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## LETTER TO FRIENDS OF SISTER EMMANUELLE

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*"I am, says God, Master of the Three Virtues. Faith is a faithful wife. Charity is an ardent mother. But Hope is a little girl (...) who every morning wakes up, gets up and prays with a fresh look. » (Charles Péguy, Le Mystère des Saints Innocents, 1912)*

Dear Friends,

at a time when the pandemic is shaking up our lives and forcing everyone to live a retreat at home, may these few news of the actions you are making possible in two distant countries help you, as Easter approaches, to cultivate hope, *"that budding promise announced at the end of early April,"* as Péguy wrote.

**In South Sudan**, after months of procrastination and stalemates, **former belligerents** Salva Kiir (the President) and Riek Machar (the former Vice-President) **finally reached an agreement to form a Government of National Unity** on 22 February 2020.

This major breakthrough gives the country's leaders a chance to build on the ceasefire that has been broadly respected for more than a year. From all the parties who signed the summer 2018 peace agreement, five vice-presidents have been appointed, including Machar and two from the ruling party.

The government has been dissolved pending agreement between the parties on the distribution of ministries. The return to 10 states (instead of the 28 that had existed since 2015) was decided, in accordance with the wishes of a majority of the population.

**This population puts a lot of hope into the programs of our local partner, the Saint Vincent de Paul Society, Juba, as shown by the increase each year in the number of postulants for the 8 training courses** offered by the Lologo Centre: 1030 **(+24%)** for the current session offering 365 places !

Another promising bud: this year, **a new welding training** will meet the needs of the local economy for technicians capable of mastering metal work.

Because the country's wood, smuggled into Uganda, is heavily taxed on South Sudan entry! It has become an expensive raw material, and most building components in Juba are now made of metal.

Two teachers have been hired and **a large workshop**, meeting safety standards, was built in 2019 in the Lologo Training Centre.

In the first three weeks, the **25 trainees** of this first session acquired basic electrical knowledge and were introduced to safety measures. At the end of the training, they will be able to design and manufacture metal furniture, doors and windows...



**At the Nyarjwa pilot farm,** in the two new greenhouses, drip irrigation via a gravity-fed system is working very well. A tomatoes harvest has already been made. During this current experimental irrigation phase, the outdoor maize crop got off to a good start (opposite) after encountering some problems with the pump that is supplying the sprinklers.



Apart from these irrigated plots, 20 ha of cereals and vegetables will be cultivated this year. The large storage warehouse has been completed. A trainer who came at the beginning of the year installed the huller, the thresher and the mill in their rooms. He trained two technicians for four days. However, the Kenyan branch of Massey Ferguson, which was supposed to send a trainer on the herbicide sprayer and on the seeder earlier this year, did not honor its commitments. SVDP is looking for an alternative solution with a former John Deer company technician.

**The Be In Hope program for street children** is receiving 5 more boys this year, bringing the number of beneficiaries to 25. The new ones are between 8 and 10 years old and have spent between 5 months and two years on the streets. Half of them are orphans. We would like to thank all our donors to this project, such as the French association ADE, that donated €10,000 in 2019 via Operation Orange.

Among the primary schools of Lologo that have shown a 100% success rate in the primary school certificate, **the Saint Vincent school has recorded among the best results.** Of the 55 pupils in P8, 12 pupils (8 boys and 4 girls) scored more than 400 points out of 500. All of them are currently pursuing secondary education.

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**In Haiti, the situation is not getting any better.** The President Moïse and its government are catalyzing the anger of the people. Insecurity has set in in the country, with increased gang visibility and a resurgence of robberies, rapes, kidnappings, arson and murders... Jean Claude François, the coordinator of the programs we support in Hinche, is protected by the beneficiaries of these actions (employees, students...).

**On the spot, the Cosmos Foundation concentrates its efforts on education** (high school, university), which employs 100 people out of the 150 employees in total on all programs.

**Every month,** the Phyto-Cosmos laboratory produces nearly **150 litres of medicines from cultivated plants.** In addition to the 24 operating dispensaries, 20 pharmacies on the Hinche plateau have received free medicines.

Jean Claude and his local teams are also working **to develop income-generating activities to increase the financial autonomy of the Cosmos Foundation:** on the farm in Céramond (150 ha), 63 hives have produced 40 litres of honey and a small herd of ten cows is being raised; mangoes, sugar cane and wood are grown and sold.

We thank you in advance for your donations which will allow us to continue our actions in these two countries, among the poorest in the world.

A donation of CHF 140, for example, can fund the entire monthly costs of a vocational training course in South Sudan.

We remind you that our administrative costs represent only 1% of our operating expenses and 2% of our fundraising costs.



To all of you, dear Friends, we wish a very happy Easter!

**Patrick Bittar**  
Director