



Friends In Solidarity

Educational Toolkit

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<https://www.solidarityfriends.org>

This educational toolkit will introduce you to **Friends in Solidarity, Inc.** give you a glimpse into life in South Sudan, the projects **Friends in Solidarity** supports and the impact of these projects on the people of South Sudan.

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Friends in Solidarity is an initiative of US Catholic religious men and women in support of religious working in South Sudan and beyond. It was incorporated in November 2015 as an outgrowth of interest in the work being done by **Solidarity with South Sudan**, a project begun by the International Union of Superiors General and the Union of Superiors General in Rome in response to a request of the Sudan Catholic Bishops Conference in 2006. <https://www.solidarityfriends.org> Like us on Facebook.



Friends in Solidarity

All About Us

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Friends in Solidarity, Inc. is a 501(c) 3 tax exempt organization established in November 2015 to support the work of **Solidarity with South Sudan**. The Members of the Corporation are major superiors of eight US religious congregations and the Board of Directors are religious women and men with an interest in the work being done by **Solidarity in South Sudan**. It has an office sponsored by the Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR) in Silver Spring, MD. Sr Joan Mumaw, IHM, is the President and Chief Administrative Officer of the organization. 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.



Joan Mumaw, IHM
President and
Chief Administrative Officer

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 2004. 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 good will.

Friends in Solidarity is inspired by this call and the model of collaboration.



Ann Oestreich, IHM
Chair of the Board



Friends in Solidarity

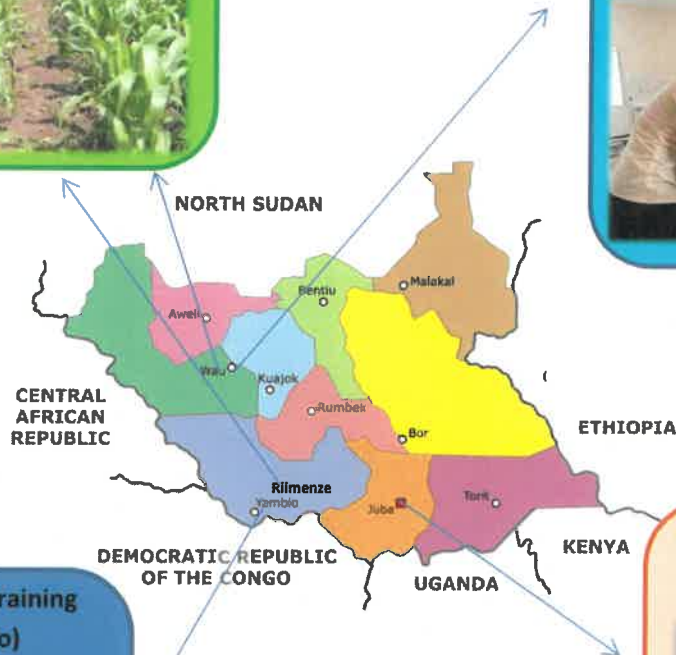
Projects We Support in South Sudan



Agriculture Projects (Riimenze & Wau)



Catholic Health Training Institute (Wau)



Solidarity Teacher Training College (Yambio)



Coordinating Office, Pastoral Center & Peace Center (Kit, near Juba)



Communities of Women
and Men Religious reside in:

- Juba
- Kit
- Wau
- Riimenze
- Yambio



Learn more about these projects
on the following pages.

To make a donation to support
Friends in Solidarity, Inc.:
<https://www.solidarityfriends.org/donate>

Solidarity Team: 28 priests brothers and sisters from 17 religious congregations and 14 countries



**Friends in
SOLIDARITY**

South Sudan

Geography, Demographics & History

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Geography

South Sudan, a landlocked country, is located in Eastern Africa. Its borders are (clockwise): Sudan to the north, Ethiopia to the east, Kenya, Uganda and the Democratic Republic of the Congo to the south and the Central African Republic to the west.

Flag Symbolism

Black: African skin
Red: Bloodshed of martyrs
Green: Verdant land
White: Peace
Blue: Waters of the Nile
Yellow: Unity of the states



Topography

South Sudan is mostly covered in tropical forest, swamps, and grassland. The White Nile passes through the country, passing by the capital city of Juba. The Imatong Mountains are in the southern part of the country and its highest peak is Mt. Kinyeti.

The Sudd, the Bahr el Ghazal and the Sobat River swamps provide a significant resource for wild animals, as well as livestock.

Fast Facts

Area: 644,329 sq km, about the size of Texas
Population: 12,530,717 (July 2016 est.)
Median age: 17.1 years
Capital: Juba
Ethnic Groups: Dinka 35.8%, Nuer 15.6%, Shilluk, Azande, Bari, Kakwa, Kuku, Murle, Mandari, Didinga, Ndogo, Bviri, Lndi, Anuak, Bongo, Lango, Dungotona, Acholi (2011 est.)
Languages: English (official), Arabic; regional languages include Dinka, Nuer, Bari, Zande, Shilluk
Religion: Animist, Christian
Unemployment: 18.5% (ages 15-24)
Natural Resources: Hydropower, fertile land diamonds, gold, zinc, mica, tungsten, silver, limestone, iron ore, copper, petroleum



Imatong Mountains – Mt. Kinyeti



White Nile



The Sudd Swamp

Let us pray together that
Christians in Africa, in imitation
of the Merciful Jesus, may give
prophetic witness to
reconciliation, justice, and peace."

(Pope Francis)



South Sudan's Tumultuous History

1956

to

2017



1956 – Sudan gains Independence

January 1, 1956 Sudan gains its independence after an agreement between the United Kingdom and Egypt.

1956 -1972 First Civil War

March 27, 1972 The signing of the Addis Ababa Agreement ends 16 years of civil war between the northern Khartoum forces and southern Anyanya rebels. Part of the agreement includes the creation of the autonomous region of South Sudan, with Juba as its capital.



1980s – Civil War

1983 The Sudan People's Liberation Army is formed and civil war is re-ignited.

March 27, 1995 Sudan's government calls for a two month ceasefire at the request of former US President Jimmy Carter.

January 9, 2005 The Comprehensive Peace Agreement is signed by representatives from the North and the South. Part of the agreement includes independence for southern Sudan within six years and that Islamic law would not apply there.

April 11-15, 2010 Sudan holds multi-party elections for the first time in 24 years. Salva Kiir Mayardit is elected president of southern Sudan with 93% of the vote.

Jan. 9-15, 2011 Sudanese people vote in a referendum to secede or remain part of a unified Sudan.

February 7, 2011 The Southern Sudan Referendum Commission announces that 98.83% have voted for separation from the North.



July 9, 2011

South Sudan becomes an independent nation

March, 2011 Violence breaks out in southern Sudan between soldiers and rebel groups.

July 9, 2011 South Sudan becomes an independent nation and five days later becomes the 193 member of the United Nations.

December, 2013 Civil war erupts as President Salva Kiir accuses his former Vice-President, Riek Machar, of plotting to overthrow him.

January, 2014 A ceasefire is signed but broken several times over subsequent weeks, and further talks in February fail to end the violence that displaces more than a million people by April.



2014 – refugee camps

December, 2016 A UN commission on human rights says a process of ethnic cleansing is underway in several parts of the country, a claim that President Salva Kiir denies.

February, 2017 The UN announces famine; 100,000 people are on the verge of starvation and 4.9 million people - more than 40% of South Sudan's population - are in need of urgent help.



2017 - Famine

April, 2018 Total number of refugees is 763,112
7.1 million people facing severe food insecurity from May - July 2018

In the midst of this suffering, Solidarity with South Sudan & Friends in Solidarity bring Joy and Hope!

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Friends in Solidarity

Solidarity Teacher Training College

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Education – A Great Need in South Sudan

*Solidarity with South Sudan in partnership with
Friends in Solidarity is responding to this need*

Approximately 26,000 teachers are needed in South Sudan! Sixty years of civil war have stalled all attempts to educate people and to train teachers. Most teachers in the schools have about four years of education! Only 27 % of the population is literate. Only 18% of women older than 24 are literate. Solidarity with South Sudan is committed to raising the level of literacy by training primary school teachers. The Solidarity Teacher Training College (TTC) in Yambio was dedicated in early 2013. A two year residential pre-service program is held from January to November. At the end of these programs, teachers are nationally certified to teach in state schools. STTC was the only college in the country to graduate new teachers at the end of 2016!

In early 2014, the college in Malakal was destroyed in the civil war. As a result, a decision was made to expand the college at Yambio as a national college. Two new dormitories, a library/classroom block, and additional staff housing have been built to accommodate an influx of students. The goal is to provide for 180 students on campus for the pre-service program.

Over 4000 teachers have participated in courses offered through Solidarity with South Sudan. In addition, curriculum materials and certification are now offered to the Jesuit Refugee Service Teacher Training Program in Maban. This program trains teachers coming from the UN Protection of Civilian Sites in the area. **Friends in Solidarity** is committed to helping this happen.



In 2012 Solidarity began affirmative action programs for women. These programs are creating a new dynamic and alerting young women to possible careers in teaching and health care. 50% of students at the Catholic Health Training Institute are now women, up from 20%. About 25% of students at the TTC are women. Most girls never finish primary let alone secondary school.

Solidarity Teacher Training College serves a multi-ethnic student population forming leaders for the future of South Sudan.

Friends in Solidarity



On behalf of the Sudan Catholic Bishops' Conference, Solidarity Teacher Training College aims to provide quality teacher training following the curriculum of the Government of South Sudan (GoSS), certified by the Ministry of Education through the University of Juba. This training focuses on teachers in primary schools of South Sudan and those intending to become primary teachers. Solidarity Teacher Training College is a leading provider of primary teacher training in South Sudan.



Some eager students are all smiles knowing that these teachers will provide them with a quality education.

The new library at Solidarity Teacher Training College, Yambio is being fully used and enjoyed by the students at the college. The first term began in January and since then the students have applied themselves wholeheartedly to their studies. Two new tutors have joined the tutorial staff – Br. Jim, a Christian Brother from the United States, and Br. Chris, a Christian Brother from Kenya. California Sister Carolyn Buhs, SNDdeN serves as librarian for the Solidarity Teacher Training College.



Left: Solidarity Teacher Training College library.

Right: Graduation Day at Solidarity Teacher Training College. Twenty-six newly qualified teachers have now received their certificates and are ready to step into the classrooms of South Sudan and play their part in shaping a new nation.

In the words of our students...

"Those first months were terrible for me because I could not understand anything. My English was so poor and I didn't feel I was learning. I wanted to leave. But now I can't believe the change in me. I can speak, read, and write English after only one year. I now understand that we are the agents of change. We are the ones to change the community where we live. I learned how to get along with different people. I plan to teach in the Primary school in my village".

"After an interview, I arrived in Yambio on January 2017. My first impression was the classrooms. I couldn't believe how nice everything was. I couldn't believe I had this chance. I saw the dormitory, the cafeteria, the grounds and I realized I was blessed by God. The staff were very committed and hard working. I like the quality of education. Secondly, I like the cooperation between the staff and the students. Lastly I like that so many different ethnic groups are here and work together. I have become a better person now because I am convinced of the need for education".

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Agricultural Project (Riimenze)

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Solidarity is assisting the people of South Sudan to regain their agrarian skills after many years of civil war. Many of the people residing in Riimenze are displaced from their own homes. In 2014 over 25 acres were cleared by hand and a living fence was planted. Following the clearing of the land food crops were planted, weeded and harvested. Depending on the daily work, between 30 and 80 people are employed. The project enables families to grow enough food to feed their families and a surplus to sell providing funds for sending their children to school. Appropriate technology has been secured with external funding, including walking tractors, oxen and hand grinders. Training in sustainable agricultural methods is provided to nearly 50 families. In the past year additional land was cleared and fruit trees and trees to be harvested for timber were planted providing for longer term sustainability for the project. All this work with local families is helping to build a community in Riimenze.

Five members of Solidarity are based in Riimenze which is currently supporting 6000 people from the area displaced by the current civil unrest. Solidarity is providing seeds and tools for those courageous enough to return to their plots of land to plant during the rainy season. They return to the encampment in the evening for safety. Sr. Rosa from Vietnam directs the agricultural project assisted by Br. Christian from Nigeria. Sr. Josephine from Kenya works with the pre-school and mentors the women in income generating projects. Two other members assist the elderly, children and those with special needs ensuring their healthcare and other needs. A special food supplement is provided by Solidarity to these vulnerable members of the community.



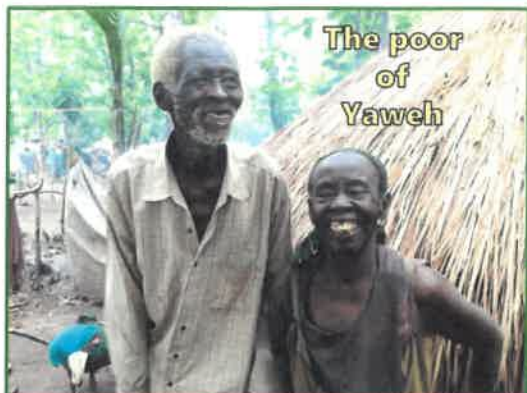
Major crops in South Sudan include:

Sorghum	Maize	Rice
Sunflower	Cotton	Sesame
Cassava	Beans	Peanuts

Small scale crops include:		
Coffee	Tea	Sugar
	Tobacco	

The Situation in Riimenze

Sr. Rosa gives us a glimpse of what life is like for the people she ministers to in Riimenze, South Sudan.



Every day, new comers arrive in Internally Displaced Person's camp after several days on foot.



Life is too short and too hard here at this Internally Displaced Person's (IDP) camp. Nine have passed away including two of our staff workers who were tortured, shot and burnt on New Year's Day, 2017.



Martin was roasting termites in front of his shelter at Internally Displaced Person's camp in Riimenze. He was beaten and shot in his left buttock earlier in the year and he could not walk by himself until now.



When we are cold we share the same fire.
When we are hungry we share the same plate.



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Friends in Solidarity

Pastoral Initiatives

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The Solidarity Pastoral team, based at the Good Shepherd Peace Center at Kit near Juba, is working with the National Pastoral Coordinator to build the capacity of diocesan pastoral teams and catechists. Training of leaders of Small Christian Communities is a ministry welcomed by all who participate in these workshops. In addition, the team is working with the Church and with the Religious Superiors Association of South Sudan (RSASS) providing trauma-healing and peace and reconciliation workshops, training leaders from the various dioceses of the country. Pastoral team members can also be found in the UN Protection of Civilians camps in Juba and Malakal and working with pastors and pastoral agents from the Malakal Diocese, a region decimated by the current war. They seek your support in their ever expanding ministry.

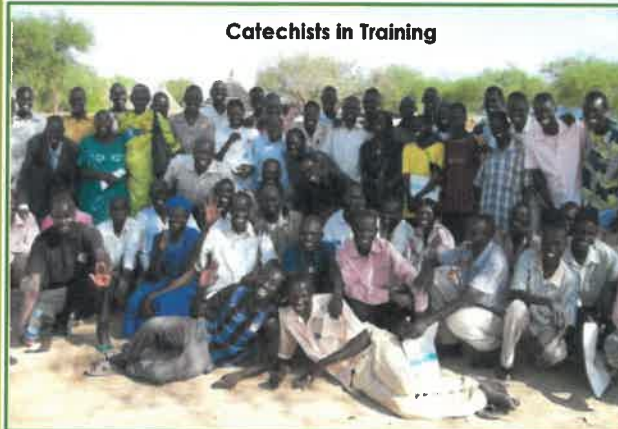


Trauma Healing Trainers

Trauma Healing

Trauma healing is not something new for Solidarity with South Sudan. Since January 2010, we have conducted more than thirty workshops. More than one thousand children, women and men have participated in these workshops.

Trauma Healing Workshop



Catechists in Training



Women Singing at Sunday Liturgy



Praying for Peace

Women Empowerment

ZEREDA (PEACE) WOMEN GROUP

The illiteracy level is very high especially among the women. Women are less privileged and are the victims of early marriages. Many of them dropped out of school at a young age either due to lack of fees or early teenage pregnancy. The peace group is engaged in learning skills with the aim of helping women to become self-reliant in the future.



Photo: Paul Jeffrey

Young Girls

Young girls are most vulnerable in the society. In order to support girls in their education, some activities where they can come to learn and acquire a skill were started. These activities include: bead work, knitting and cultivation. The income generated from the bead work goes for their school uniforms, school fees and for personal needs. During the activities, we also get the opportunity to talk to them on the value and importance of education, issues of women and girls and hygiene.

St Paul Kindergarten

St Paul kindergarten is a community school which was started in 2012 and it is situated in Rimenze parish center. Due to the growing number of children, the community felt the need for a school that would help and support their children in the area of

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Friends in Solidarity Catholic Health Training Institute

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The Catholic Health Training Institute (CHTI) in Wau is one of few centers in South Sudan training registered nurses and midwives. Three year programs lead to certification and graduates have annually taken top honors on state exams. In 2016 it was estimated that of approximately 250 registered nurses in the country over half had graduated from CHTI. In spite of the current ethnic strife engulfing the country, CHTI remains open and functioning. **Friends in Solidarity** provides operational support, the equivalent of scholarships for the CHTI where all students are subsidized to attend this residential facility. CHTI is one of the best training nursing and midwifery institutes in South Sudan if not the best, serving a multi-ethnic student population and forming leaders for the future. It has a great lab, library, computer room, student hostels, food, and tutors from South Sudan as well as Kenya, Uganda, India, the United States and other countries.

South Sudan has only 248 trained nurses for its 12 million people. The vast majority of them are male. CHTI is changing that bleak statistic. The percentage of women has grown from 20% to 50% since the opening of the institute. Just imagine how many lives these scholars will save over the course of their healthcare careers!

Humble beginnings... From a bat infested building to a bustling health training institute



Friends in Solidarity

CHTI plays an important role in the training of midwives and together with the Ministry of Health we can better address the needs of the mothers, children and families of our new nation, South Sudan.

Nursing and Midwifery Programs

From its inception in 2010, CHTI registers new students each year both in the Nursing Diploma and the Midwifery Diploma programs. Each degree lasts 3 academic years. Statistics vary slightly with each promotion, but the number of students has been increasing progressively each year. The table below shows the students according to their degrees during the past three years.

Level	Year 2016				Year 2017				Year 2018			
	Nursing		Midwife		Nursing		Midwife		Nursing		Midwife	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
1	19	8	5	6	18	7	8	9	17	11	11	8
2	13	7	6	7	17	8	7	8	18	7	8	8
3	13	7	9	10	12	8	6	6	17	7	7	8
Subtotal	67		43		70		44		77		50	
Total	110				114				127			
% women	41%				40%				39%			



A nursing student acts as the good-natured patient for four fellow students at the Catholic Health Training Institute. All five are on Mercy Beyond Borders scholarships. They will make the difficult journey from Rumbek to Wau each year, braving armed bandits, flash floods, and bone-jarring roads to return to the country's premier health training college.

South Sudan has the highest maternal mortality rate in the world.



Left: Solar panels in one of the central pavilions.
Right: Solar system battery room

Solar panels were installed during the first year of the project and have been operating at 100% capacity since December 2016. To date there have been no significant technical difficulties. CHTI has a volunteer technician (a Comboni community collaborator) who regularly supervises the system.

According to the Solidarity team, the installed panels are sufficient for the proper functioning of the center and are of great quality. The system was imported from Germany, as panels of this quality were difficult to find locally. Although this was a hefty investment, it is amply justified by its quality.

One of the unexpected results is the feeling of responsibility that develops in the students. Solar panels are so appreciated by the students that they have volunteered to clean and maintain them.

"CHTI students are the best we have. They are good professionals, know the proper procedures... you can trust them. They have improved the quality of the hospital not only with their knowledge, but also because they demand the best from the rest of the staff; we learn from each other."

Sr. Rosemary Odwar Director Comboni Hospital



The Catholic Health Training Institute accepts South Sudanese who are qualified secondary graduates, with no restrictions on the basis of tribe or religion, to train as registered nurses or midwives.

Friends in Solidarity is an initiative of US Catholic religious men and women in support of religious working in South Sudan and beyond. It was incorporated in November 2015 as an outgrowth of interest in the work being done by **Solidarity with South Sudan**, a project begun by the International Union of Superiors General and the Union of Superiors General in Rome in response to a request of the Sudan Catholic Bishops Conference in 2006.

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