



Association suisse des Amis
de Sœur Emmanuelle
19, rue du Rhône
1204 Genève
T: +41 (0)22 311 20 22
F: + 41 (0)22 310 21 93
info@asase.org

www.asase.org
CCP 12-5593-0

THE VOCATIONAL TRAINING PROGRAM

Started in 1990, this program is one of Saint Vincent de Paul Society (SVDP) in Khartoum key programs inasmuch as it helps both the displaced people and the orphans of our program "Homes and Farms for Street Children" to become self-sufficient. It was supported from the start by ASASE.

Moreover, in October 2009, a new training center has started operating in Lologo, on the outskirts of Juba, the capital of South Sudan 1200 km away from Khartoum, where there is a significant need for such programs.

In Khartoum and its surroundings, in our farms Gebel Awlia I and Hag Youssif, as well as in three other centers (Wad El Bashir, Mayo¹ and Soba), workshops provide **training in carpentry, masonry, welding, electricity, agricultural techniques, tailoring, leatherwork, business administration, mosaic tiling, secretariat, computer, refrigeration / air-conditioning,**

In all centers, we provide courses in **Health / HIV awareness / hygiene / first aid** (in collaboration with the Red Crescent).



The program also includes a training in agriculture and cattle care for the teenagers living in our farms. They can directly appreciate the outcome of their training, as they produce whenever possible some food for themselves, for the homes and the cattle too.

In the South, despite the return of peace since January 2005, infrastructure is still lacking. We must nevertheless encourage Southerners to return to their homeland to contribute to its development.

Located along the Nile, in an area populated by many IDPs, the new center Lologo provides, since October 2009, training in **masonry, electricity and carpentry**, crafts that are much wanted in a region where everything has to be rebuilt.

¹ This center has been closed this year for administrative reasons (see page 3).

In Khartoum, this program concerns the elder of our ex-“street children”, who attend workshops in the afternoon after school (**280 teenagers have benefited from it in 2009**). In many instances, the skills they have acquired help them to pay the university expenses.

The program also concerns displaced adults living in the camps (**380 adult trainees in 2009**, against 836 in 2008 and 1967 in 2007).

Severely reduced in the last two years, this program has suffered a significant decline in available funds during the international financial and economic crisis.

46 people in the association are working on this program (96% are men, 46% part-time).

About 30 of our teachers have received further training in a recognized government institute. The social workers in our farms regularly attend proficiency courses in order to help them train and coach the kids. Some were even sent to Cairo for further special training. The trainers of today are often the trainees of yesterday!

Each training course lasts approximately 6 months. This may seem short for getting enough experience, but the IDPs are badly in need of a quick training program to become self-reliant in the shortest possible time.

We are trying to obtain from the authorities that they officially recognise the certificates given at the end of the course, which have already enabled a good number of their beneficiaries to become self-employed or to find a job.

Nearly 60% of the graduates find a job within two months (half of them are self-employed).

The training in "Health/Hygiene etc." is even shorter (two months). Yet the graduates have the possibility to continue their training in hospital, and sometimes they are then hired as medical assistants.

We make it a point to try and keep in touch with our graduates to find out whether they find jobs and keep statistics to determine what the most “marketable” careers are. However, we are not always able to follow up on our graduates because they change their locations and no addresses are available. Our statistics are then based on those whom we have access to.

There is one thing for sure: every time one of our graduates leaves us and succeeds in finding a job, it gives confidence to all his/her community.

Many of our graduates have used their craft in helping reconstructing their homeland, in the South.

The UN, through the UNIDO (United Nations Industry Development Organization) has assessed our vocational program and called it **"an excellent quick impact project"**.





In 2009, the total cost of the program (except the new center in the South) has been € 211 076 (316 609 CHF). It dropped by 44% in one year and by 62% compared to 2007.

The direct costs of this program represents only 14% of direct costs of all the programs in Khartoum, against 29% two years ago.

The salaries (in particular those of the teachers) represent one fifth of total costs.

Another fifth is due to maintenance costs, which have been particularly high this year. First some centers have been

badly damaged by the exceptional rainfall in August (the highest one since 21 years). Moreover, for city planning reasons, the government has ordered the Society to partially destroy the Mayo center (Angola). It is going to be rebuilt further away, on a plot of 3000 m² that has eventually been granted to SVDP. A 2 meters high brick wall has already been erected (32,000 €, one third in 2009).

Total cost per trainee	2006	2007	2008	2009
In €	282	240	328	320
In CHF	445	384	525	480

Unlike previous years, there has been no agreement this year with international NGOs to train adults in our workshops. Many organizations had to leave the country after the arrest warrant decided in March 2009 by the International Criminal Court against Sudanese President on counts of war crimes and crimes against humanity in Darfur.

Lologo, the new vocational training and community development center in the South

In anticipation of the April 2010 elections and the referendum on the independence of South Sudan scheduled for 2011, many IDPs are planning to return to the southern regions. More than two million displaced have returned to their villages of origin in South Sudan since the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement in 2005; 60% of them are younger than 18, and only 8% of them are over 60.

In Lologo, **the first 120 students** completed in March 2010 their six months training in one of the three taught crafts. At the inauguration of the center, 40 applicants were already on the waiting list for the next session.

The 6 teachers, **60% of the employees and 56% the trainees of this first batch are former IDPs who used to live in camps or shantytowns in the North.**

It is the local Catholic Church that has given the land of 20 hectares to our local partner, the Saint Vincent de Paul Society.

The managing directors of the Centre have made contact with potential future employers: private companies, government agencies, NGOs...

The prison department of the police has already responded by sending two people to the Centre who will ultimately train in their turn hundreds of young inmates in the prisons of the South. The trainings also include visits within professional structures that could hire our future graduates.



Restoration work of the pre-existent building and the construction of new ones have started at the end of 2009. The trainees are involved in this work, under the supervision of the trainers and specially hired technicians. This practical work both accelerates the training of the students and reduces the cost of work.

Conferences have been organized on various topics, like economics, law, sustainable agriculture, environmental protection, renewable energy, health, human rights, peace etc ...

Here are **some testimonials** of trainees from the first batch:

"The training (electricity) has given me self-confidence and self-esteem and the courage to be an effective citizen: I am now the chairman of the current Lologo students union."

"I had no hope or future. I was among the first to collect application forms for training. I wanted to train in building but could not find a chance. I seized the opportunity to train in carpentry. Now I can make a chair, a table a cupboard a bed and other beautiful things for house and office."

"We saw Ugandan workers renovating buildings in the center. We believed that long-term development cannot be attained by importing labor force from abroad. I just did not know anything when the training started. My determination was so strong that I withstood some very demoralizing comments by a lot of people that building is not a work for women. Since the second month of training, I regularly do paid work on weekends and public holydays. With the skills I learnt, I can do any construction work. I am sure many girls will join the next training session because they have seen through me and my other female colleagues that girls can become good builders."

With our friends of Operation Orange, the support until 2011 of the FAD (French Agency for Development) and the Republic and Canton of Geneva, we put much hope in this project that takes part in all efforts to promote national reconciliation and regional reconstruction.