



LAUDATO SÌ WEEK 2023

SPECIAL APPEAL FOR SWSS

Economics and Environmental Disaster

Letter from *Solidarity* Executive Director



Conflict in South Sudan has been in the headlines for decades. We think of civil war, ethnic struggles and stalled peace processes. Sometimes the conflict is very intense, other times it occurs at 'sub national' levels, away from the camera lens, but the consequences remain the same. At all times it results in human misery.

Another human conflict often escapes our attention but has catastrophic consequences on the lives of hundreds of thousands, leading to **poverty, disease, migration and food shortages**. Humans are **at war with the environment** both in South Sudan and globally, with terrible consequences for this and future generations.

Take the example of energy and how people cook their food and heat their water. In a country with only token public electricity available, the major source of cooking energy is firewood and the burning of charcoal. It is estimated that 5 million trees were destroyed each year, simply to fuel the needs of Juba city (UN Environment 2015).

Take another example of the logging and exporting of mahogany and teak trees from the rain forests of Western and Central Equatoria in South Sudan. This activity is not controlled by the government and it is estimated that over 100,000 tons of teak make the journey from South Sudan to the world markets.

Local deforestation has contributed to the recent flooding in South Sudan, but the root causes are much greater. Experts speak about **global climate change, El Nino and increased rainfall over East Africa**. However, **the effects are devastating in this country** that already has 2.2 million internally displaced people, not counting the millions that live in camps outside the country. According to the UN, almost one million people were affected by the floods in 2022. About two-thirds of the country is swamped by three years of rising water levels. These waters have swept away homes and livestock, forcing tens of thousands to flee, and inundated large swathes of farmland, **worsening an already dire food emergency**.

In a country that needs to develop, we are continually forced to provide emergency relief to masses of displaced people, running from environmental devastation.

Solidarity with South Sudan, for its part, cannot change the world. However, we are **educating our trainee teachers, nurses and midwives about climate change** and **encourage small steps** to mitigate against this. We are increasing our efforts in **teaching sustainable farming techniques**, especially in Riimenze. We are **encouraging ecological consciousness among religious in the country**, by promoting a workshop **on Laudato Si and our Common Home**.

We are doing it day by day thanks to people's support, prayers and financial donations that have been essential to ensure the continuity of the project. **"Solidarity with South Sudan" is a project of all of us, a wonderful inter-congregational reality** that respectfully and gently accompanies the journey of the South Sudanese people. In past years, we made a special appeal requesting financial support to which many of you responded with great generosity.

We are now appealing again to your generosity in this special Laudato Si week, knowing that our projects are making an important difference in the lives of many in our country.

We pray that you will give thought full consideration to our request and help us to help others!

Thank you again for your commitment to this important project and for your consistent care for the marginalised of South Sudan.

Fr. Jim Greene, M. Afr
Executive Director

769 primary school teachers trained at the Solidarity Teacher Training College in Yambio



Thousands of families have rekindled hope and learned how precious our land can be as a key partner to be respected for our existence

We will continue to take care of our Common Home

307 nurses and midwives trained at the Catholic Health Training Institute in Wau



For more than 15 years we have been committed to caring for our "common home." The work is a lot and the resources that we need continue to be more and more. The many obstacles we have encountered over the years at the National and Global level have not stopped us.

We will continue to care for our common home starting with the most marginalized. However, we need the financial and spiritual support of all of you. **Each help we receive really does make a difference and we see it daily!**

We see it in the 769 new primary school teachers trained at the Solidarity Teacher Training College in Yambio.

We see it in the 307 nurses and midwives trained at the Catholic Health Training Institute in Wau.

We see it every day in the sustainable agriculture project in Riimenze, where thousands of families have rekindled hope and learned how precious our land can be as a key partner to be respected for our existence.

We see it in the thousands of people, adults and youth, who in all the dioceses of South Sudan have received pastoral support and learned to deal with the trauma caused by decades of a horrible war.

We see it in the peace and mutual respect we promote every day.

All of this is now a reality that exists because, since the beginning of the Solidarity intercongregational Ministry, you all have always believed in us; all of this is a reality that we face every day with confidence hope, joy but also with a lot of hard work.

In this endeavor we continue to need your support; it is essential to enable us to give our best help in the care of our common home!

So, we ask you, once again, to respond to our call for help and we thank you wholeheartedly on behalf of the South Sudanese people for being part of this great family of Solidarity with South Sudan!

Your Help is needed!

We are facing a "single and complex socio-environmental crisis." (LS 139)

We continue to need your support.

It is essential to enable us to give our best help in the care of our common home!

We ask you, once again, to respond to our call for help



Some examples of how
your generosity can
impact peoples' lives:

\$450 will enable
the procurement
and distribution
of 10 piglet for 10
Households in
Riimenze

\$650 will cover
1 year of
horticulture
input support for
women groups
in Riimenze

\$1.200 will
help us for the
training of 200
women on better
nutrition in
Riimenze

\$6.000 will provide
complete support
to a CHTI
nursing/midwifery
student in residence
for 1 year.

\$4.800 will provide
complete support to
a STTC primary
school teacher
student in residence
for 1 year

\$10.000
will feed the
Riimenze IDP
community for
1 year.



HOW TO DONATE

**DONATE NOW
WITH PAYPAL**

BANK TRANSFERS:

Donations in Euros • Bank Name: Banca Intesa SanPaolo • Account Name: Solidarity Projects Italy ONLUS • IBAN: IT22 P030 6909 6061 0000 0066 112 • BIC/SWIFT: BCITITMM

Donations in US Dollars • Bank Name: Banca Intesa SanPaolo • Account Name: Solidarity Projects Italy ONLUS ETS • IBAN: IT28 K030 6909 6061 6100 9358 110 • BIC/SWIFT: BCITITMM

Donations in GBP • Bank Name: HSBC • Account Name: Solidarity Projects Ltd. • IBAN: GB49HBUK40401001569856 Account nbr 01569856 Sort Code 40-40-10

CHEQUES:

Cheques in **Euros** or in **US Dollars** should be directed 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** should be directed 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

If you wish, you can choose to make **a recurring donation** on a regular basis. Please be in touch with us with details as to how often you would like to contribute, and in what amount.

Your continued support will allow us to define medium and long-term actions with better planning and distribution of resources!

Email to: info@solidarityssudan.org

Website: www.solidarityssudan.org