



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



LETTER TO FRIENDS OF SISTER EMMANUELLE N°114 – CHRISTMAS 2011



Dear Friends,

Several European countries are apparently setting into recession, and it is evidently the poorest people who are exposed first.

Under these conditions, appealing to your generosity to aid distant people requires that we redouble our effort: we want to convince you of the vital importance and outstanding impact of your donations - however modest they may be- on the poorest of our planet.

This year, as for many charitable organizations, individual donations to ASASE fell sharply. Fortunately, the authorities continue to trust us and keep on supporting our programs (see overleaf). But public aid usually only account for 10% of all donations and for a quarter of the Swiss ones! **Without you, we can do nothing!**

With Christmas on our doorsteps, maybe it is still possible for you to offer some relief to people who live in a state of unthinkable poverty.



A patient and her child in one of our clinics

Consider for example that in South Sudan, a brand new country that has the worst health index in the world, life expectancy is 42 years!

One southern Sudanese under 5 out of three is undernourished, and only one child out of two goes to school!

As far as Haiti is concerned, half of the rubble had still not been cleared, and the cholera epidemic continues to spread, now affecting nearly 80000 persons (the equivalent population of Neuchâtel and its suburbs), amidst international indifference.

ASASE is distinguished by its exceptionally low operating costs: 96% of your donations directly finance the running of our programs on site.

With **68 CHF (55 €)** you feed a baby living in an IDP camps during one full year (3 meals per week)!

You give **221 CHF (179 €)**, and you allow 40 people to receive a free medical consultation (including drugs)!

A donation of **375 CHF (303 €)** covers all yearly costs of secondary schooling for a former street child!

Give **1978 CHF (1600 €)** and fund the vocational training (9 months) of an adult living in a slum in South Sudan!

HOW WE ENSURE THE SUSTAINABILITY OF OUR PROGRAMS

ASASE has initiated a process **to reduce eventually the dependence of its local partners to foreign funds.**

For instance, in North Sudan, for two years, we have set up a broiler farm.

In southern Sudan, we are going to create, in 2012, an egg production unit in order to improve the self-reliance of the Lologo vocational training center. **The profits of this activity are expected to fund the training costs of 15 apprentices on the first year, and then those of about 75 trainees per year. This project is supported by the State of Geneva,** which funds half the needed investments to launch it.

Also note that we have had the pleasure to obtain a grant from the City of Geneva that is funding 28 of the 200 adults trained in 2011 in Lologo.

HOW WE INTEND TO HELP THE SOUTH SUDANESE TO TREAT THEMSELVES

In South Sudan, 75% of the population has no access to health services.

We decided to create in the region of the capital, Juba, **a garden of chosen medicinal plants, and then a laboratory that will produce medicines from cultivated plants.**

Our aim is to provide the people of South Sudan a cheap and effective way to heal, when they have no access to synthetic drugs.

This project reflects the international trend favouring public health projects that focus on sustainability and local autonomy.

In June, Jean-Claude François and Jacques Falquet, a Swiss scientist well known for his work on plants, went to Juba in a fact-finding mission (as they did for a similar project previously set up in Haiti).

In September, a plot of 120 hectares, a quarter of an hour drive from the Lologo training center, has been made available to the Saint-Vincent-de-Paul Society by the local community, against our promise to build a dispensary on it.

In November, Jean Claude Francois went back on the field. He reports:

"Right from the effective splitting of the two Sudans on 9 July, the Republic of South-Sudan has entered a nation building process that has rallied all its citizens. Dozens of companies have emerged in various fields, such as construction industry, trade, agriculture, farming, banking, insurance and other services. As South-Sudan is undoubtedly a virgin country offering lots of investment opportunities, several European and American countries are already represented in both foreign companies and embassies. Local and national authorities are tirelessly working together, hand in hand, to develop structures and operating procedures that could meet the needs of the population.

Yet it is a fragile country.

Soldiers who led the country to victory have to be rewarded. What precautions should be taken to prevent corruption, this widespread system that reinforces the underdevelopment of the Third World?

Oil is the only source of income of South-Sudan. However, the two Sudans have not fully agreed yet on how to share and exploit this temporary godsend located on their borders. Some fear a possible resumption of hostilities between North and South. North-Sudan has banned all trade and financial relations with South-Sudan.

Each country has its own currency. By the end of 2011, the Sudanese must choose one of the two nationalities. A visa will be required to nationals of the other country.

All these changes create a kind of tension within the two populations.

As to Juba, the provisional capital (there are talks to transfer it a little further toward the center of the country), it is already a Third World metropolis: about 3 million people, no running water, no sewer, no electricity, no public transport...

The national production, still very low, is not enough to feed the population. Everything is imported. The most expensive consumer products are drinking water and drugs.

This explains why our project to produce drugs out of plants is received with great enthusiasm both by the federal authorities and by the inhabitants of Nyarjwa. The village chief told me this: "the agreement that we have signed with SVDP for the production of medicines has given hope to each one of us".

A Merry Christmas to be shared hopefully between all of us! May the Holy Spirit grant us to see the person of Jesus in the little people and the poorest of our brothers...


Patrick Bittar
Director