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LETTER TO FRIENDS OF SISTER EMMANUELLE

N°141

SEPTEMBER 2020

« Know that your persistence, in spite of failures, will ensure your triumph. Believe in others: they too are driven by a thirst for justice. »

Dear Friends,

I hope that the epidemic and its consequences have not affected you too severely.

First of all, please take note of our **new contact information** following the change of our head office:
ASASE, **49 route de Sous-Moulin, 1226 Thônex. Tel: + 41 22 348 20 85.**

Our email and website address remain unchanged.

We warmly thank Guy Bittar, our President's brother, for having graciously put at our disposal, for years, the offices of his company!

Besides, **we have proceeded to a total renovation of our website asase.org.**

I warmly invite you to take a look at it. **You will be able to view our latest videos** by clicking on Galleries / Videos / South Sudan.

The second and third videos that appear on this page are particularly touching.

You will meet Richard, a 2016 Electricity graduate from the Lologo Vocational Training and Community Development Center. Richard has opened a small electricity store in the capital. He recounts his experience, which testifies to his courage and determination to manage to feed his family and support his siblings and parents, still refugees in a Ugandan camp.

The other video is about Ajuot (opposite), an 18-year-old boy who was taken in six years ago as part of the Be In Hope street children program. His testimony gives an idea of the hardships these boys have gone through and the long way they have come thanks to the program.



In South Sudan, the epidemic has impacted the activities of our local partner, the Saint Vincent de Paul (SVDP) Society, Juba.

The official figures for the number of cases (2600) and deaths (47) recorded should be treated cautiously. People are afraid to reveal themselves in case of infection because the quarantine conditions are very bad (they are confined in containers with a lot of other infected persons, without care).

The teams of the Saint Vincent Health Care Center in Nyarjwa and the First Aid training instructors carried out several awareness campaigns in Lologo, Luri and Rajaf. The populations (about 5000 people) were encouraged to keep their social distance, avoid handshakes and large social gatherings such as funerals, weddings, etc. 500 posters were also distributed in Lologo and Nyarjwa.

The garment workshop (opposite) **has produced 13,000 masks for MSF (Médecins Sans Frontières) and 150,000 masks for UNDP (United Nations Development Programs).** This last production does not generate income for SVDP, but **65 graduates of the Sewing training** have been (and are still) directly paid by UNDP (for at least 4 months).

Another 1,000 masks were produced for a local youth group called "Together for New Africa".

Finally, about sixty elderly people in Lologo and Nyarjwa received, during the confinement, food products (20 kg of beans, rice and 3 liters of oil), soap and disinfectant gel.



The government has still not authorized the reopening of schools, universities, and technical schools. As a result, **the 25 boys from BIH did not resume school, and vocational training is still suspended.** Only a few female trainees from the Household training are engaged in vegetable production in Nyarjwa, allowing the farm labor force to concentrate on maize cultivation.

As it seems less and less feasible to make up for the 6 months already lost this year, the interrupted trainings will probably take place next year with the trainees from this session. SVDP is waiting for the official decision of the government, which will probably be to postpone the academic year 2020, and to restart it in 2021.

Since June, **SVDP has carried out a follow-up survey of graduates from the last ten years. To date, they have collected information from 80 graduates** and are continuing the survey.

With regard to **income-generating programs**, the farm is functioning well. Vegetables have been sold and the first maize harvest started in early September. The main challenges have been the high cost of manual weeding (the weedkiller proved ineffective) and some unexpected pests (squirrels and monkeys). Two additional guards were hired on an ad hoc basis to manage this unprecedented risk.

In August, 935 chickens from the poultry unit were sold for a net profit of \$3,300 and the hens began to lay eggs.

Finally, the carpentry shop manufactured 150 school desks and wardrobes for individuals.

22 people out of the total SVDP workforce have been dismissed this year (most of them before the epidemic), but the impact on the wage bill will be really effective only in the coming months, due to the substantial legal severance payouts (4 to 6 months of salaries).

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In Haiti, 12,000 cases and nearly 200 deaths are reported. But here again, the figures do not reflect reality: infected people are hiding, as they fear being lynched.

Our schools and the Jean Price Mars University are open, but many pupils and students are afraid, and their numbers are reduced by half.

15 donors from our partner Haiti Cosmos have committed **to sponsor students from the university: 10 CHF per month for 4 years.**



In advance, we are all the more grateful for your donations because today everyone is affected by the economic crisis induced by the pandemic.

Patrick Bittar
Director of ASASE