



A project in cooperation with UISG and USG,
together with the local church



Annual Report 2019 Development 2020

About 57 of the population continue to suffer from severe food insecurity. South Sudan has been further traumatized by many atrocities such as looting, rape, murder, forced recruitment of children as soldiers and abduction and sexual exploitation of girls. The current peace deal in September 2018 is fragile, with sporadic outbreaks of fighting between armed groups in different parts of the country, the security situation remains tense.



SOLIDARITY WITH SOUTH SUDAN

Solidarity is a project of UISG and USG, 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. Congregations together work in harmony to accompany and empower the people of South Sudan helping to heal the wounds caused by the armed conflict, walking together towards a better future. We pay special attention to ensure that South Sudanese girls and women have equal access to education and training, and strive to prevent gender violence.

Our projects in South Sudan:



Catholic Health Training Institute (CHTI) in Wau



Solidarity Teacher Training Center (STTC) in Yambio



Sustainable Agricultural Project (SAP) in Riimenze



Pastoral Project based in Juba

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings to you all,

Despite the uncertainty of our daily lives as we deal with the impact of the virus on our world, I have the pleasure of presenting you with this year's annual report on the work of Solidarity. As you will see, up until the advent of covid-19, the work continues to go from strength to strength as we built on the foundations that were laid over ten years ago when the projects began. While our work has certainly been disrupted this year, we have been challenged to explore new ways of proceeding with our programmes while doing all we can to ensure the safety of the people in our care.

The struggle that the world is facing in coping with the impact of this virus is present for Solidarity with South Sudan, as we continue to seek personnel and resources that will ensure our work continues. We deeply appreciate your continued help and support without which we would not have been able to be as successful as we have been.

As a faith-based organisation, we are hopeful that your generosity will inspire others to contribute to helping us get through the difficult times ahead. We are only too aware that the potential for making personnel and financial resources available is in short supply in these present circumstances. None-the-less, we need you to hear this cry for help and be a channel of it, so others may feel moved to respond to this call, which we believe comes from God, to empower the people of South Sudan through the creation of systems that promote education and healthcare.

Once again on behalf of Solidarity and the people of South Sudan a heartfelt thanks for all we have been able to do together because of your contributions.

Together let us keep up this good work!

Fr. Paul Smyth cmf



LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

"We are NOT living an Era of Change, but a Change of Era"

Speaking to the Italian Church in November 2015, Pope Francis coined the phrase above to show that the Church of the future will need to be very different from that of the past. Little did we know then how prophetic those words would be?

Consider the effect that COVID 19 has on the entire planet. The future will certainly be very different from the past, and for the moment it is easier to see the disruptions, the things that we are no longer able to do, and it is more difficult to see what this new Era will look like.

This is very true for Solidarity in South Sudan. Like most countries, we are living with many restrictions, on travel, on work and on the way we relate to others.

Both our STTC College and our CHTI Institute were closed by government directive in March.

Thankfully, the vast majority of our students were able to make it home.

We took over the management of the Good Shepherd Peace Centre outside Juba in the month of April and our first act was to close the centers to the public!

Our training farm in Riimenze had to drastically reduce its activities. We have also seen an increase in poverty, as jobs disappear and people have no means to feed themselves. Added to this is a very rudimentary and vastly overstretched national health system, with people becoming very fearful about their own safety and their ability to feed themselves and their families.

All this is on the negative side; however, there are also signs of hope. One example of this was during the government directed closure of the Solidarity Teacher Training College in Yambio.



Many students expressed the desire to remain in contact with the Solidarity staff in the STTC. After a period of exchanging messages and texts with various Solidarity members, a new idea was born; at least it is new to South Sudan. The College decided to embark on a programme of online learning. Students with their own or shared smart phones would access lessons and tutorials on line. Both our students and the majority of Solidarity teaching staff embarked on a steep learning curve in terms of technology and understanding the possibilities of the phone in our pockets.

This represents a new way of reaching out to our students as we try to overcome the obstacles presented by COVID.

The initiative is not without its challenges, including the loaning of phones to some students, the very uneven accessibility countrywide to internet and the cost of airtime, to mention a few. However, it shows the willingness on both sides to overcome the obstructions caused by the pandemic and to find new ways of relating. This is just one example. We continue to search for more.

During this time we had to say goodbye to a number of people who left Solidarity for various reasons. These include Monica Gaspari, who will continue for a few months assisting in our Rome office, Allan Drummond, who has spent a very long time as volunteer, grandfather to our students and creative writer. Sr. Ailish O'Brien has returned temporarily to Ireland and will rejoin us once the Training College reopens. We would also like to thank Lisa Fantozzi for her work in the Fundraising Office.

A final thank you goes to those congregations who responded positively to our recent call for financial assistance. Your contributions are helping us face this difficult time with extra confidence.

Fr. Jim Greene M. Afr
Executive Director



CHTI

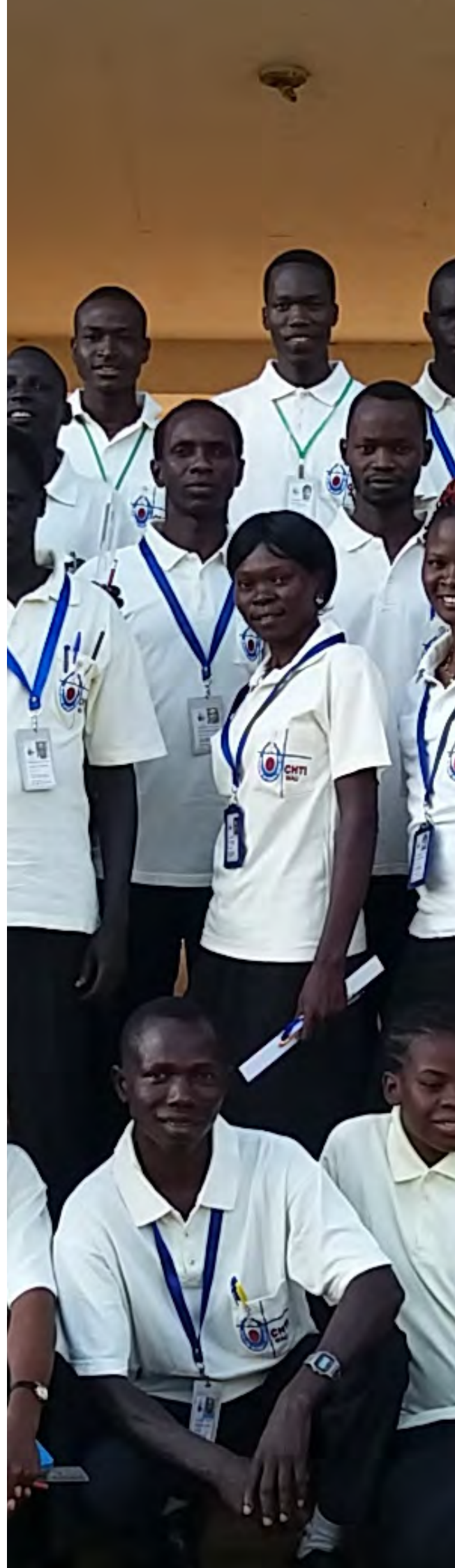
The Catholic Health Training Institute (CHTI) in Wau offers the first program of registered nursing certification in the history of the country; it requires 3 years of full-time academic and clinical rotations.

Nursing students and midwives do practical training in different hospitals and clinics.

An agricultural project within CHTI provides training for students and small local farmers and helps ensure the sustainability by providing food for the students and staff of the CHTI.

The CHTI graduated 225 students since 2013, as nurses and midwives. 30% of the CHTI graduates are women. 83% of the graduates are currently employed.

Some of the graduates have joined the CHTI team as tutors, becoming a model for the new students.



STTC

In order to respond to the educational needs of South Sudan, it was decided to develop institutions for teacher training as the most effective way to help increase the level of literacy in the country. The STTC in Yambio has currently 120 residential students. Solidarity Teacher Training College is now recognized as a leading provider of primary teacher training, providing to its students the National Certificate.

In addition, in-service programs are delivered in many locations of the country for teachers needing regular in-service training to comply with requirement of the Ministry of Education.

To date, nearly 539 students have graduated from pre-service and inservice programs.

More than 70% of all our graduates are employed as teachers all around the country. Some graduates are being sent for further education with a view to returning to the STTC as tutors.

In South Sudan, only 16% of women are literate, 19% of STTC graduates are women.



SAP

Solidarity Farm has maintained its original aim of demonstrating simple, organic farming techniques that suit the rural people, integrating pest management and avoidance of soil erosion, crop rotation, horticulture and livestock.

New and improved crop varieties and fruit trees have been tested and introduced to the local farmers.

New machinery has been acquired and processing areas have been built.

50 to 95 local farmers work daily in the farm.

Workshops were conducted for outside growers on the topics of farm planning and seeding, plant protection, crop rotation, crop propagation and post-harvest handling with participants, 49% of whom were women.

13 Radio talk shows disseminated agricultural technical knowledge to the broader public.

More than 40 tons of food were harvested from 75 acres in 2019: a huge contribution to food security in the zone.



PASTORAL PROJECT

The Solidarity Pastoral Team is focused on the capacity building of church leaders and communities.

Formation of Small Christian Communities, catechists, building diocesan pastoral coordinators and teams, formation of the clergy and religious, workshops on peace and reconciliation, on trauma healing and accompaniment, are activities developed in different dioceses.

Workshops and seminars on peace building and trauma healing for our students, are regularly held.

Since 2011, 156 participants registered for Solidarity reconciliation and peace-building workshops for healing, 1675 participated in trauma healing workshops; 1058 participants registered for activities dedicated to supporting women. 2168 participants attended workshops for small Christian Communities and catechists.

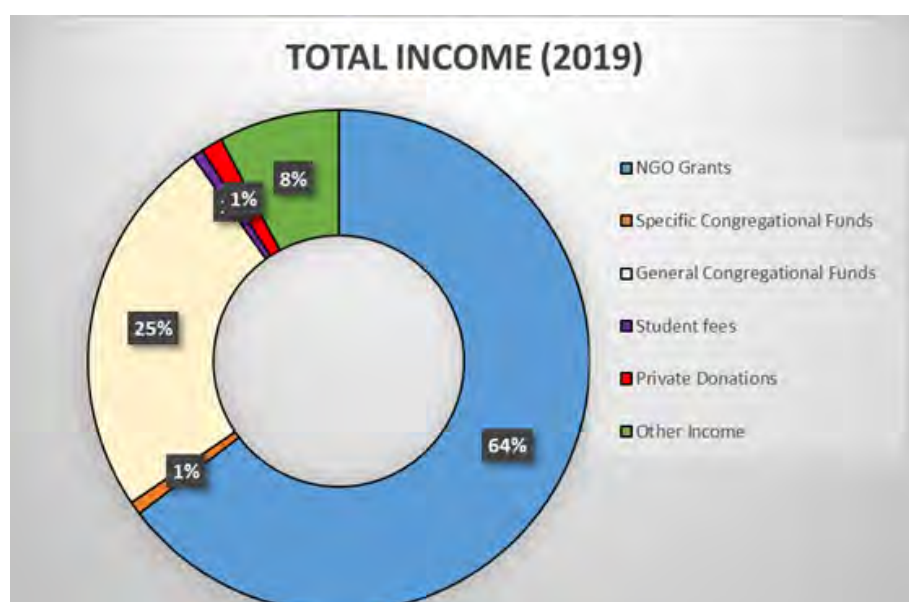
One member of the pastoral team assists the displaced people in Malakal camp, and others are involved in assistance to the people in other camps across the country.



FINANCIAL STATEMENT INCOME 2019

Thanks to the donations and the grants received in 2019, Solidarity could reach an extraordinary result, which let us to realize some targets included in our Strategic Plan.

INCOME (2019)	USD
DESIGNATED FUNDS	
NGO Grants	2.121.102
Specific Congregational Funds	27.997
UNDESIGNATED FUNDS	
General Congregational Funds	808.694
Student fees	23.050
Private Donations	45.318
Other Income	255.304
TOTAL INCOME	3.281.464

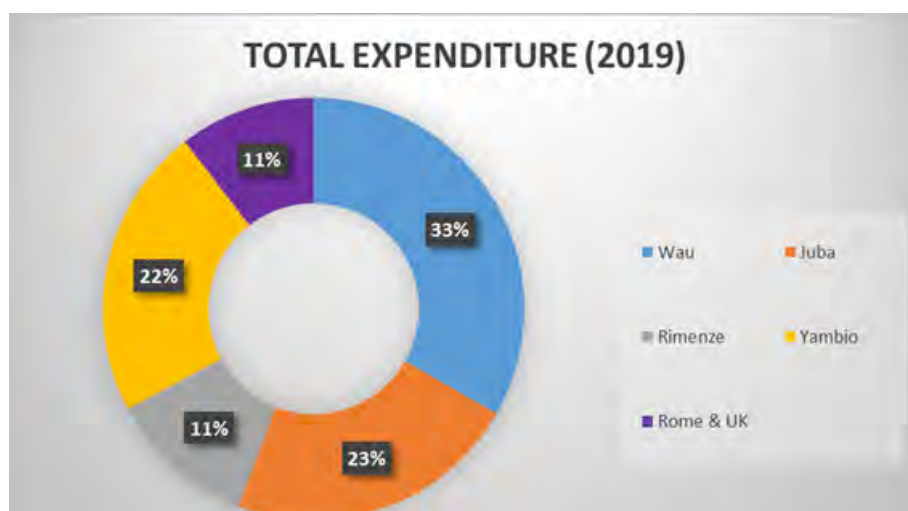


FINANCIAL STATEMENT EXPENSES 2019

One of the target of each Association is to keep the costs under control, trying to reduce them year after year. In 2019, we decreased a little the cost, with the possibility to use the spare money for our projects and further emergencies.

As each year, Solidarity Financial Statements have been audited by external companies, which certificated the correctness of our data, in according with the national regulation.

EXPENSES (USD)	Wau	Juba	Rimenze	Yambio	Rome & UK	total
Operating	404.020	477.653	169.811	425.602	112.820	1.589.906
Personnel	283.451	154.236	145.364	163.948	180.701	927.700
Capital	248.915	2.650	4.233	40.953	653	297.403
TOTAL EXPENSES	936.386	634.539	319.407	630.503	294.174	2.815.010



THANKS TO...



The greatest achievement of Solidarity lies in their being a symbol of their name to inspire people in South Sudan.

Solidarity has increased the agency of individuals to acquire vocational skills and to contribute to food security, education, healthcare and spiritual nourishment of communities.

Between 2008 and 2018 Solidarity's collective impact is seen in the formation of 475 primary school teachers, 190 nurses and midwives, more than 1000 farmers, and over 1500 pastoral agents as well as community members.

The impact of Solidarity's training is also clearly visible at the level of individuals. Over the course of their training, students learnt not only to become good teachers, nurses or midwives but also learnt life skills that could support them in their professional, personal and family life. The students acknowledged having learnt a lot from Solidarity Community members such as being committed, patient, cooperative, and punctual. And for many of the students, it was the first time they had a feeling of security, not having to worry what they would eat the next day and what would happen next.

Considering the circumstances under which Solidarity has been operating since a decade, the projects have performed remarkably over the last ten years. In one of the most fragile regions in the world, Solidarity has stepped in to live with the people of South Sudan. A representative of the Diocese of Tombura Yambio put it in a nutshell: "The highest award we can give Solidarity, was that they never departed, they decided to stay even changed our lives, showed their commitment and sacrifice living in action the gospel values Solidarity is lived by them."

HOW TO SUPPORT US

DONATIONS

ONLINE DONATIONS can be made through our website: please link to www.solidarityssudan.org

DETAILS FOR BANK TRANSFERS

Euro and UK Sterling donations: For the purposes of financial transparency, *Solidarity with South Sudan* is now a registered charity both in Italy (C.F. 97691200584) and the UK. (Co. Code: 01205883, Registered Charity No 1154872). Bank accounts are now established in both jurisdictions and annual reports are submitted as required.

<p>Donations in EUROS</p> <p>New!</p> <p>Account Name/Cheques payable to: Solidarity Projects Italy ONLUS - ETS</p> <p>Postal Address: P.zza Ponte S. Angelo 28, 00186 Roma (Italia)</p> <p>Account Number: 1000/00066112</p> <p>Bank Name: Banca Intesa SanPaolo</p> <p>Bank Address: Piazza Paolo Ferrari 10, 20121 Milano (Italia)</p> <p>Branch No.: 05000</p> <p>IBAN: IT22 P030 6909 6061 0000 0066 112</p> <p>BIC/SWIFT: BCITITMM</p>	<p>Donations in GBP</p> <p>Account Name/Cheque payable to: Solidarity Projects Ltd.</p> <p>Postal Address: UHY, 2B Vantage Park, Washingley Road, Huntingdon, PE29 6SR. UK</p> <p>Bank Name: Allied Irish Bank (GB)</p> <p>Bank Address: AIB, Birmingham City Office, 61 Temple Row, Birmingham, B2 5LT</p> <p>Sort Code: 23 83 93</p> <p>Account No: 02034016 BIC/ SWIFT: AIBKGB2L</p> <p>IBAN: GB79 AIBK 238393 02034016</p>
<p>Donations in US Dollars</p> <p>New!</p> <p>Account Name/Checks payable to: Solidarity Projects Italy ONLUS - ETS</p> <p>Postal Address: P.zza Ponte S. Angelo 28, 00186 Roma (Italia)</p> <p>Account Number: 1610/09358110</p> <p>Bank Name: Banca Intesa SanPaolo</p> <p>Bank Address: Piazza Paolo Ferrari 10, Milano 20121</p> <p>Branch No.: 05000</p> <p>IBAN: IT28 K030 6909 6061 6100 9358 110</p> <p>BIC/SWIFT: BCITITMM</p>	<p>Donations in US Dollars for American Citizens</p> <p>Tax-deductible donations may be made online through https://www.solidarityfriends.org/donate/</p> <p>For bank transfers please contact jumaw.solidarity@gmail.com</p> <p><i>Friends in Solidarity</i> is the US partner to <i>Solidarity with South Sudan</i> and a 501(c) 3 non profit organization. Official receipt for tax purposes will be sent from Friends in Solidarity.</p> <p>See https://www.solidarityfriends.org for more details.</p>

DETAILS FOR CHEQUES

Cheques in Euros must be headed to Solidarity Projects Italy ONLUS - ETS

and sent to Solidarity Projects Italy ONLUS - ETS Piazza di Ponte S. Angelo 28, 00186 Roma - Italia

Cheques in GBP must be headed to Solidarity Projects Ltd

and sent to Solidarity Projects Ltd c/o UHY Hacker Young 2B Vantage Park, Washingley Road, Huntingdon, PE29 6SR, Cambridgeshire UK

Cheques in Us Dollars must be headed to Solidarity Projects Italy ONLUS - ETS

and sent to Solidarity Projects Italy ONLUS - ETS Piazza di Ponte S. Angelo 28, 00186 Roma - Italia

For American citizens in USA only: the cheques in US Dollars must be made payable to *Friends in Solidarity, Inc* and sent to:

8737 Colesville Road, Suite 610, Silver Spring, MD 20910, USA. Please contact jumaw.solidarity@gmail.com in order to obtain tax deduction.

WHEN SENDING A CHEQUE/CHECK OR MAKING TRANSFERS: Please send an email to the Rome Office finance.solidarity@gmail.com stating the amount, and the account into which you have made a transfer, your name/congregation and tax/fiscal code if available and the address to which we can send receipts. Thank you!



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Photo credits: Paul Jeffrey

