



Association suisse des Amis
de Sœur Emmanuelle

49, route de Sous-Moulin
1226 Thônex
+41 (0)22 348 20 85
info@asase.org
www.asase.org



LETTER TO FRIENDS OF SISTER EMMANUELLE

N°148

JUNE 2022

« The giving of a glass of water, “the least act of charity”, surpasses the accumulation of material wealth, the vastness of the Universe, the breadth of scientific, philosophical and theological systems. »

Dear Friends,

In May, two years after his last visit, **we were finally able to welcome back Betram Gordon Kuol**, the programs coordinator of our local partner in South Sudan, the Saint-Vincent-de-Paul Society, Juba (SVDP).

We have been able to meet again some of our Geneva partners (teams from the Service de la Solidarité Internationale of the State of Geneva or from Pharmacists Without Borders Switzerland), to share experiences with other institutions (like the Antenna Foundation, for the poultry program) and to meet Dee Davey who made a special journey from London: Dee is the new person in charge for South Sudan at the Saint-Vincent-de-Paul Society England & Wales, our long-time partner. This face-to-face meeting confirms all the positive first impressions of our collaboration.

The members of ASASE present at our General Assembly on May 24 were able to discuss with Dee and Betram.



Dee Davey, with Betram Gordon Kuol and Patrick Bittar

Then, after his week in Geneva, Betram continued his tour with a visit to our partners in France, then in Austria.

Here is some news from South Sudan and the programs we are supporting there.

- Two planned events are postponed indefinitely: the Pope's visit in July (for medical reasons) and the presidential elections in December. The postponement of this election planned in the 2018 agreement is not officially announced but very likely given its unpreparedness. If for the first event, the population is disappointed, for the second, it is rather relieved: everyone thinks (for different reasons!) that elections

would only make the current situation worse.

- In April, during the graduation celebration of the 2021 session trainees, traffic lights were erected in the Lologo Vocational Training and Community Development Center as a showcase for electrical training. They caught the eye of the Minister of Labor who was present and, during his stay in Geneva, Betram received a call from the Minister of the Interior who proposed a mission to SVDP: **to supervise a team of graduates who will repair the traffic lights in the capital**, all out of order.

- **The first session of the new Refrigeration training, set up with UNICEF**, is going well. 60 government technicians in charge of vaccinations will be trained by the end of the year.



This training of around twenty people per three-month session was tailor-made to meet the needs of the State. Two years ago, in the east of the country, the inoculation of vaccines that had not been stored in adequate refrigeration conditions led to the death of dozens of children. Also UNICEF distributed hundreds of refrigerators a few years ago and very few have been kept in working order. Equipment maintenance is therefore also one of the key points of this new training. The government would like it to benefit a thousand of its agents!

- **The micro-credit scheme has also resumed on new bases.** A dozen candidates have been selected to receive a loan of between 230 CHF and 1100 CHF to develop their small business (which must have more than one year of activity). They are graduates of previous sessions (from 2012 to 2020) of various vocational training courses.

- **The poultry program (one of SVDP's income-generating programs) has gently resumed** with a first breeding of 1,000 chickens which arrived in April. By the end of the year, another 2,000 chickens should be bred and 2,000 laying hen chicks purchased.

To sort out the problem of the exorbitant prices of nutritional concentrates, SVDP will hopefully be able to import them directly from Dutch suppliers. Betram has got the agreement of their agent in Uganda to reserve two containers per year out of the twenty that he is usually receiving from Holland.

- In a country with no paved roads, vehicles are put to the test daily. **For three of the vehicles** purchased second-hand nine years ago, maintenance costs (mainly spare parts) have now become prohibitive. **SVDP has to replace them.** Considering their estimated resale prices, **SVDP needs around CHF 35,000.** This is an additional expense this year but unavoidable to ensure the logistics of the programs, in particular the transport of the personnel (around 80 people on three sites).

Thank you, dear Friends, for your interest in our actions and for your donations.

Each of your donations, whatever it may be, helps us to build, for thousands of particularly deprived people, the conditions for a more dignified and peaceful life!

Have a nice summer!



Patrick Bittar
Director