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## LETTER TO FRIENDS OF SISTER EMMANUELLE

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*« Our freedom is our dignity. I believe that we cannot sufficiently understand the value of a free woman or man. Freedom is the key to creation. »*

Dear Friends,

Thanks to your regular support, **our flagship program in South Sudan, vocational training, is in its fifteenth session this year.**

**377 young adults, 37% of whom are women**, are currently following one of the 9 training courses provided by our local partner, the Saint-Vincent-de-Paul Society (SVDP) Juba.

The highlights of this session are:

- **the resumption of Agriculture training**, after two years of interruption: this training benefits 43 displaced people (more than half of whom are women) as part of a specific program - funded by our Austrian partners - of global assistance to displaced people;
- **the first session of a "standard" training in Refrigeration** (cold chain maintenance), benefiting to 20 trainees (a quarter of them women). Last year, the training had been "tailor-made" for state agents, with the support of UNICEF.

The success last year of the "tailor-made" Refrigeration training led **UNICEF** to renew its order to SVDP this year: thus, in addition to the standard training mentioned above, intensive one-month tailor-made training was given in August to 33 technicians.



Graduation Ceremony at the end of August for the State technicians who benefited the tailor-made training funded by UNICEF, in the presence of the Ministers of Labor and Health.

In August, ASASE transferred the funds necessary for the construction of a new workshop dedicated to this Refrigeration training, so that it is given in good conditions and to vacate the two rooms of the Lologo Center which have been requisitioned for this purpose since a year and a half.

Tailor-made IT training should also be conducted by SVDP before the end of the year for UNICEF, which wishes to sign a three-year contract with our local partner.

The end of August was also marked by the inauguration of the new building dedicated to jam production, in the Lologo Vocational Training and Community Development Center. Were present Johann Rauscher - the president of the Austrian association ProSudan which financed the construction -, the Minister of Labor, the Archbishop of Juba, government representatives and local media.



The jams are intended to improve school snacks and, once a week, the meals distributed in the Babies feeding program.

The rest will be sold on the markets, thus constituting a new income generating program (IGP) for our local partner.

Regarding IGPs, we have good news and bad news.

The bad news is that the crops on the Nyarjwa farm suffered from the drought that affected many parts of the country. Remember that the rainy season used to start in April and to last until September. This year however the rains in Juba really started in September only. Before that, maize was planted twice (on 5 ha, then 9 ha), to no avail. SVDP nevertheless sowed some again in mid-August, but these late plantings are more subject to pests (fall armyworms, etc.).

The good news is that the construction of a new poultry production unit, on the Nyarjwa farm, started a month ago and should be completed before the end of the year.

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As for the actions we are supporting in Haiti, they are continuing well, under the leadership of Jean Claude François, who, as I write these lines, has been there for two months now.

He wrote to us a week ago and shared with us, in his reserved style, this dramatic news: "In terms of insecurity, Hinche is calm (...) But Port-au-Prince is completely given over to the gangs. Most department stores are closed, administrations are open sporadically. Just yesterday, bandits ordered residents of several neighborhoods to leave their homes to occupy them. My sister died the day before yesterday of a heart attack following one of these warnings. The family can't even give her a decent funeral. The streets being trapped, any movement is risky. Passengers pay twice for intercity transportation to the capital: the fare and the bandits. If the ransom is deemed insufficient, the vehicle is seized. Armed police officers then intervene to ensure the transfer in private, that is to say against payment. These are the atrocious living conditions in Port-au-Prince and on the roads. I hope to be able to fly back on September 30 from Cap-Haïtien, as planned. » We too really hope so...

I thank you in advance for your donation which will help us, who are lucky enough to live in peace, security and certain material comfort, to finance and support the development actions implemented by our local partners, in these two countries little favored by fortune.

Patrick Bittar  
Director