



Solidarity with  
South Sudan



SEEDS  
OF  
PEACE

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April 2025





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*Piazza di Ponte S. Angelo, 28 - 00186 Rome, Italy*



# 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 0.381. The population is over 12.115 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 2.29 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

6.4 million people face severe food insecurity, with 1.11 million malnourished pregnant and lactating women and 2.1 million malnourished children. This number is projected to rise to 7.7 million by mid-2025.

## Health and Mortality

Life expectancy is approximately 60 years, significantly below the global average. Maternal mortality is among the highest globally, with 1,150 deaths per 100,000 live births. Child mortality is also high, with 75 deaths per 1,000 children under five.

## Education and Vulnerable Groups

2.2 million children are out of school, mostly girls, and 52% of girls marry before 18. The ongoing war in Sudan has displaced 960,000 people, with vulnerable groups including children, the elderly, and pregnant women.







## MESSAGE FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

*On Wednesday 2 April 2025, during the board meeting of Solidarity with South Sudan (SWSS), the outgoing executive director, Father Jim Green, handed me Solidarity's torch of hope and peace. His commitment to Solidarity has been total and I shall endeavour to follow in his footsteps and make sure that all Solidarity members can uphold the torch entrusted to us, so that his sacrifice has not been in vain. The President of the board and all the members had chosen to call on me to fulfil this leadership, which is a great honour for me. I am well aware of the challenges we face in this new context marked by all forms of violence. I hope, with the supports of Solidarity members, to continue to accompany and empower the people of South Sudan and helping them to lead peaceful lives.*

*This new administrative phase will focus on consolidating our achievements development, pastoral work and diversifying the range of training opportunities. I will focus on reinforcing the Solidarity's strengths, and after a phase of observation and discussion, I will propose areas for improvement to optimise our competitiveness.*

*To all Solidarity members, our partners, friends and supporters, I will say that Solidarity is a mission for all of us. Together, we can help the people of South Sudan to heal the wounds caused by long-lasting wars and, together, to look towards a better future.*

*I cannot conclude without expressing my gratitude to all of you: religious, bishops, friends, partners, etc., who continue to support Solidarity's mission of education, reconciliation and hope in South Sudan.*

*Fr Hyacinthe Loua, SJ  
SWSS Executive Director*









## 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 2025, Solidarity has **22 religious members** from **20 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.

### 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 the 2022 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.



### 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.

### 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.

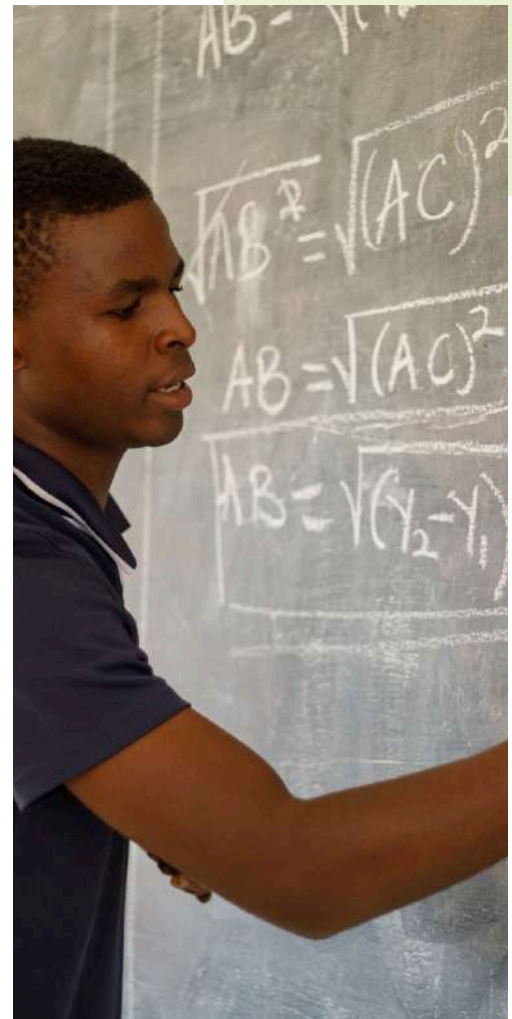
### PASTORAL

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

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 residential program** for students from different tribes and state of the country who want to become primary school teachers.
- 2 **In-service training** for practicing teachers without a qualified training. Currently underway in Yambio and from 2025 in Wau.
- 3 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**.



“

*If I had not been given the scholarship, I would probably have become an unskilled teacher who would not know how to teach and neither would I know how manage a classroom (...) My hope is that one day I can go back to my homeland where I will start up a school. (...) Initially, I thought that teaching is a very tough task to do but after studying at Solidarity, I am excited to teach.*

*Amani Ismail Abushanab, STTC graduate, currently teaching in the Saint Augustine Primary School in Yambio*

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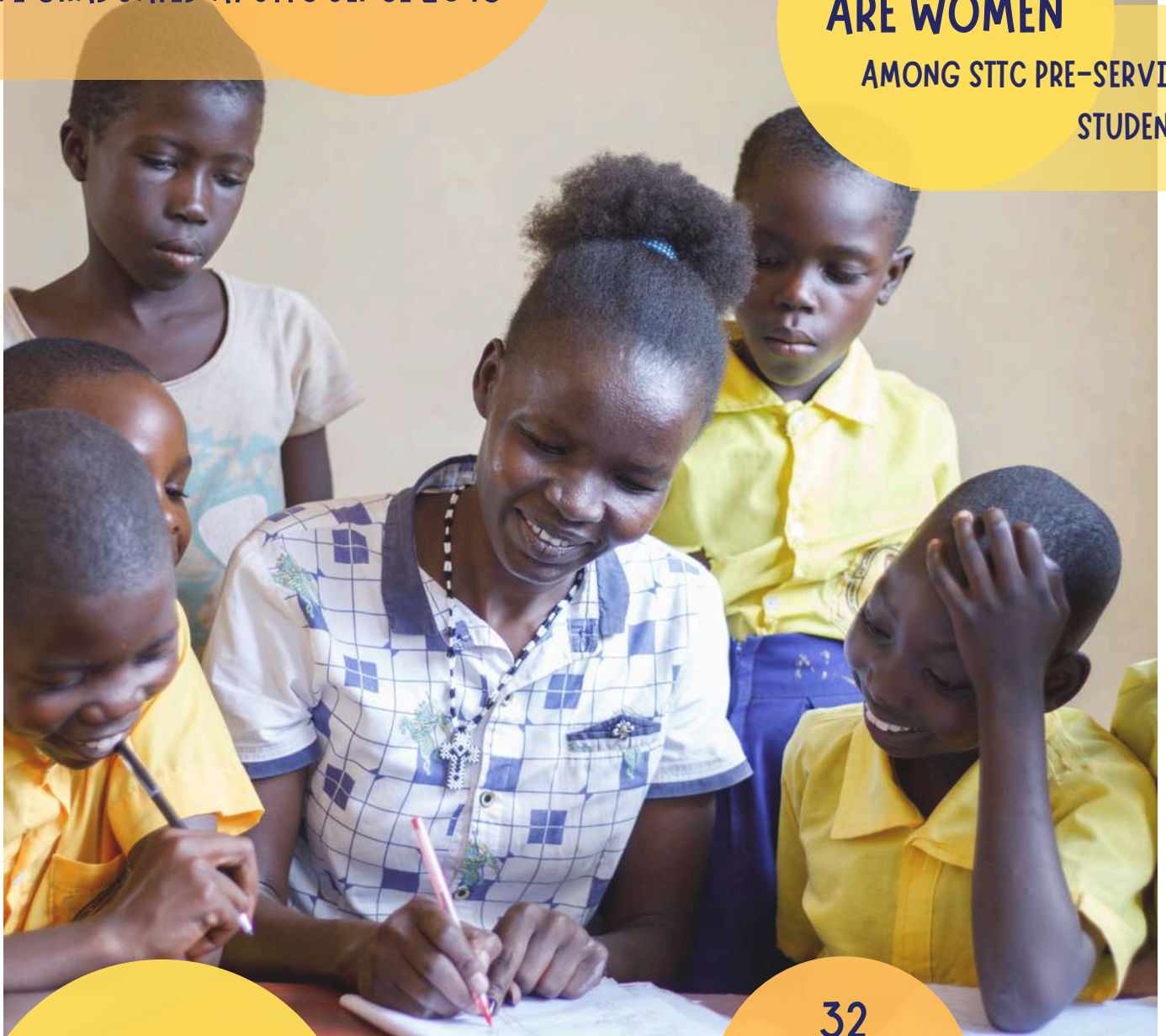


**886  
TEACHERS**

**HAVE GRADUATED AT STTC SINCE 2013**

**50%  
ARE WOMEN**

**AMONG STTC PRE-SERVICE  
STUDENTS**



**77%  
OF GRADUATES**

**ARE CURRENTLY EMPLOYED**

**32  
TEACHERS**

**ENROLLED FOR 2025 IN THE  
DIPLOMA PROGRAM**



# 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 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.



“*It has always been my dream to work in the medical field. I used to see people suffering, witnessed a lot of family members dying, and they could not get proper care because there were no trained personnel to offer good and reliable service. (...) CHTI is the best in South Sudan, beyond doubt. Everyone is testifying. We perform well in the national exams, and in terms of the practical part, we get exposed to so many things compared to students in other institutions. When we go for clinical placements, they learn from us.*”

*Sebit Oliver, CHTI Nursing Student, helping a patient at the St. Daniel Comboni Hospital Pediatric Ward*





**393  
GRADUATES**

**AT CHTI AS NURSES AND MIDWIVES**

**38%**

**OF ALL GRADUATES ARE WOMEN**

**92%**

**OF GRADUATES**

**ARE CURRENTLY EMPLOYED**

**42%**

**ARE WOMEN**

**AMONG ALL STUDENTS ENROLLED**



# SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURAL PROJECT 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.

Till now, **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.



“

*Solidarity trained us about many things. For example, they trained us about good hygiene, how to cook nutritious food for our children, plus how and when to breastfeed them. (...) We are now preparing nutritious, balanced diets. We know, for example what food has proteins, what are energy foods, vitamins from fruits (...) Life is much better now. We hope that Solidarity can train more women.*

*Nazenti Mbavungu,  
beneficiary from the Sustainable Agricultural Project in Riimenze*

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**810  
HOUSEHOLDS**

**ARE THE DIRECT BENEFICIARIES  
OF THE PROJECT**

**360  
CHILDREN**

**AT RISK OF MALNUTRITION  
RECEIVE SUPPORT**

**63%  
ARE WOMEN**

**AMONG THE BENEFICIARIES**

**67  
RADIO TALK-SHOW**

**CONDUCTED TO RAISE AWARENESS  
ON AGRICULTURE**



## PASTORAL CARE & SERVICES

The Solidarity **Pastoral Program** aims to **empowers 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 disable people. It works with the **local Church** and encourage reconciliation. It also collaborates with the National South Sudanese Pastoral Coordinator and provides **ongoing formation** for clergy, religious, and lay individuals.

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 Catholic institutes' training programs, and assisting the **National Pastoral Office** in its capacity building.



Mary Mindraa Jino Gama,  
Secretary in the Youth Office of the Archdiocese of Juba

“During Sunday masses and activities, 70% or majority are the youth. Through a variety of activities, we can be kept in church where we are taught the word of God; taught what our roles and responsibilities are in the church and within our nation. (...) The trauma healing workshops were really important in healing or helping us deal with what we experienced during the war. People have had to deal with memories of seeing others being killed right in front of them. So, during the trauma healing, youth sit together to share their thoughts and fears, which gives a sense of not being alone.





**4074  
PARTICIPANTS**

**IN TRAUMA HEALING INITIATIVES**

**3280  
WOMEN**

**TOOK PART IN ACTIVITIES  
DEDICATED TO THEM**

**3289  
YOUTH**

**INVOLVED IN LEADERSHIP AND PAECE-  
BUILDING ACTIVITIES**

**3550  
PARTICIPANTS**

**IN TRAINING FOR CLERGY AND  
SMALL COMMUNITIES**



# 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 student involvement and promote sustainable levels of expenditure, local funding sources and student financial contribution.

## PROMOTING GENDER EQUITY

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.

## MAINSTREAMING ENVIRONMENTAL CONSCIOUSNESS

By raising awareness and action on Laudato Si and environmental issues, reviewing all project activities accordingly, advocating for biodiversity and soil conservation, increasing environmental awareness in the wider community, and fostering collaboration with other environmentally conscious groups.

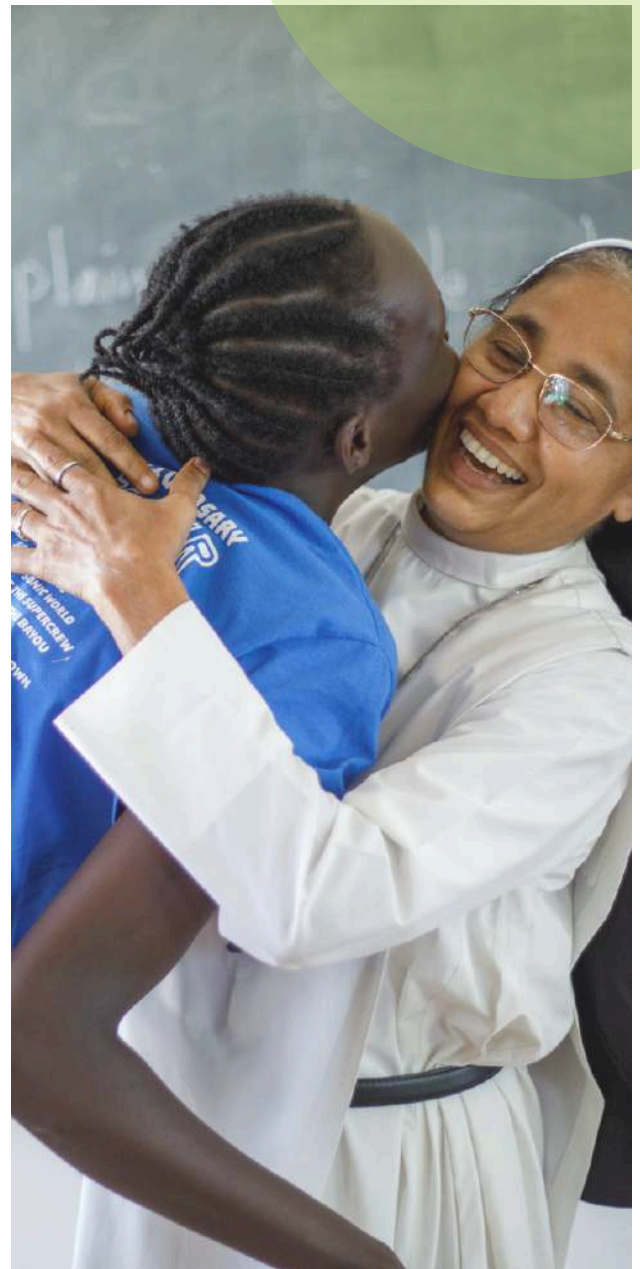


## PEACE BUILDING

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 collaborate 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.



“

*Here we have a team, Kit FC. When we do the tournament, many teams come from Juba and also from some places called Mutala and Rajaf. We have about 10 teams. We are doing the tournament and we give it the name Peace League because football encourages friendship. It is going very well and we see unity among the players, among the fans and among the coaches. That is why football can promote peace and unity.*

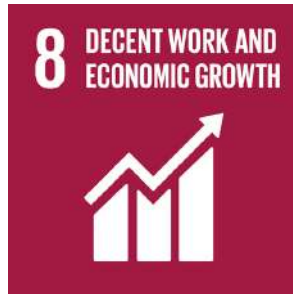
*Lawrence Peter and Dario Okumu,  
Kit FC team players, as part of the Pstoral Program*

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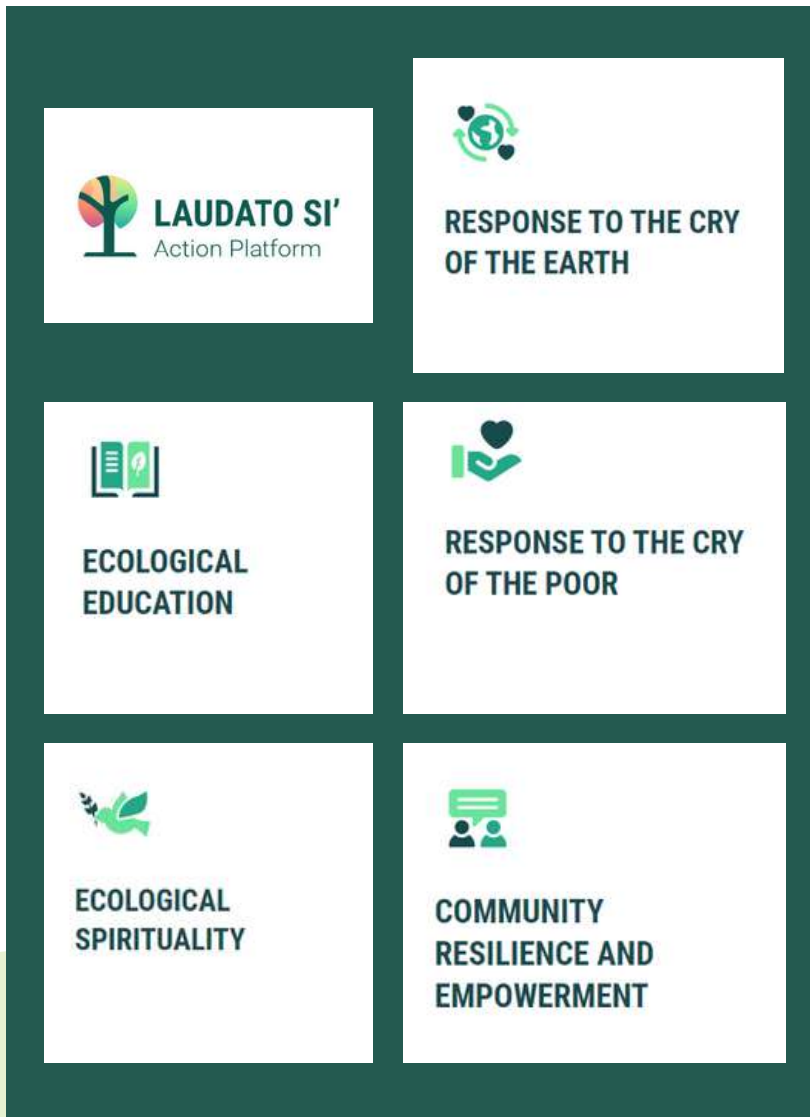


# SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS SOLIDARITY CONTRIBUTE TO





# LAUDATO SÌ GOALS SOLIDARITY CONTRIBUTE TO



*“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 Sì 202)*









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