneficiaries from diverse South Sudanese ethnic groups—often on opposing sides of past conflicts—learn to live, study, and grow together. Through both academic and daily life, they experience firsthand that peace and reconciliation are not only possible, but essential for the future of South Sudan.



Promoting Diversity and Inclusion

We uphold organizational and ethical norms, maintaining high standards of trustworthiness and acting as a role model
for inclusivity. Solidarity actively collaborates with and support the development of the underprivileged, ensuring no one is left behind. Recognizing the unique needs of people with disabilities, Solidarity provides targeted support through all its projects.

Sustainable Development Goals Solidarity contributes to

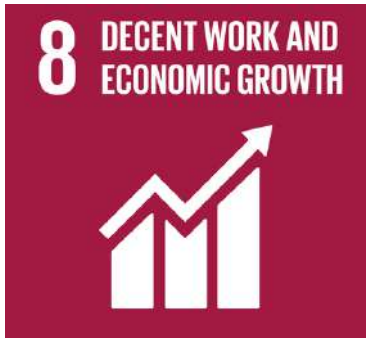




















Laudato sì goals
Solidarity contributes to

LAUDATO SI'
Action Platform

RESPONSE TO THE CRY OF THE EARTH

ECOLOGICAL EDUCATION

RESPONSE TO THE CRY OF THE POOR

ECOLOGICAL SPIRITUALITY

COMMUNITY RESILIENCE AND EMPOWERMENT

"Many things have to change course, but it is we human beings above all who need to change. We lack an awareness of our common origin, of our mutual belonging, and of a future to be shared with everyone. This basic awareness would enable the development of new convictions, attitudes and forms of life. A great cultural, spiritual and educational challenge stands before us, and it will demand that we set out on the long path of renewal."

(Laudato Si' , 202)



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