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## VISIT REPORT - JUBA - MARCH 2017 2 - THE LOLOGO VOCATIONAL TRAINING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CENTER



### Abbreviations

ACCORD	African Center for the Constructive Resolutions of Dispute
BIH	Be In Hope
VTCDC	Vocational Training and Community Development Centre
SVHCC	Saint Vincent Health Care Center (in Nyarjwa)
OCHA	Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
IOM	International Organization for Migration
WFP	World Food Program
IGP	Income Generating Program
SPLA	Sudan People's Liberation Army
SSP	South Sudanese Pound
SVDP	Saint Vincent de Paul Society Juba
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UNMISS	United Nations Mission in South Sudan

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## 1. INSTITUTIONAL CONTEXT

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### 1.1. Political instability

As we go to Rajaf, to visit the Be In Hope street children's home of our local partner, SVDP Juba, we see fires on one side of the road. These are voluntary fires which, as a result of intermittent rains in this ending dry season, aim to grow vegetation faster to renew livestock grazing areas. Cane rats come out of their burrow and are hunted by the children who eat them.



Then Betram Gordon Kuol, the project coordinator of SVDP Juba, shows me a small cross-road. It leads to the island where used to live until recently the Minister of Labor, General Duop Lam, one of the ten members of the armed opposition who was appointed to a key position a year ago, in a the transitional government of national unity.

This well-known and respected general, who had served for years in the Sudanese army, resigned two weeks earlier, left his residence and region, and rallied to former ex-vice president in exile Riek Machar, President Salva Kiir's main opponent.

Stanslous Mogga, the director of the SVDP Juba Training Program, who is a native of this place, explains that this defection brought about the flight of the inhabitants of the surrounding village. They feared the usual process of reprisals by government forces in these circumstances: soldiers patrol in the vicinity, interrogate residents, and can confiscate their houses. This can easily degenerate into various exactions. The general in question was a Bari, the main tribe of the Equatoria region, where Juba is located. The risk in this kind of conflictual situation is that it leads the local population to join in a reflex of tribal affiliation. At the time when I'm writing, this defection has not lead to major incidents and the general returned to the capital on 13 May, saying that he did not intend to foment a rebellion. But it is a political incident that gives an idea of the climate of tension prevailing in the country.

Betram mentions the difficulties encountered in the work of SVDP regarding their relationship with the authorities: *"Budgets voted in Parliament are not systematically released. There may be discrimination. The Ministry of Labor and Human Resources Development was one of the ministries granted to SPLA-IO ("In opposition") in 2016 , that is, to the supporters of Riek Machar. Since the minister did not receive any budget from the government, he went back to join the rebels. His successor did the same.*

*But even within the ministries that have been attributed to the Kiir supporters, it all depends on the minister's personal relationship with the president. It works like this: you go to the ministry with your budgeted request. If the President's office is contacted, he or she will call the Ministry of Finance. Otherwise, there is no funding. "*

## 1.2. Insecurity

In Juba, to combat the trafficking of weapons, vehicles (even those of "officials") can no longer have tinted windows. This measure may give rise to abuse during police or military checks. Although they have strict orders limiting their action in search of weapons, patrols do not hesitate to become suspicious, even threatening, if they fall on a person carrying sums considered important. In this case, ordinary people often prefer to pay a little something rather than to have their entire cash confiscated.

The government still rejects the UN request, dating back almost a year, for the deployment of 4,000 additional armed peacekeepers. It stipulated that the troops should come from a country considered neutral (like Rwanda).

The Japanese will withdraw in May with their contingent of peacekeepers. They do not want their forces to be engaged in fighting.

They also noted the failure of the vocational training project that was to be put in place by the government with their support.

They leave the bridge, which was to be completed in 2018, right next to the Lologo VTDC.

They were also active in the city's electrical infrastructure and road maintenance (Photo: they are working on the trail used to get to the SVHCC in Nyarjwa).



NGOs and other organizations interpret the government's refusal to deploy complementary UN forces as a willingness to continue the war. As a result, many have closed their offices since July, for reasons of security and consequent higher expatriate costs. Especially as the government decided to tax foreign workers.

Many hotels and restaurants, run by foreigners (Indian, Ethiopian...), have close down.

On the road to Gudele, which is followed to go to Nyarjwa, all the solar panels have been stolen. Roads are not safe.

I saw the only fire truck in the capital... and it was out of service.

Civilians deserted many places in Equatoria (Kodja Kodja, Yei) and fled to refugee camps in Uganda. In these places, remain only trigger-happy soldiers who are shooting on civilians.

In its speeches, the government tries to broaden the range of its support beyond the tribal components (the Dinkas constitute the main contingent of the regular army) with a more political approach.

The national unity government is supposed to last three years, until the elections originally planned in 2018. But everything here suggests they will not be organized. Authorities highlight the environmental insecurity that would prevent the organization of a preliminary census.

### 1.3. A bankrupt state

More than half of the oil revenues are allocated to defense.

Globally, the management of the country revenues has been of little benefit to the common good. For example, officials (notably Riek Machar's allies) or the opposition militia were lodged in hotels (in Khartoum, Sudan), and sometimes for more than two years (in Juba). Another significant detail: \$ 6 million was spent to strengthen the security of the presidential offices (to avoid theft).

The ministries are virtually without budget.

I met the Jubek State Minister for Education, Gender and Social Welfare in Juba. The office premises in disrepair spoke a lot about their lack of means. And this was confirmed by our exchanges: *"We are facing serious problems, we have no financial means."* Their budget does not even enable them to pay regularly their officers.

A telling anecdote: since the events of July 2016, Betram is living in a residence of the University of Juba. Among the other residents is the Minister of Commerce of the Central Government, appointed a few months ago. When he took office, he could not have a car during one month (the vehicle that was assigned to him had been requisitioned by the Protocol staff for the visit of the King of Morocco).

The authorities are desperately seeking all sorts of means to drain resources.

During my stay, they said they wanted to multiply by five the landing fee of the airlines companies that ensure connections with Juba. Hence the reactions of the companies: Ethiopian Airlines stopped its flights the day before I left, and FlyDubai the day after!

Each year, land registry committees of the payam (one of the country's administrative entities) change, leading to the increase of land taxes.



## 2. ECONOMIC CONTEXT

### 2.1. Inflation

The exchange rate at the beginning of my stay was 110 SSP / \$ (against 37 SSP a year ago). At the end of my stay, it was 119 SSP / \$!

In one year, the bag of rice rose from 750 SSP to 7000 SSP (x9),

1kg of chicken from 300 to 1000 SSP (x3),

1kg of corn from 40 to 104 SSP (x2.6),

1kg of sorghum from 19 to 54 SSP (x2.8),

a bottle of water from 3 to 40 SSP (x13),

a cup of tea from 1 to 20 SSP,

the 200l of Nile water from 35 to 120 SSP (x3.4),

one beer from 4 to 120 SSP (x 30)!

1 kg of tomatoes costs 300 SSP (\$ 2.7).

In a South Sudanese restaurant, frequented by generals and other government officials, I ate for 500 SSP (less than \$ 5).



The impact on SVDP budgets is important: for example, an ink cartridge for the Betram printer is \$ 95, and it takes four cartridges.

The official price of gasoline has increased slightly (36 SSP/l instead of 22 SSP), but service stations are virtually no longer supplied. "Since my return from Europe last September, we have never been able to refuel at the petrol station," Betram told me. And at the parallel market, the price per liter is 100 SSP.

From November to January 2016, it even

rose to 120 SSP, due to the diversion of tanker trucks to Congo, where the pump price was \$ 2.5 / l (compared to \$ 0.32 / l in South Sudan).

As a result, the tank trucks that sell water from the Nile are becoming rarer, and the inhabitants are thirsty...

## 2.2. Currency Shortage

Banks have no more dollars. Notes are scarce.

I met with Mr. Aberra, the director of the Buffalo Commercial Bank and Andrew Mayen Akuak - the Deputy General Manager - and I tried to negotiate lower charges for SVDP.

For example, when SVDP transfers dollars to Uganda, the charges are 1.5%.

I came out of the meeting without getting anything, except confirmation that the bank wanted to continue its support to SVDP, whose work they admire.

SVDP could open an account abroad, in Kampala for example, but this does not seem the simplest solution.

SVDP has arranged with a company that accepts dollar checks (because it needs to make overseas transfers in dollars) and gives SSP in exchange, at the parallel rate of the day minus 5%.

This year (2017), the transfers of the British and Austrian donors have suffered huge delays, sometimes up to two months. Even if they have adopted, following ASASE, the services of Western Union Business Solutions (WUBS), it seems that the problem stems from the processes, namely the fact that the transfers from these donors, unlike ASASE, go through intermediary banks before arriving at WUBS. The compliance services of some banks are particularly reluctant to transfer in Sudan / South Sudan. It depends on the intermediary banks: funds from Austrian donors do not show the same delay (those of Missio arriving faster than those of Caritas Graz).

Betram says: *"Once we did a test, we transferred money to buy equipment from Buffalo Bank to an account in Kampala, but through a bank different from the usual one. It took over a month. We then sent the same amount, still from the Buffalo, but through another intermediary bank, and it took one day."*

According to Buffalo Bank, the only US bank that does not pose a problem would be Citibank.

## 2.3. Famine

*"For drought, there are two characteristics to consider" says Betram: "intensity and duration. The drought in 2016 was not particularly intense in South Sudan. It did not really stop farming."*

War is the major cause of famine.

In South Sudan, harvests usually begin in August and last until October. With the events of last July, the people fled and abandoned their cultures.

Betram gives the example of his village of origin: *"Sorghum had been planted in large quantities, as it was the second year in a row that they used tractors to plow. In the past, tractors were used only to make holes. But since two years, cooperatives had used tractors. People here like very white food, like rice or white sorghum. In my village, it was this variety that they had planted, even if it attracts birds. The inhabitants fled, planted the crops, and these were so abundant that when they returned at the end of September, the birds could not eat everything: they were able to harvest a little."*

The staple food currently is beans.



## 3. TESTIMONIES OF PROGRAMS STAKEHOLDERS, VICTIMS OF THE CONFLICT

### 3.1. losike Custody, 24, gardener of VTCDC

losike speaks English. He has been hired by SVDP since September 2016.

In July, when the fighting broke out in the capital, he was on trial.

On holiday days, he went to Torit, his hometown, 140 km from Juba, to visit some relatives.

On his return, about ten kilometers from Torit, at about 10am, the mini-bus (taxi) he had taken was ambushed near a bridge.

losike has no idea of the identity (rebels or not) of the assailants posted on both sides of the road who shot at them for about ten minutes.

Two passengers died on the spot, five were injured.

The attackers then stole their belongings and ordered them to leave.

As the vehicle was out of service, they had to walk back to Torit. losike, who had been touched on both legs, was bleeding profusely.

He was treated urgently in a hospital in Torit, where he stayed for three weeks at his own expense (\$ 300). He had two bullets removed, but he still has at least one in his right foot, but he cannot afford to take care of himself.

*"On days when temperatures are falling, my foot is swelling, and I'm worried. And it's not easy to work under these conditions."*

*I live in Juba by myself. My father was killed in 1998. My mother and my siblings are stuck to Yei for the time being. As soon as I can, I send them some money.*

*I lived 14 years in a displaced persons camp in Uganda. I stopped in my fourth year of secondary school.*

*Sometimes we have no choice. We live because we are supposed to live. Not because we want it. We do what we can, according to our opportunities. I do this job to survive and because I have to help my family.*

*I wanted to register at the Saint Vincent Center to attend a training course in automotive mechanics, in parallel to my work as a gardener. But the July events disrupted my plans."*



### 3.2. Paul Amos Lubago, 40, driver for SVDP

Paul expresses himself in Arabic. He has always lived in Juba.

Before being hired by SVDP in 2015, he was a driver for government departments.

In July, when the fighting raged in his neighborhood (Gudele), he told his wife and their five children to flee. He stayed at home, just to close the doors. When he tried to join them, the situation was too dangerous, so he stayed at home and laid down on the ground.

It did not prevent him from receiving, at the top of the right thigh, a ball that crossed his leg.

He was treated in a Chinese hospital. He stayed there three days. It cost him 5000 SSP (about \$ 50).

But the damage in his leg was not treated. He feels more and more paralyzed. He has been advised to seek treatment in Khartoum. Otherwise, his condition will only get worse.

His family is unscathed, but when they returned home a week later, all their belongings had been stolen.

Paul can no longer work as a driver. His leg hurts.

His wife buys vegetables from wholesalers and sells them to the markets.

They can no longer afford to send their children to school (a total of 7500 SSP for the five children, about \$ 75).

A small sum was also given to him, part of which was from ASASE.



### 3.3 Benjamin Gore and Samuel Severino, 24, 2015 graduates in masonry

Benjamin and Samuel are cousins and are living in a residential area of Juba.



On July 11, Samuel received a phone call informing him that Benjamin had been shot.

He had to wait until the fighting cooled down in the district and the following day he found Benjamin in a coma. He took him to the hospital.

Benjamin and his younger brother had taken cover under a table. They had been shot at from the outside.

Benjamin had lost an eye. He still has a bullet in the leg and one of his hands is handicapped.

He also was given some support.

### 3.4. Stanslous Mogga, Director of the Vocational Training Program

In 2014, when he was returning to his home in the Muluki neighborhood of Juba, around 8 pm, Mogga was attacked by four armed individuals riding two motorcycles. They stole the SVDP 4x4 Landcruiser.

After having waited 18 months, SVDP finally recovered the vehicle that had been stolen by a police brigadier.

Thanks to a small distinctive sign that had not been seen by the thieves (small recess on the bodywork at the level of a door, see photo below), the vehicle had been spotted several times by Mogga, in the capital, completely customized and of course provided with other plates. Given the status of the thief, the investigation and the search for the vehicle was a very delicate operation. The Security advised Betram not to use his connections in the army.

Finally, Betram pulled a few strings. There was a confrontation with the thieves (three people, including the officer); Betram asked a bishop to be present, and when he left with the vehicle, he went directly to the bishop's residence (they were followed). Three days later, a completely different vehicle left the bishop's house: the SVDP mechanics had exchanged parts with other similar vehicles of the SVDP fleet.



In 2015, while riding a motorcycle, Mogga had an accident and broke his leg. He had to walk with crutches for six months.

During the fighting in July 2016, he received a call from a member of the Security who advised him not to stay at home, because the thieves of the 4x4 could have taken the opportunity to take revenge.

*" But the fighting was so rough around that we did not leave our house for two days. We stayed one night with friends. The next day, with my wife and our four children, we walked about ten kilometers up to the Juba bridge. From there, we rode on three motorcycles to go to Rajaf, my village of origin.*

*We moved to the island of Rajaf. That brought me back to 1965, when Rajaf was totally burned down by the Arabs. I was 7 years old. We had found refuge on the island, with my parents.*

*So since July, I have not returned to my house in Muluki. One of my neighbors told me that all the doors had been opened and that all our possessions had been stolen.*

*It was safer to live in Rajaf than in Juba, where every night people are burgled, assaulted and even killed for no reason ... until March 9 when this general [cf 1.1] decided to resign. I knew him, he was a native of my village. I was advised to move. The soldiers came to the island. So we moved to Kator [the district around the cathedral of Juba]: We have a room, at some friends' place. We are still living there. It is a disaster for me. "*

His wife works at the UNESCO. He tells me that if they eat a meal a day, that's good.

## 4. SVDP MANAGEMENT

### 4.1. William Takido, Deputy of the Project Coordinator

One of William's mission is to supervise the BIH program for street children in Rajaf and the projects located in Nyarjwa (ie the Agricultural IGP, the SVHCC, and a Babies Feeding Center for 300 children).

Hired one year and a half ago, he has showed great qualities: unfailing commitment to his work, honesty, and ability to truly face difficulties.

According to Betram, he tends to focus on saving money, and sometimes at the expense of achieving things.

But Betram points out that William T. was able to impose himself in the team, which was no easy feat.

His predecessor, Patrick, who lacked the required disposition, had failed: *"He did not have the capacity to face situations, including the small internal conspiracies fomented by people like Mogga and his team (trainers and so on). I had warned William, on his arrival: "Be careful, you are a target: make sure you are faultless." And William quickly noticed that he was not welcome by Mogga indeed."*



Mogga, William and Betram

### 4.2. Stanslous Mogga, Director of the Vocational Training Program

Mogga has been working at SVDP since 1998. He was previously part of the SVDP Khartoum team.

*"Mogga, if he could, would have liked to be at the head of SVDP," Betram said. "But he knows he cannot do it without me. As the director of the flagship program of SVDP, he has long considered himself number 2, and was hostile to any newcomer likely to modify this hierarchy."*

*He is a very gentle man. You never get the impression that he's angry. But his maneuvers from behind can be so dangerous.*

*Actually I experienced it myself at the beginning, when I arrived in Juba after Mogga and his team. But after some time, they all came, one by one, complaining in my office: "We count on you. We cannot have any more from Mogga." Because they realized that when there was a problem, Mogga never said "no", but he did nothing to solve it. For instance, when Joseph, the auto mechanic teacher, broke his leg in a motorcycle accident ...*

Betram tries to delegate more, to no longer control everything, and to rely more on others. With Mogga, it's complicated.

Before leaving for Australia in December 2016, Betram had instructed him to make the first order of equipment and small equipment in China for the training program. Significant savings were expected from this order compared to the usual Ugandan suppliers.

Once back in Juba, Betram had to manage the order himself, and to make it to the usual suppliers in Uganda, given the reduced deadlines until the opening of the ninth session.

"You have to get involved in everything he is doing" Betram told me. "I call him three times a day to supervise his work. He will never report when there is a problem. He tells you only when he has succeeded. So when Mogga is in a meeting and he will not call me, I know there is a problem. Definitely. 100%. And when I call him, he will try to play it down, but I will dig until I know.

Take, for example, the problem we had last year when we had to register the agricultural land, to prepare its closure. When the local community of Nyarjwa tried to renegotiate the terms of the original agreement [cf. 7.4.], I told Mogga to go to the village and asked William T. to support him. Their meeting went well, but later, the locals called him back and said, "You know, that land we are giving you is so big, so we would like the fence to stop at 500 m on one side (instead of 800m). I learned that only by going there one day."

Mogga does not follow internal procedures.

For example, when it comes to recruiting workers for casual work, especially for agricultural or garment IGP. We have agreed that he has to submit a list to the Personal department, then go and sit with Marlin, the accountant, to evaluate the costs, and eventually it is up to me to decide whether these people are needed or not. Instead, Mogga just goes, gets ten ladies he knows and we find ourselves at the end of the month paying people without having been informed.

When Kamal [the former Secretary General of SVDP Khartoum with whom Betram used to work for a long time] said: "In my staff, I have the quantity of people, not the quality", he was referring to people like Mogga.

Mogga never sits at his desk to write a note, although he writes very well.

We went to the same Arabic school, then in the same university in Egypt. I told him: "You will never learn a language in a class, you must do it by yourself." I encouraged him and he is better now than two years ago.

He is a guy who gets satisfy with just a small thing. Even if it represents 1% of a project, that's a success. I told him: "I will always be unsatisfied with 99%".

On the other hand, he is from Juba, and it often proves useful. For example, when the land had to be registered: "If you send a person who is not from here to the survey department," explains Betram, "the officials will say "What is this man doing here?" With me, there is no problem, they saw me since I came to Juba. But otherwise, if you have a Dinka or Nuer name, you will have difficulty getting the ownership of the land. They will not finalize the process. The even used to register with the name of another person. And you will have to go to the court to prove your ownership.

Globally, Mogga is good at managing tasks that do not present any particular problem, such as reporting information, connecting with the Church and local communities ... "

I have noticed that Mogga keeps himself informed about the news: he reads magazines a lot, listens to the radio. And he knows a lot of people from the government, the communities.

I therefore suggested that he be responsible for the approach of the institutions in place (especially NGOs).

He seemed to fully support this proposal.

But according to Betram, one should not over-expect this reorientation of his role within SVDP. First because vocational training is a life issue for him. And second: if he is good in social networking with people he knows, he cannot venture and knock the doors by himself.

That is why William T. will always go to the new institutions with him. And occasionally, Betram himself will go to forums and other contact meetings.



### 4.3. William Akech, Director of the Be In Hope Program for Street Children

Since the replacement of the foster parents in the home (see my visit report 1 dedicated to this program), William A. is no longer a problem for the smooth running of the BIH program. Here we must salute Betram's management: through a combination of patience and firmness, he managed to keep him while managing him.

William A. likes to be always considered as the Director of BIH, but in fact he is less and less involved in the management of the program.

For procurement, it is now a Committee that makes the decisions and follows up: William A. is part of it with Marlin, the accountant, and Nyarwelo, the foster father of the home.

William A. has become very useful in some logistical tasks in Lologo.

For example, he is in charge of the gasoline supply on the black market; and also of foreign exchange transactions on the parallel market.

Betram, his deputy William T., or Mogga, would find it very difficult to go and engage with those guys in these parallel markets. *"For him, it's the normal environment"*, explains Betram.

*"And whenever there is any difficulty, we send it. He is certainly a kind of a crackpot, but at least, unlike Mogga, when he is in charge of something, he does it. "*



### 4.4. Edwin Sam Mutyaba, IGP sales manager

Edwin is Ugandan. He previously worked in Kenya and Rwanda, including in construction companies. He was hired by SVDP in November 2016.

The recruitment of a sales manager was not easy, especially as the uncertainties concerning inflation made a fee-for-commission less attractive.

An agreement was reached for a consultant status and a lump sum of \$ 800 / month. This is extremely high compared to other employees (6 times Betram gross salary!) and it calls for quick efficiency and results in terms of increasing the benefits of the IGPs.

*"When he arrived at the end of the year," says Betram, "I asked him to give me his outlook of his mission. He wrote some good notes. Then we discussed them, and I had to involve William and Marlin. I told him, « This is very good, but I want those things translated into actions, it is not only the theories ».*

*So far, so that he gets an overall view of our activities, I also asked him to help William in the drafting of the reports, before William submits them to me. "*

Having some background in the construction business, Edwin wanted to show his skills by working on the guest house project which will serve to promote the sale of used Hydraform bricks, and also as a showroom for the furniture (all made by the carpentry IGP).

*"He came up with a plan that did not fit the plan we already had," says Betram. I said, "All right, this building is an investment for the IGPs. But do not forget that it is not meant to be a simple construction. For now, I expect you to try to reduce construction costs. And your real responsibility will start when the guest house is finished, how to run it in order to get us the money back."*

## 5. CONNECTIONS BETWEEN SVDP AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS

### 5.1. The Jubek State Ministry of Education, Social Protection and Gender Equality

We could not get much from the Minister Dr Wani Sule Lado.

He proposed handbooks for vocational training...

But for the primary school in Lologo VTCDC, he could support SVDP's approach of UNESCO for possible support.

And if SVDP needs one day a piece of land to create a secondary school (or to move the primary school), he could facilitate a grant, through his recommendations.



### 5.2. The UNMISS

It is the UN that approached SVDP Juba, for a mission involving the communities living around their enormous *compound*, located outside Juba, near the mountains.

They evaluated a few local NGOs and assessed that SVDP had the wider social fabric and was able to engage communities in any kind of work.

SVDP also informed them that they had worked a few years ago with a UN agency, UNIDO, for whom they had trained 300 adults in the Lologo VTCDC, in addition to the SVDP trainees.

SVDP Juba was therefore selected for a simple project.

This is a mission to be carried out around the enormous and ultra-secure (although electronic gantries did not work) *compound* (where only UN 4WDs are seen).

When the conflict started in Juba at the end of 2013, hundreds of civilians (mainly Nuers) have taken refuge there, and they are still afraid to come out.

During the rainy season (which was to begin in April), natural areas beyond the barbed wire fences are covered with bushes and shrubs where could be hidden weapons coming either from the outside or the inside. The mission consists of clearing the perimeter of the *compound*, over a distance of 200m. It should last two months and end at the end of May.

UNMISS pays approximately \$ 35,000 to SVDP, which hires people from the community living near the *compound*, and supervises their work.

Betram says, "UNMISS told us," *If you do this mission well, it will open up many opportunities for you. We went to meet the communities.* William T. is in charge of this project.

We met Sam Muhumure (Officer in Charge), Numa Sham, Mamoun Atanaziou and Tartisio Philip, from the Relief, Reintegration and Protection section.

Sam Muhumure: « We welcome the partnership. It is just the beginning. I've been told a lot of good things about Saint Vincent... I wait to see. There is an opportunity now, it is a small project. But I think it has a lot of potential... especially in these very difficult circumstances.

*It is the quality of your performance that will either water the partnership or ruin it. We cannot make commitment about the future now.*

*But all we can say is that opportunities are there, and I must say that there is a deficit of reliable organization that are local in South Sudan.*

*Therefore, much as you may not get a lot of big projects from UNMISS, but you can get very good references that can enable to enter the arena of other UN agencies, funds and programs. »*

Numa Sham: « UNMISS is not an implementing organization. We are the political board of the UN. In the forums, you will know the timetable of which UN international agencies is giving money to local NGOs. If you are within their specific programs, you can be selected.

*Saint Vincent has an advantage because of the vocational training. And they are a people-based organization.*

*And they have a long-term record of success.*

*There is one cluster meeting happening every month with OCHA<sup>1</sup>. That one is discussing mainly emergency issues. UN is focusing on IDPs.*

*There is another forum organized by IOM.*

*After we work together, you attend a meeting regularly, once a month or two times a month, it depends, and then you will know what is inside: what are their programs, what are their interests... Then you will sit with a ground manager, someone who will tell you what you can get and how you can access it. These are the forum we need to relate you. We will open you the gate.*

*From time to time, you can approach us directly. But in Central Equatoria, we are not a direct partner for you, because we are the headquarters.*

*This year, UNMISS itself is going to implement maybe two small projects (50 000 \$ each). Our budget timetables start in July/August.*

*In the next coming weeks, we will introduce you formally to the people of our office in Juba, to our focal persons who coordinate for all UN agencies in the state."*

Tartisio Philip, who knows SVDP well for being part of SVDP Khartoum, adds that one of the weaknesses of SVDP has always been to lack a good social marketing plan: SVDP is not known enough.



<sup>1</sup> Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs



Numa Sham adds:  
"The donors are looking for good reliable partners. In a conflict environment, project control is very difficult. So the donors are always looking for community based organizations whom they can trust, with educated management, transparent, honest, who can quickly relate with the beneficiaries. We had a project in Bentiu, everybody walked away with the money!"

Let's finish this project and we can at least tell:

*« from our experience, this organization is reliable, its financial integrity is good».*

*We are looking forward for that partnership, it is a very small-scale project but it is a very strategic one. We don't want that your team go there and start clearance without knowing where there are landmines in that area. So we have a team of landmines action group that will come and show you the areas that are cleared and those that are not ;so that you move in a safe zone. »*

### 5.3. The WFP and World Vision

Among four centers selected in Juba, the VTCDC has been evaluated as the one matching at best the criteria (in terms of organization, logistics, security, link with the local population) defined by the World Food Program and the NGO World Vision for the establishment of a program aiming the elderly and the disabled.

The first day of my arrival corresponded with the start of this operation, with SVDP's lending the Center facilities as a complimentary contribution: applicants flocked to register in the hope of receiving a small monthly allocation.

There were also people who came to register a relative who was too handicapped to move.

*"When their operation is over," says Betram, "we will discuss with the organizers to see how they can help the VTCDC."*



#### 5.4. The UNESCO

We met Daro Justine, who has worked for seven years in Juba for UNESCO. He worked with the Ministry of Labor on the development of vocational training programs.

*"I used to visit Saint Vincent and encourage them to continue.*

*We really appreciate what SVDP is doing on the ground compared to the other institutions.*

*I have traveled all over the country, from Yei to Malakal via Wau: what SVDP does is exceptional.*

*I think, for example, of graduates who are able to use their skills to make a living.*

*They also have good trainers.*

*The efforts of SVDP are highly appreciated.*

*The country is not progressing well. Most of the youth are out of school, and are not having any other skill that they can practice.*

*SVDP could expand in the future to other geographical locations, so that some vocational training center can be open."*

When I asked him what UNESCO could do in concrete terms to support SVDP, he replied:

*"UNESCO could help the training of literacy facilitators so that they are able to teach adults basic skills in reading and writing, embedded in the programs. We call it Functional Adults Literacy."*

And when I asked him if UNESCO would be willing to finance a five-day training course for candidates for micro-credit, he replied that UNESCO does not provide financial support but only technical one, particularly through its teams. Such support would be possible.



*things work."*

And if auto-mechanic training was enriched by an electronic part, UNESCO would not provide material support. *"You can apply to the Head of Mission to upgrade the training for advanced technology."*

*"One of the area we started but could not hold consistently" Betram tries, "was the 4 weeks of business management courses at the end of each sections. We have encountered technical problems. We would be happy if you can help. Our courses are rather theoretical. We need something with case studies, success stories. You surely have come across a lot of experiences that show how*

## 5.5. The Swiss Embassy in Juba



On the day of our appointment, all the Swiss were... in Switzerland. We met two South Sudanese employees.

From our meeting, it emerged that the Agricultural IGP could be a program within their current priority areas of support. They have donated \$ 1 million to FAO and have not yet chosen their local partners.

The fact that we have made good progress on this project and that the closing of the Nyarjwa land is almost completed is a very positive point in that they want their support to add

value to an ongoing and partially funded project.

## 5.6. The Leprosy Mission

We met Dr. Wilson Lado Santo, *Operation Manager* of this international NGO, which is a Christian organization, not affiliated to a specific church.

It was founded in India, its headquarters is in England. Its main objective is to combat leprosy and its consequences.

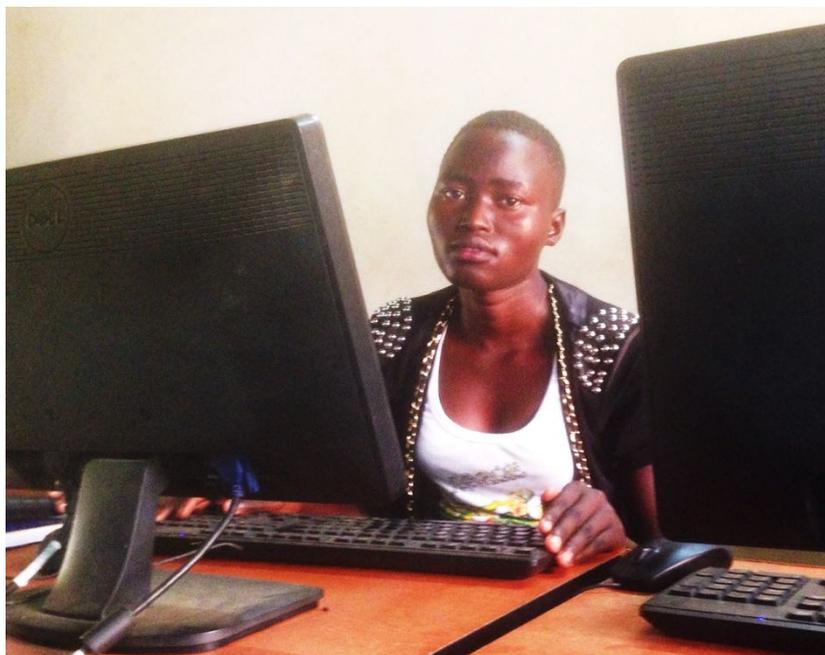
There is a day in January when many churches around the world are raising funds for this cause.

The countries most affected are India and Brazil.

In South Sudan, the rate of people suffering from leprosy is 2.3 / 100,000, which is considered a high rate.

There are approximately 40 new cases per year in Juba.

It is a disease that is easily treated, once diagnosed.



SVDP training program has included 11 children of lepers and 5 people with physical disabilities (legs) this year. They are between 15 and 23 years old.

Most have chosen auto-mechanics, sewing and computer trainings.

The Leprosy Mission is supporting them with the transport.

*"They are living in Juba and were drop-outs from school, because their parents are poor. Their parents are integrated in the community, not isolated like in the past. They have been treated long time ago. They are not infectious. And their children are all right.*

*It shows how inclusive SVDP is. It is a new thing in South Sudan. Other training centers are not so inclusive."*

## 5.7. Caritas Internationalis

On the last day of my stay, in Rajaf, I came across two people from Caritas Internationalis who were doing a report in the country, within a campaign to fight famine.

One can go see their report "War [causes hunger](http://southsudan.caritas.org/?lang=en)" on: <http://southsudan.caritas.org/?lang=en>

Here is an excerpt: "Rajaf is a 45-minutes-drive from the capital of South Sudan, Juba. It is a small hamlet on the banks of the Nile, dominated by a large church. "Only this week, armed gangs came to our farms and stole everything from us, " said Swaka Kenyi , a resident." If you go to the bush to take wood to burn, you can be shot. A woman went to the fields with her children and the children have been kidnapped. "

Caritas representatives were not aware of SVDP's Be In Hope program in Rajaf. SVDP will make sure to make itself known to this entity which federates the Caritas from around the world.



## 6. THE LOLOGO VTCDC - VOCATIONAL TRAINING ACTIVITY

### 6.1. Various news

#### New supplier of equipment and small equipment as of 2017

This year, for the first time, the second semester order (in May) of equipment and small equipment for the vocational training and the IGPs will be imported from China.

The order should arrive in July.

Betram explains: *"Compared to what we can get here, things from China are top quality. Their life span extends beyond one year. Especially the big equipment. We know a reliable agent in China. He goes on the spot at the time of shipment, he makes sure that everything that has been ordered is put in the container. The risk is that the Chinese offload equipment of lesser quality onto our container. Many companies have been cheated this way. So if the agent is not there, we will have to send someone for four or five days to supervise the collection and the shipment. Then the container is sealed until it reaches the border. Even in this case, it will ultimately be much cheaper than buying everything in Uganda. "*

#### New internet provider

During my stay, I saw a new internet provider coming into the offices to install a new antenna etc ...

This is the third or fourth provider for SVDP.

The last one was okay at first. Then it decreased surreptitiously the speed, so that sending a mail, even without attachment, took time.

SVDP complained, the operator improved the speed, and then, after a certain time, reduced it again.

SVDP complained again, and the operator proposed to increase the capacity... and the price of the subscription.

#### Accounting management

Betram told me that the fact that SVDP has accounts revised by an external audit company over the last few years has proven to be not only useful but necessary.

In 2014, the Department of Humanitarian Affairs set up, within the Ministry of Education, Social Welfare and Gender Equality, to oversee all the NGOs operating in the country, requested from SVDP their revised accounts during the annual registration procedure.

Pinnacle Auditors & Consultations LTD, mandated since August 2015 to monitor the internal control system, comes to SVDP every quarter.

Internal procedures have been put in place and are regularly monitored.

All purchases, for instance, require an invoice and a voucher signed by Betram.

All purchases made without an invoice are noted in an account.

When the expected funds are delayed and SVDP faces deadlines, they may take from the IGPS funds. All this is posted and the accounts are credited back as soon as the transfers are received.

#### An inclusive program ...

Among the computer trainees during my stay were two soldiers and one SPLA officer!



## 6.2. Establishment of a micro-credit scheme for certain graduates

I attended a meeting on this project which should benefit some graduates of the current session. Among the present employees were, among others, those belonging to the SVDP National Council: Mama Lucy, Charles Lokoba, the SVDP Personnel Director, who recently took Lucy's place as President of the National Council, and Kalisto Lokosang.

Here are some of the lines that have been defined:

1) Establishment of eligibility criteria. The aim is to identify the trainees who are planning to start their own business and who may need micro-credit after graduation. This step must be taken relatively discreetly so as not to create opportunistic vocations of independence.

2) A one-week workshop will be organized at the end of the year to:  
- sensitize candidates to the rules and objectives of this project.  
- give a few concepts of entrepreneurship, good management and budgeting.

3) A dedicated team

A credit officer and a monitoring officer will be appointed internally. John Sebit, one of the trainers, underlines the fact that SVDP needs to ensure that beneficiaries will not disappear. Their contact details will be checked, their possible workplaces noted etc ...

Linda, Marlin's assistant will be in charge of the accounting.

4) A limited number of beneficiaries: 50 to 100.

5) Relatively short loan periods: quarterly or semi-annual.

6) A system of solidarity engagement in small groups of 5 or 6 beneficiaries  
Probably by trained skills, with one referent per group, and the rule: in case of default payment, the whole group is liable for all the debt of the group's beneficiaries and none will benefit from another loan until the situation is regularized.

7) SVDP will consult with organizations that have experience in this type of work

The Sudan Council of Churches, ACCORD and DED (Department of Economic Development).

## 6.3. Training of Trainers

Late 2017, after completion of the training, six English-speaking trainers will be sent for a three weeks training to the Nakawa Institute in Uganda. The total budget is approximately \$ 23,000. For Arabic-speaking teachers who do not have the required level in English, SVDP will try to send them to Egypt.



Two trainees in electricity from the current session:  
Paola Sebit and Suzi Monoa, both 20.

## 6.4. Graduates testimonies

### 6.4.1. Jacqueline Oswasu, Household graduate, 2016

Jacqueline, 32 years old, is widowed and has 7 children. She was born in Juba and lives in Lologo, near the VTCDC.

During the dry season, she cultivates a small plot of land of 1000 m<sup>2</sup> on the banks of the Nile, near the bridge that is left unfinished for now.

She grows green vegetables, pumpkins and okra that she waters by drawing water from the Nile.

Since graduating, she has already done several harvests. A portion is used for her family's consumption

and every week she goes to the markets and earns a minimum of 1000 SSP (\$ 10). It allows her to support her family, but she cannot put aside.

During the wet season, this land is flooded. She then grows another (smaller) plot near her house.

She would like to put into practice what she learned during her training on other vegetables: cucumbers, carrots, onions, but these crops are too vulnerable to insects on this land, and she would need insecticides.



### 6.4.2. Akon Grang, sewing graduate, 2016



Akon (left in the photo) is 28 years old. She has 4 children.

She joined with five other graduates from the same session (they did not know each other before the training), and since January they have set up a shop in Lologo, with the sewing machines received on graduation.

They rent the place 2000 SSP / month (\$ 16).

Clients bring the fabrics and they make clothes.

I asked Akon how much she took for the dress she was making: 300 SSP (\$ 2.5). It is a day of work.

Sometimes they buy fabric themselves, per 6m roll.

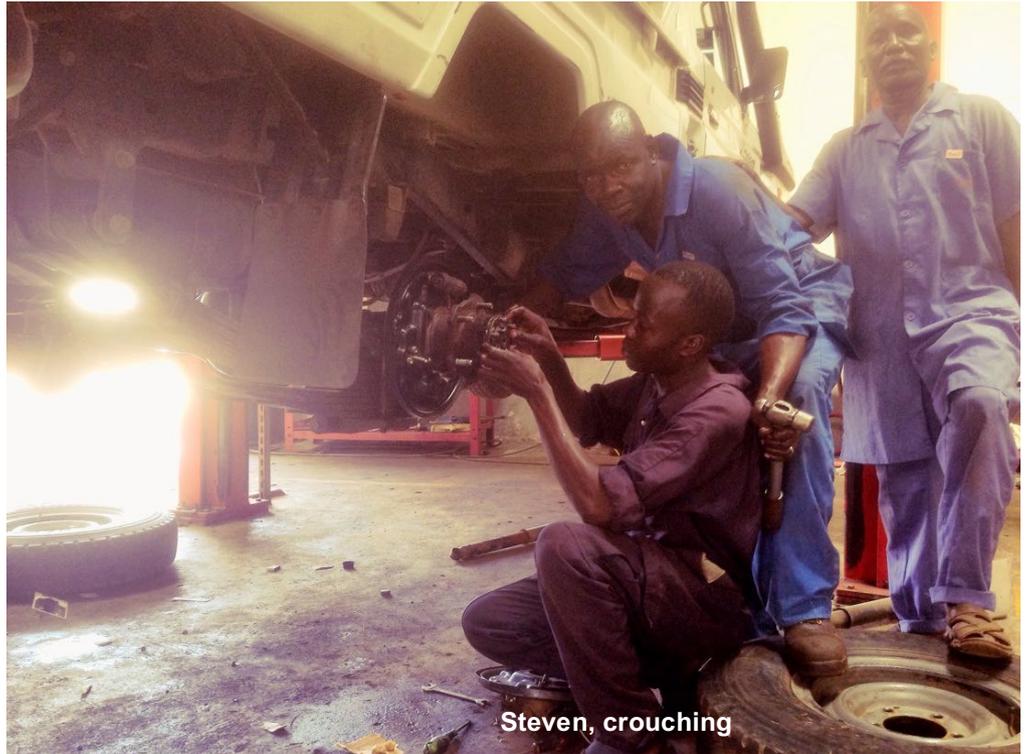
One is pregnant. Another has a baby with her. All are Dinkas.

6.4.3. Steven Moinkali, auto-mechanic graduate, 2016

*"I'm 22 years old, I was born in Yei. In 2006, we went to live in Uganda. We spent more than seven years in a refugee camp.*

*In 2013, my father had no work, and he did not pay my school fees anymore. I was in my third year of secondary school. I told him: let me find a way to become self-reliant. He agreed, and we came together to Juba.*

*I went to the VTCDC of SVDP and spoke to the supervisor of the automotive mechanical training, who spoke to the teachers. They then called me for an interview. I chose this training because it is a simple and profitable job."*



Steven works in a big garage, but as a trainee: he is not engaged. He had written his letter of application in September 2016. But SVDP already had many trainees and they called him back in January 2017. He receives a very meager remuneration that he gives to his family. The garage takes care of his trips and offers lunches. He lives with his father, who still has no work.



He tells me that last July crisis has not changed anything in his day-to-day life. Yet he contemplated stopping his training, but a friend advised him to continue, God was going to protect him.

The boss of the garage tells us that he is very pleased with Steven, but that he will not hire him because he lacks electronics skills.

## 7. THE IGPs

At one meeting, Edwin talked about input costs for some unprofitable IGPs, and all the problems. Betram pointed out that it was precisely to solve them, by finding the most economical solutions, that he has been hired.

### 7.1. Wooden furniture

This IGP began in 2016.

For its first year, the turnover (in SSP) slightly exceeded the budget made in 2015 and doubled compared to that updated at the beginning of 2016. But in CHF (4,446 CHF), it was 11 times lower than the initial budget of 2015 (knowing that the value of the South Sudanese pound vs the CHF was also divided by 11).



So far, given its small-scale production, SVDP was buying locally from retailers, in wood stores. Most of the wood comes from the Congo or the state of Equatoria.

It has become very difficult to obtain wood because of road insecurity and the fact that some areas are completely abandoned.

In addition, the government has banned wood imports. If SVDP imports timber from abroad, it is not exempt from tax, unlike the other products.

Due to the rise in prices, SVDP is now in contact with wholesale suppliers at section sites in the forest. *"The supply conditions are not favorable, and the price of the little wood available is very high,"* explains Edwin, *"even if we approached the Eastern Equatoria wood suppliers who could sell at the wholesale price, 35% less than the retail price."*

On the other hand, purchasing power within the community has decreased. And it is difficult to present a quote for a table at a much higher price than the one presented six months ago.

This IGP is also suffering for the moment from a lack of notoriety.

Clients can be NGOs. Especially when they support schools.

*"But in the present circumstances, our production capacity is reduced",* adds Edwin, *"and this is commercially unfavorable to us. A client came to see us, from a Catholic school. They needed thirty benches. It took us a long time to produce this given our low number of production technicians (2). The clients expect to receive their order within fifteen days."*

And sometimes the NGOs tender to suppliers, that means we have to fight against competing offers.

## 7.2. Tailoring

This workshop has the same kind of problems. *"The cost of imported fabrics from Uganda and Kenya has increased. And we are not able to produce 600 uniforms for our own schoolchildren"*, says Edwin.

Betram adds: *"We have quality for the time being, but we are struggling to produce in quantities. We want to transform our workshop into a small factory that meets the needs of the market."*

*Initially, we should target Catholic schools and focus on uniforms. If we could get contracts with only three schools... Buy anyway, the problem of production capacity remains, given the usual deadlines. And it is difficult to approach the institutions in advance, for they only order once they have received their donations."*



*In 2016, we bought two new industrial machines.*

*But it is at the staff level that we have a problem, both in quantity and quality. I'm not satisfied with the skills of the workshop head. We need a professional stylist and tailor, who will train other people to have both quantity and quality. We hired a Kenyan, a stylist, in 2016. But she left because of the political instability.*

*Finally, we must separate this production unit completely from vocational training."*

## 7.3. Truck rental

This IGP has not really started since the acquisition of the truck a year and a half ago.

The turnover was only CHF 12,463 (CHF 751 in 2015), compared to CHF 46,419 budgeted in 2015 (but x3 in SSP compared to the budget presented in early 2016).

There is few demand.

Rental prices for a Juba-Kampala trip have fallen by 16% on the market.

At the same time, as a result of higher gasoline prices, the cost of travel to Uganda tripled (15,000 SSP) and the cost of a trip to Bor has been multiplied by four (10,000 SSP).

In Uganda, they have set up weight restrictions at two checkpoints to limit the load on the roads. Now the 20 tons can only carry 14 tons in Uganda.

SVDP intends to adapt to this new regulation by adding two tires to the current 8 ones, which would enable to transport 20 tons.

On one of the few trips made in 2016, on the return from Bor, a part of the fuel system broke... The truck remained stuck in the bush for days.

## 7.4. Agriculture

The revenue generated by this IGP in 2016 was CHF 13,189. In SSP, it was three times higher than budgeted at the beginning of the year.

In 2016, SVDP sold tomatoes, eggplants, okra and maize (since the end of August, when the harvest begins).

But the agricultural land has not yet been really farmed because of the herds of nomads (cf picture opposite, with the SVHCC in the foreground). The construction of a fence and the decision to erect it in one go are decisions that have been imposed during the year.



The start of the work was delayed by endless talks with the local community.

For example, the land register service cannot access the land without the community's consent.

And every time SVDP came to the field to prepare the erection work, people from the community were coming: "Oh, you know, there's a point that's not clear. We have to sit down and talk."

Last year the "Sultan" died. He was the chief of the surrounding villages that have made the agreement with SVDP about the land.

He was a loyal and honest person who had a concern for the common good and a vision to improve the situation of his community. He dealt some agreements with other organizations, including with the Chinese ones... His successors thought that he may be getting some personal profit, and they started making all sorts of strange requests to SVDP.

*"But thank God, our committee managed that", says Betram. "At the last meeting, we made it very clear that we had not paid a penny to anyone. It reassured them.*

*And then, one of them, more educated, said: "Guys, if you read this contract, it's all in our favor. Saint-Vincent is using the land, and we benefit from employment. We will know anything that is being done there. So why are we obstructing it? And the Saint Vincent Care Center is already there.»*

The erection of the fence had just begun when I went to Nyarjwa.

The team is working there six days a week. The aim is to finish before the heart of the rainy season. "We should prepare lunch here so that the workers do not have to go home. It interrupts the work too much," says the Ugandan engineer.

The work will be completed by the end of June.

The contractor and his two assistants supervise the workers, who are people from the local community. They are paid every Saturday by the contractor.

Martin (an SVDP employee) is constantly on the spot and William T. comes three times a week (remember that Nyarjwa is 25 km from Lologo, about three quarters of an hour by 4x4).



"Last week, we started digging the holes along 500m on the west side", explained the engineer.

"Some of the workers have never done this type of work. We teach them. One group digs the hole, another one pours concrete and plants the poles.

This side of the land is about 800m, there is another 300m beyond..." beyond a portion of land with rugged terrain, pits and mounds that present natural obstacles for the erection of the barrier. It would be necessary to fill and level the ground and build a wall to sustain it during the rainy season.

The other option is to divert the line of poles. Although this option means that SVDP loses part of the land, it is much simpler, and has been retained.

"In a country like this, where people are hungry", says Betram, "whatever food you produce, you will always find a market."

Food distributed by the WFP, which encourages local producers, could come from SVDP harvests. Hotels may also represent a clientele.

"We are going to work on this big land on rotation: one year maize on this plot, and the following year, green vegetables for example.

And we are not going to have all the 126ha planted with corn and green vegetables. There will always be plots where other crops can be planted for the "demonstration farm" project of Caritas Graz, designed to train local peasants.

In 2016, Caritas suggested that we consider a project to train farmers. They asked us to develop a proposal that would integrate this project and the Household training.

Already at the end of 2015, Elisabeth wanted the Household training to be carried out in 2016 in Nyarjwa.

For us it made more sense to continue to train within the Lologo VTDC. This training was designed especially for women who reside along the Nile. And with the rising cost of gasoline, it did not make things easier.

In 2016, we have built a shelter on the Nyarjwa site (see photo opposite).

And it was necessary to imagine how to combine the

Household training with the training of the peasants. I took advice from organizations that had implemented such projects in Uganda, Kenya.

I also contacted some people with whom I had an agricultural training in Israel a few years ago.

And in the summer 2016, we made a written proposal to Caritas. The project targeted a total of 400 beneficiaries: 350 people belonging to the Nyarjwa peasant community and 50 trainees for the Household training.

Today, Elisabeth tells us that the project will not be funded in 2017, but perhaps in 2018, due to a change in the plan of their donors. And she told me that she agrees with locating the Household training in Lologo. But it is too late now: we are not able to implement the training at the Lologo VTDC this year, while many women living near the VTDC have been disappointed.



The other Austrian partners (ProSudan and Missio) are funding (with the support of MIVA) the purchase in Austria of a pump and a generator that are supposed to arrive in June or July. Then it will be necessary to build a reservoir and a kind of cement room [already funded in 2016 by Caritas Graz] to protect everything”.

## 7.5. Poultry

This project was restarted in December 2016 and is proceeding very satisfactorily since then.

The first batch, relatively modest for this activity, consisted of 1000 chicks of laying hens and 108 of chickens (bred for their meat).

In March, 90 chickens were sold at 500 SSP per unit (the production cycle is two months). They were big chickens, almost 2 kg. *"Our technician complained"*, says Betram. He said, *"They do not need to be that big! 1.5kg would have been enough!"*



In January, one incident disrupted the breeding of this first batch. One night an owl slipped into a ventilation pipe. It scared the three-week-old chicks, that ran into the corners to take refuge, and in doing so, 420 of them died, mostly choked.

But SVDP turned to Butenga Farmers, the Ugandan company whose technician supervised the restart of the project and who had studied all the elements of the project, including the SVDP infrastructure. *"Since they never advised us to protect the air intakes, they were understanding and replaced the 420 chicks."* As a result, the current breeding has two batches of different ages.



During my visit, the 580 laying hens of the first batch had just been moved up the cages. They are expected to start laying in May, and the 420 from the replacement lot in July.

In May, production began at 7 crates of 30 eggs per day, and reached, mid-May 11 crates a day.

It should stabilize at 15 crates / day, to which will be added, as of July 10 crates.

Therefore, by the end of July, SVDP should be able to sell 25 crates a day. At the current price (11.5 SSP / egg), this makes a daily income of SSP 8750 (\$ 73).

In addition, after 18 months of laying, the hens can be sold for their meat.

According to Edwin, this IGP has strong potentials: *"There is such a demand that SVDP will never be able to answer it, even when working at full capacity. Hotels and restaurants need a secure and constant supply."*



Vaccines are imported from Holland via Uganda.

For the time being they are ordered according to the vaccination schedule, but SVDP would like to limit the risks of degradation during transport, by making grouped orders and by equipping itself with a small fridge which should be fed by a small dedicated generator, operating also at night.

For reasons of fuel economy, the generator will not be able to operate 24/24, so the chosen fridge will be able to keep a cool temperature several hours after power cut.

The cost for both equipment is \$ 3,000.

Regarding food, SVDP has changed the way it is done: food is now bought in Uganda, ready for consumption. This is cheaper than buying the ingredients in South Sudan and preparing the blends in the VTDC.

Two technicians hired in December 2016 manage this project on a day-to-day basis: a Ugandan expert and a local resident who is learning with him. They are present on site 24 hours a day.

Chicken coops should also be equipped with additional solar panels to feed the chickens at night.

Edwin suggests having a slaughterhouse (for chickens), to meet market demand.

## 7.6. Sales of Hydraform bricks

This IGP should benefit from the ongoing construction of the guest house within the VTDC.

This building will serve to promote the sale of used Hydraform bricks and it will also be a showroom for the furniture, all made by the carpentry IGP.



This 220m<sup>2</sup> building (floor area) should be completed in June.

7 workers and technicians are involved in this work.

Each room will have its own bathroom.

There will be a pergola beyond the kitchen, just in front of the vegetable garden / nursery, with a view of the Nile (and the bridge left unfinished by the Japanese).

The house will have 8 parking spaces.



A septic tank has been dug (see photo below).

The engineer's estimates are constantly raised. The number of bags of cements to produce the bricks has been estimated at 200; the actual number is twice the estimation to date.



And when construction costs had been budgeted last year, the cement bag was at 500 SSP. Now it is at 1650 SSP.

*"We started in December 2016. We did not buy all the equipment at once.*

*We are struggling to do as much as possible with the local material. But iron plates, iron bars, cement, all these things are imported.*

*All purchases are closely controlled.*

*We buy the bags of cement, then the supervisor is there to make sure that these bags are really loaded into the machine".*

## 8. THE LOLOGO VTCDC - OTHER COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

### 8.1. Nursery and primary school

The school in the VTCDC has 654 children (+ 21%), including 182 in kindergarten and the rest in primary school (up to P7, P8 being the highest level of primary school).

It is three times cheaper (CHF 6 / year) than other schools in the region.

The 22 teachers are proud of their work, but they complain about their low remuneration.

Caritas Graz is donating € 11,520 in 2017 for this purpose, and is funding their training (€ 5,000).

School stationaries (pencils, workbooks, papers, etc.) are given free to the pupils. Caritas Graz is donating 5 700 € to fund them this year.

In kindergarten, lessons are given both in Arabic and English. From P4 to P7, Arabic is taught.

In all Sudanese families, there is no breakfast as such. Few children drink tea before coming to school.

Even fewer can have a little snack at 11 am: SVDP did a survey last year in the school, and only 2% of the children had something to eat. It has sometimes caused problems between children. *"One day the headmistress came to see us", says Betram: "I don't know if I should let these children eat in front of the others... Do I send them home during the break?" »*



This year, the Austrian charity Missio donated 40 000 € to finance the distribution of a snack in the morning. Caritas Graz participates by adding 9 400 €.

In 2017, a new class will be constructed - a permanent structure - for the last level of primary (P8) with funding from Caritas Graz (€ 13,800).

### 8.2. Babies Feeding

320 children under 7 receive a meal 3 times a week in the VTCDC.

This program is funded by our Austrian

partner Hilfswerk, through Caritas Graz.

## 9. OTHER PROGRAMS OF SVDP JUBA

### 9.1. The SVHCC

The commitment of the South Sudanese state to provide medicines has not been honored to date.

And obviously, it is not likely to be.

*"Even government officials find it hard to get anything", says Betram. "My brother is the Health Minister of Jonglei State. He had some heart issues, and was supposed to go in India for medical check-up, as his wife is an Ambassador of South Sudan there. But he could not get a ticket. He is even struggling to get funds to pay his employees.*

*In the current situation, we cannot expect anything from the government for our Health Care Center. "*

Despite everything, the SVHCC perfectly accomplish its mission, and everyone agrees that no government center in the country is comparable to it.

The symbolic contribution of the patients increased from 5 to 10 SSP.

### 9.2. BIH

A full visit report dedicated to this street children program is available and will be soon online.



Martin and a patient of the SVHCC

On the last day, just before my departure, we went to mass in Rajaf, where four beneficiaries of the program officiated as choir children.

The ceremony was in Bari. Since I am not from the Bari tribe, neither Mondari, Kuku, Jongara, Kakwa, Fudjulu, Luluggu or Makaraka, I do not speak Bari.

But I had the texts of the day in French.

While it was 42°C in the shade, these texts mentioned the Nile (which tributary we had just crossed to come to Rajaf) and talked about physical thirst to bring up the spiritual one.

*"In those days, in the desert, there was no water for the people to drink. So they quarreled with Moses (...)  
The Lord said to Moses: "Take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go! (...) Strike the rock, and water will come out of it for the people to drink" (Book of Exodus, 17: 3-5)*

Then the episode of the Samaritan woman in the Gospel according to St. John: *"Jesus, tired as he was from the journey, sat down by the well (...) Jesus said to her, "Will you give me a drink? (...) Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst."*

A heartfelt thank you to all our donors and partners who help us to irrigate the seeds of hope planted in this arid land that is currently South Sudan.

**Patrick Bittar**  
Director of ASASE  
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