



**SOCIETY OF DAUGHTERS OF MARY IMMACULATE  
AND COLLABORATORS**



ANNUAL  
REPORT

2023

**SOUTH SUDAN**

*"Crossing borders and boundaries to help the humanity".*

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## MESSAGE FROM THE MISSION DIRECTOR



It is my privilege to present the Annual Report of SDMIC for 2023!

The year, 2023 was a great year with lot of challenges and achievements. I would like to congratulate our team for their excellent performances in the face of incredibly challenging conditions. Their extraordinary efforts ensured that SDMIC has emerged stronger than we were before and focused on the significant opportunities for the mission in South Sudan.

As an organization, we have been constantly evolving, challenging ourselves to work for innovation and strengthening our core to transform into a more agile and future-ready organization. We have been working towards our goal of delivering qualitative and sustainable results through the optimal support of donors, and efforts of our team in 2023.

Our program strategies focused on women, children, youth, and small-holder farmers to improve their socio-economic status; accept diversity, and foster peaceful co-existence.

Our programs addressed food shortages through sustainable farming training practiced by small-holder farmers; poor access to education of the children through quality education by the trained teachers; unemployment and poor work skills of youths through quality vocational training; gender-based violence through community sensitization and small business management training; poor access to health and nutrition through health camps and supplementary nutritious food; and finally, the most important one is poverty of women through VSLA methodology.

We strongly believe that economically and socially empowered communities can contribute to peace, gender equity, and nation-building. I feel happy that our community-centered approach is unique. In that, we joined hands with various international, national, and government organizations to bring peace and reconciliation for peaceful co-existence.

We thank our founder father, superior general, provincials, country director, donors, various individuals, and our team for the support, guidance, and collaborations contributing to developing the DMI Global Mission in South Sudan.

May God Bless you all and our Mission Globally!

*Sr. Vijili Dali, DMI*

**Mission Director**

## MESSAGE FROM THE COUNTRY DIRECTOR



2023, a year of new learning! This year has taught us the core values of accountability, justice, integrity, dignity, and collaboration!

SDMIC in South Sudan continued its development programs with the five-year country strategy to ensure that the marginalized and the most vulnerable families access food security, education, technical skills, and nutrition to overcome their poor situation.

SDMIC has emerged as a preferred partner for communities, governments both at the state and central, project implementation partners, donors, and other key stakeholders by delivering planned outcomes at the grassroots level through innovative solutions and adapting to diverse development challenges.

During this year, SDMIC enabled underprivileged communities especially women, children, and youth, to become champions of change by providing them with the best opportunities for their education and development in line with our Global Mission.

SDMIC strengthened key functional capabilities to ensure increased efficiency and accountability in work on the ground. We have reached 24,800 small-holder farm families through sustainable farming, supported over 4,000 rural and disadvantaged women through VSLA training and methodology, 1,628 children of IDP and rural communities through the formal and quality primary education, 1,900 IDP community members through health camps, nutrition, medical services and 400 families of war victims through humanitarian aid.

SDMIC remains committed to its mission and our mission is on course through the hard and selfless dedication of many individuals and supporters. Thank you for your trust and support.

SDMIC team has worked closely with donors, partners, government officials, media, community leaders, and volunteers to build the capability to be ready for the change and save lives during emergency services and development progress. We thank you for your commitment and dedication to this noble cause. Without you, we would not be where we are.

My thanks to all my team members for their hard work & dedication, and wish everyone great success in this noble mission in the coming years.

My sincere gratitude to our founder father and DMI Members namely the superior general and provincials for the guidance to move our mission over a decade, to cross seas and mountains to climb and achieve the depth of impact in the years ahead.

May God bless all our endeavours!

*Sr. Rengis, DMI*

**Country Director, South Sudan.**

## **Introduction to SDMIC Mission in South Sudan**

The Society of Daughters of Mary Immaculate and collaborators (SDMIC) is a registered National NGO, operating in South Sudan since 2012. SDMIC is well-known for its abbreviation 'DMI'. SDMIC was formed by few members of Daughters' of Mary Immaculate (DMI) congregation along with representatives of the Catholic Archdiocese of Juba, South Sudan. DMI congregation's social programs are being implemented in five African countries (Central African Republic, Malawi, South Sudan, Tanzania and Zambia) and in Papua New Guinea and India.

Over a decade, SDMIC has gained a rich experience in the field of social work in the states of Central Equatoria (office at Juba), state of Warrap (office at Gogrial), state of Lakes (office at Yirol) and Upper Nile state (offices at Malakal and at Kodok)

### **VISION**

**"Loving God  
and Serving the  
poor to be fully  
human and  
fully alive"**

### **MISSION**

**Committed to love and  
serve the poor and  
marginalized communities  
unconditionally, especially  
the women and the children  
are enabled to get their  
legitimate share in  
education, health, security  
and livelihoods and free  
them from human  
bondages.**

### **VALUES**

**Accountability**

**Justice**

**Integrity**

**Dignity**

**Collaboration**

## GEOGRAPHICAL COVERAGE

South Sudan is a landlocked country in eastern Africa. It is bordered by Ethiopia, Sudan, the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Uganda, and Kenya. South Sudan split from Sudan in July 2011, becoming independent after many years of conflict and civil war, making it the world's newest sovereign state. South Sudan's capital is Juba. South Sudan contains swamplands and rainforests. In 2020, South Sudan was divided into 10 states, two administrative areas, and one area with special administrative status. All together, they correspond to three historical regions of the Sudan: Bahr-el-Ghazal, Equatoria, and Greater Upper Nile.

South Sudan is mostly covered in tropical forest, swamps, and grassland. The White Nile passes through the country, passing by the capital city of Juba. Half the water of the White Nile is lost in the swamps as vegetation absorbs it or animals drink it.

There are many different ethnic groups in South Sudan. These include Dinka

(Jieng), approximately 35-40%, Nuer (Naath), approximately 15%, Shilluk (Chollo), Azande, Bari, Kakwa, Kuku, Murle, Mandari, Didinga, Ndogo, Bviri, Lndi, Anuak, Bongo, Lango, Dungotona, Acholi, Baka, and Fertit. English, the official language, functions as a lingua franca. Arabic (including Juba and Sudanese variants) is also spoken, alongside over 60 indigenous languages, including Dinka, Nuer, Bari, Zande and Shilluk. Agriculture is the main area of employment in South Sudan, with some four-fifths of all households depending on agricultural activities as their main source of livelihood.

Current environmental issues include insufficient drinking water, overhunting of wildlife, soil erosion and desertification. Despite living in country rich in natural resources like oil and gas, most of its population has been kept at or below the poverty line by years of civil war, weak infrastructure, (e.g. roads and hospitals) and dependence on subsistence farming.



## COUNTRY FACT-SHEET

S. No	Particulars	Status as of December, 2023	Status as of December, 2022
<b>A</b>	<b>Geographic Coverage</b>		
1	Number of Program States	4	4
2	Number of Program Districts	4	4
3	Number of Payams	19	12
4	Number of Bomas	160	153
<b>B</b>	<b>Participant Coverage</b>		
5	Women's Village Saving & Loan Association members (Juba, Gogrial, Yirol & Kodok)	4,537	810
6	Children studying in the two DMI schools (Gogrial & Juba)	1,628	1600
7	DMI projects-sponsored youths trained in 6 trades at DMI Vocational School, Juba	167	170
8	Self-sponsored youths trained on computer skills at DMI vocational school, Juba	20	0
9	Trainees sponsored by NGO trained in 3 trades at DMI vocational school, Juba	89	0
10	Smallholder-farmer families (Juba & Kodok) receiving sustainable agriculture training and inputs	24,800	10,000
11	IDPs that access medical services from DMI outreach clinic in Juba	3900	1,600
12	Nutrition support to pregnant women, malnourished children, nursery school children & lactating mothers in IDP camps in Juba	1010	650
13	Relief food and Non-food items to Households displaced by communal violence in Juba & Kodok	610	0
<b>C</b>	<b>Key results under each program</b>		
14	DMI trained Small-holder farmers practicing at least three "Sustainable Agriculture Techniques"	2300	500

15	Farmer Groups managed 'Community Tree Nurseries' distributed tree saplings	22 Nurseries & 200,000 Saplings	0
16	Farmer Groups used Cash-for-asset program and built access roads to nearby markets in 5 payams in Juba County	36 Km	0
17	Farmer Cooperatives managed "Flour grinding & Groundnut paste mills" and "Cargo motor-cycle" in Juba	3 Cooperatives	1
18	Women's group businesses forming 'Business Women Association" known as WEB - Women Empowerment Businesses	3 Women Group Businesses	0
19	IDP women members doing small-businesses	83	0
20	Primary-8 pupils from IDP Camp-3 School in Juba appeared in the National Examination	197	172
21	Fee-paying and externally sponsored trainees as percentage of total trained	39 %	0 %
<b>D</b>	<b>Revenue Generation Program</b>		
22	Trainee fees collection from Vocational School, Juba (USD)	24,830	0





## COUNTRY STRATEGIES, ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES

**SDMIC programs strategies are the following...**

- **Education Program**
- **Food Security and Livelihoods**
- **Humanitarian Assistance**
- **Vocational Training**
- **Women empowerment**

### EDUCATION PROGRAM

#### **Program objectives:**

- Improve access to primary education by providing basic infrastructure, promoting children's clubs and school gardens.
- Train teachers on effective teaching and learning practices.
- Improve community participation by strengthening SMCs and PTAs.

DMI's strategy in supporting primary schools' infrastructural development is to construct school buildings and hand over to the communities to manage the school. Our strategy of catering for the needs of the children and their teachers through the provision of midday meals for children in lower classes, sanitary materials for adolescent girls, teaching and learning materials and providing teachers incentives has impacted 100% retention and transition rates.

- SDMIC handed over DMI St. Bhakita Primary School, Mauna to St. Kizito Parish.
- Promoted communities' participation in education development, ensures ownership and supports sustainability of the system.
- Pupils' enrollment at DMI Nursery and Primary School in IDP Camp-3 is 1,300 and 250 nursery children at Mother Virgin Nursery school in Gogrial.
- 27 teachers employed to provide a quality education for the children in schools.
- DMI has direct management control over DMI Nursery and Primary School in IDP Camp-3 in Juba and Mother Virgin Nursery in Gogrial.
- Provided adolescent girls (P4 – P8) with Dignity Kits throughout the academic year in DMI Nursery and Primary school in IDP camp-3.
- The lower primary school children are encouraged to stay in school with midday meal we provided for them. The nutritious midday meal helps not just as encouragement to the children to stay in school but helps their cognitive development.
- Communities' involvement helps to improve school management and also underpin sustainability.
- Trained the management committee members of six Parent Teachers Associations (PTAs) on their roles and responsibilities in managing the schools, resource mobilization for the continuous development of the school in Juba.
- Prepared and sent 193 Primary-8 pupils for the National Primary School leaving examination in November with the hope of obtaining excellent grades.



## FOOD SECURITY AND LIVELIHOODS

### **Program objectives:**

The two key objectives of our Food Security and Livelihoods programme are:

- Smallholder farmers' associations promote sustainable agriculture practices leading to increase in crop production.
- Smallholder farmers' associations create opportunities for saving, lending and small scale businesses leading to supplementary income.

SDMIC expanded its support to smallholder farmers this year. The marginalized and smallholder farmers were trained in sustainable farming, animal husbandry and supported with sustainable with agricultural input kits comprising of basic handheld tools, crops and vegetable seeds during the dry season and main Season. SDMIC enabled farmers to adopt and practice sustainable farming and increase their productivity.

- Provided training on Good Agriculture Practice (GAP) that raise the farmers' knowledge about climate change shocks and climate resilient farming practices, nutrition, and post-harvest management.
- Value addition and collective marketing concepts were tested with two smallholder farmers Federations (Cooperatives) in Juba County, Central Equatoria State.
- Trained the leaders of Kabo and Bori farmers' federations on basic bookkeeping to be able to properly account for revenue and expenses of the collective marketing of their value added agricultural produce. The federations were already supported with grinding machines in 2022 to support value addition of their crops and vegetables (Sorghum, Maize, Okra and Groundnuts).
- Gender, protection of women against all forms of violence and Peace Building are crosscutting to all trainings we delivered to the smallholder farmers.
- Helped the three federations to have leadership structure to collect and grind the federation members' sorghum and other vegetables like okra for sale.
- Collaborated with the government officials at local, state and national levels in Food Security and Livelihoods program ensured sustainability of SDMIC intervention with the Central Equatoria State Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and the Environment.
- Organized joint field monitoring visits and meetings with the minister and other state ministry authorities to update them about DMI's food security program in Central Equatoria State.



## HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

### **Program objectives:**

- Organize and provide relief assistance to those affected by conflict, flood and drought emergencies.
- Conduct micro research to develop reintegration strategy for IDPs

**Health Camps & Medical Clinic-** Since the withdrawal of the United Nations protection mission from the IDP camps in Juba, many agencies that provided emergency relief supplies to the camps also withdrew operations from the camp leaving behind a humanitarian assistance gap in the camps. There is malnourishment among children and pregnant women in Mangateen and IDP Camp-3 in Juba. Skin diseases are common among children. Medical services are not available in the IDP camps in Juba. Medical services in the nearby host communities are provided at commercial rates that are hardly affordable by the IDPs.

- DMI conducted monthly health camps and outreach clinic services for the IDPs to access medical facilities, avail medications and treatment.
- The doctor diagnosed and treated ailments include Malaria, Typhoid and water borne diseases that are prevalent in the camps as a result of the poor sanitation condition.

**Housing for Homeless-** in 2021, SDMIC started a housing program to construct low-cost permanent houses for 25 women headed IDP families in Kapuri community.

**Relief and Rehabilitation-** Food and shelter was found to be the major humanitarian concern during an SDMIC assessment of the IDP situation in Somba as part of a Humanitarian Assistance project development process.

- Promoted the Kapuri Development Association (KDA) with local community leaders and some of the beneficiaries of the houses to monitor and ensure sustainability.
- Provided three months of dry food rations supplies (maize flour, cooking oil, salt and peas), basic handheld farming tools and vegetable seeds (Hoes, Machetes, Rakes, Cowpea, Cabbage, Tomato, Amaranths, Pumpkin, Eggplant and Okra) for 60 IDP Households (360 people) in Ku'da Lo' dimi village.
- In February-2024, a communal violence in communities on the Juba Terekeka highway left 500 women and children displaced. The IDPs (250 women) that took refuge in Holy Cross Parish in Kworjok community on the outskirts of Juba were supplied with Dry Food Ration.
- Reached 324 pregnant women and lactating mothers through nutritious supplementary food
- Reached over 600 malnourished children through supplementary food to improve their health status according to the UNICEF standard.



## VOCATIONAL TRAINING

### Program objectives:

- Design and deliver market-driven Vocational training courses that create employment opportunities for youths.
- Promote gender equality among youths through sports so that they support adolescent girls and young women to pursue their life goals.
- Promote peace among youths through sports to foster peaceful coexistence in diverse communities.

DMI St. Joseph's Vocational Training School in Gurei gained more public recognition and it was selected as one of five schools to provide vocational skills training to 89 students (12-Beauty Arts, 35-tailoring, 42- Basic computer) are supported by the WFP Urban Safety Net Initiative through ForAfrika. SDMIC's vocational training has brought back hope to youths who were struggling with planning their lives for a prosperous future. SDMIC trained a good number of youths (276 – 171 male, 105 female) to undertake various vocational training courses.

- Provided training for 276 participants in Agriculture Extension Work (30), Hair Dressing (72), Tailoring (33), Computing (96) and Driving (45).
- Trainees in hair dressing have jobs in the saloons in Juba town and surrounding communities.

## WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

### Program Objectives:

- Women's Associations protect girls and women from violence and harmful practices.
- Women's Associations enable women to improve their social and economic status.

Providing support to women through small community groups like the Village Savings and Loans Associations is our main strategy for Women Empowerment. In this year, SDMIC continued to work with the Women Village Savings and Loans Associations in the four states where we have operational presence.

Women's Economic Empowerment through the Village Savings and Loans Associations (VSLA)- The Savings group concept has been adapted by DMI as the key community mobilization and resilience building approach.

- The leadership of the savings groups identified their members to participate in the economic empowerment training given by DMI team in Central Equatoria and Warrap states.
- Trained VLSA members in Business Management from Central Equatoria and Warrap states to improve their businesses.
- Members of VSLAs in IDP Camp-3 and Mangateen camp in Juba were trained in confectionery making, beads & embroidery and soap making.

**Women Empowerment Businesses (WEB)-** SDMIC strengthened the functions of WEB that was formed in 2022.

- WEB promoted and developed group businesses.
- Trained women in Business Management to develop basic book keeping systems to support business record keeping and ensure accountability for the group business' finances.
- Three groups met DMI's women's resilience building criteria by saving their own income for over 52 weeks.
- Provided enhancement grants of USD 2,000 to each of the three women's group that helped them to develop their businesses.

**GBV prevention interventions-** SDMIC work with GBV Monitoring and Protection Committees (GBV MPCs) to prevent GBV from happening in the communities.

- Formed 8 GBV monitoring and protection sub-committees (MPC) to address GBV issues.
- MPC members increased their knowledge on gender equality, GBV issues and transferred the knowledge to group members.
- Organized 27 VSLAs comprising of 769 members into three Women Federations making a mass movement called, JAM- Joint Action Movement.



## IMPACTS AND OUTCOMES

### Education Program

- 100% retention of children in schools.
- Handed over DMI St. Bhakita Primary School, Mauna to St. Kizito Parish.
- 27 school teachers adopted child-centered approach to educate the children in schools.
- 1,300 children enrolled in primary school and 250 nursery children have accessed the nutritious midday meal and improved their cognitive development.
- Prepared 193 Primary-8 pupils for the National Primary School leaving examination in November with the hope of obtaining excellent grades.
- Adolescent girls in DMI Nursery and Primary schools in IDP camp-3 enhanced their health and hygiene practices.
- Trained school teachers and school management committee members of six Parent Teachers Associations (PTAs) started managing the school function and resource mobilization for the continuous development of the school.

### Food Security and Livelihoods

- Reached out to 23,000 smallholder farmers in 48 Bomas in 10 Payams in Juba County, Central Equatoria State.
- Reached 960 smallholder farmers with agricultural input kits and vegetable seeds to practice sustainable farming during main a dry season in Fashoda County, Upper Nile State.
- Supported 8,000 farming households to practice fishing as livelihoods option with fishing kits in the two states.
- Provided Kabo and Bori farmers' federations grinding machines in 2022 to support value addition of their crops and vegetables (Sorghum, Maize, Okra and Groundnuts).
- Provided motor cycles for three federations in Juba (Kabo, Bori and Nyuwa) to transport the Value Chain of the crops and vegetables produced by members from their farms to the stores in their community where aggregation and value addition processes are undertaken before marketing.
- Over 50% of 540 members of the three federations now earn over SSP50,000 (USD 50) in weekly sales of sorghum flour processed at their Federations mini grinding mills.
- The federations have a weekly revenue of SSP 100,000 (USD 100) by providing grains and vegetables grinding services to the general community.
- The federation members addressed their household needs including their family health care service, paying children school fees and even buying luxury items like mobile phones.
- The involvement of the government officials (with the Central Equatoria State Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and the Environment) at local, state and national levels in Food Security and Livelihoods program ensured sustainability of DMI intervention.



## Humanitarian Assistance

- 2,354 women, children and men were treated for Malaria, Skin, Typhoid and water borne diseases through health camps in Mangateen and IDP Camp-3 in Juba.
- Supported 300 pregnant women & lactating mothers and 600 malnourished children with supplementary food.
- More than two thirds of the pregnant women reported to have safely delivered normal weight babies.
- The malnourished children have regained healthy weight.
- Constructed 25 low-cost permanent houses and handed over to 25 women headed IDP families in Kapuri community.
- Trained Kapuri Development Association (KDA) leaders/members to monitor and support the house owners in relation local government regulations on housing.
- 360 people have access to nutrition and prevented from health related diseases in Somba.
- Supported IDPs (250 women) with food and non-food items accommodated in Holy Cross Parish in Kworajok community to overcome extreme hunger.
- 300 pregnant women are reported to have safe delivery of healthy babies, and over 600 of the malnourished children have gained healthy weight according to the UNICEF standard.

## Vocational Training

- Our DMI St. Joseph's Vocational Training School in Gurei gained more public recognition that equipped 800 youths with various vocational skills.
- The commercial banks employed up to 5 of our computer skills trainees, 3 groups of trainees formed their own small business in their communities where they provide desktop publishing services.
- 72 trainees in hair dressing are instantly employed and earn the average daily income of SSP10000 (about USD10) from their hair dressing service.
- Agriculture Extension Workers have established 5 demonstration sites in their communities where farmers are learning good agriculture practices.

## Women Empowerment

- The trained women shared the knowledge and skills with their fellow members to improve their business skills in Central Equatoria and Warrap states.
- Members of VSLAs in IDP Camp-3 and Mangateen camp have a small income from their small businesses.
- WEB members managed their businesses and maintained accounting systems for their investments, expenses and income.
- Three women groups initiated the group businesses and have hope to get the profit of up to 40%.
- MPC members identified and facilitated GBV survivors to join women groups.
- Reduced GBV occurrences through the intervention of MPC members in the communities.
- Promoted a mass movement named JAM- Joint Action Movement against GBV.
- The federations engaged local authorities to address GBV issues affecting women and girls in their communities

## IN-COUNTRY REVENUE GENERATION ACTIVITIES

- DMI, World Concern and War Child signed and MoU confirming commitment of the three organisations to work together on fund raising effort. The consortium has now embarked on developing a Concept Note in readiness for an upcoming EU call for proposals.
- We made exploratory visited to UNOCHA to seek support for the transportation of a boat DMI has procured for Malakal program. The assistant head of UNOCHA Mission connected DMI with Humanitarian Logistics cluster and also advised DMI to be active in the Humanitarian Cluster and other thematic clusters where DMI can showcase its work. We held online meeting with the logistics cluster coordinator who guided us on the processes to follow to gain assistance from them to transport the DMI cargo by flight from Juba to Malakal.
- DMI participated in STROME Foundation call for expression of Interest.





**PROGRAM PHOTOS**



**Children learning in IDP school**



**Distribution of Dignity kits**



**General Education to the Children**



**Distribution of Tools**



**Food Security and Livelihood**



**Enhancement grant support**



**Computer Course**



**Beautician Course**



**Women involved in Embroidery**



**Graduation to the Youth**



**Hai Baraka Village – Federation Meeting**

## SUCCESS STORIES

### **STORY - 1 Ms. Jackline Poni Noel, moving out of abject poverty by life-changing business opportunities**



Ms. Jackline Poni Noel is a 35 old women lives in Logo West in Rajaf Payam. She has four children (2 boys and 2girls) with an unemployed husband. She also continues love, care and affection for the four children of her late brother who died during the civil war. She grows vegetables for household consumption and sometime sells surplus. The little income

she earns from the sale of vegetable barely sustains her family. Her children who attend a government primary school in their community were always absent from school because of lack of school materials. This incident always brought shame to her in addition of the risk of her children missing learning.

She always thought of undertaking some type of business to raise income in order to address the household financial needs such as nutritious food and dress for family members and school materials for her children. She was unable to undertake business apart from the sale of vegetable surplus

Money lenders in her community give out loans at 100% interest rate. She was unwilling to obtain loan from money lenders due to the high interest and fear of inability to repay the loan in case of a business failure. “I had given up on trying to do any other business because I was unable to raise any amount of capital to start even the cooked food business in our neighborhood” she said.

She was identified by DMI team during community mobilization meeting for the joint venture with FAO/UNOPS. She was qualified to participate in the Labour-Intensive Public Work (LIPW) in her community. She was happily registered herself for the works. She said that “the three hours of work at the public work site cannot prevent me from doing my routine private works” during the registration process for the LIPW. She and the fellow group members work on nursing tree seeds at a tree nursery site and established in Logo West community in Rajaf Payam. After the first 15 days’ cycle of work, she along with the other beneficiaries received the payment in local currency which is equivalent of USD 40. She was happy that her dream comes true to start a business. She started saving the entire earning and the incentives for second and third cycles of work. This helped her to raise the income of USD 120 (SSP120, 000) and start her cookery business at home. This business flourished gradually and generated a revenue of USD 10 (SSP 10,000) that expanded to include a teashop.

she enhanced her self-confidence and hope and said, “I am now hopeful; my family will move from abject poverty”. I will be able to back up my children with school materials and continue their schooling. She also emphasized that DMI support and LIPW incentive removed disgrace from my family and rekindle our hope. I am very grateful to all who contributed for this transformation.

## **Story -2- Ms. Gune Doreen, a breakthrough journey from Desperation to Inspiration**



Ms. Gune Doreen is a mother of four children. She endured a painful separation from her husband in 2020 due to physical violence and a lack of economic support. After the separation, she struggled to meet the day to day expenses, and accessing one meal in a day. Her children discontinued schooling due to the poverty and unpaid school fees. These incidences heavily affected her psychologically.

She was thinking that she failed in her role as a responsible mother. As reason she isolated herself from other women.

Through the Support of Joint Action movement members (JAM), she was referred to SDMIC caseworkers. The caseworker provided her continuous individual counselling sessions to overcome her pain, trauma and cope up with the situation. the case worker facilitated her to join VSLA in order to revitalise her life and change her desperate life to joyful life. In 2023, she joined the Maririjita VSLA group and received supported from the group members that boosted up her confidence level. She took a loan from VSLA group and started a small business in cookies and tea selling in a small shop near her home. This newfound source of income allowed her to care for her children and reenrol them in affordable schools. With high hopes, Ms. Gune believes that through the VSLA loans, she will expand her business and support her children to access to better life.

Later, she was elected as the group representative to participate in the Peace and Prosperity Federation. The Federation widened her understanding and transformed her from a shy woman to a courageous advocate for vulnerable women. Gaining confidence from the Federation meetings, Gune now fearlessly speaks in public, offering advice to her neighbours and sharing the knowledge acquired from the social discussions in their weekly VSLA meetings. She became a role model for other women in the group. She expressed her gratitude to SDMIC, VSLA members and others to break through all the barriers and come up in life.



## SPECIAL EVENTS, VISITS AND MEDIA COVERAGE

**Participation in the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (UNFAO)-** Rev. Sr. Rengis Mary, DMI South Sudan Country Director, David Sovula - Deputy County Director for Programs and Sr. Judith DMI's FSL Program Manager have participated in this meeting. The UN Food and Agriculture Agency unveiled plans for increasing food production in South Sudan and expressed optimism for enormous agriculture potentials to produce food to not only feed itself but other countries within the region.



**Launch of Guidance Note for GBV prevention programming in South Sudan organized by the Japanese International Corporation Agency (JICA)-** DMI is one of four NGOs that were contracted by JICA to implement Pilot Activities for GBV program intervention. In September JICA organized an event to launch the GBV Guidance Note as an outcome of the seven months' pilot activities. The launch event was attended by officials from the Ministry of Gender Child and Social Welfare, UN Agencies (UN Women, UNDP) and other civil society organizations.

### **Celebration of World Peace Day-**

Peace building is crosscutting themes to all of our programmes. Celebrated the world peace day with VSLA members, PTA members, youths, and community members and disseminated the information on the importance of community meetings and the importance of Peace. SDMIC Organized World Peace Day Celebration in three operational states- Gogrial (Warrap State), Kodok, (Upper Nile State) and Juba, (Central Equatoria State). The World Peace Day as part of "Peace Begins with Me Campaign" was attended by key National and State stakeholders in the three locations. In Kodok, the event was attended by the Fashoda County Commissioner and Bishop of Malakal. The Chancellor of the Catholic University of South Sudan was the key note speaker of the event in Juba. Over 500 community people (women, men and boys and girls) attended. The governor or Warrap State was delighted to attend the World Peace Day with DMI in Gogrial.



## ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT

<b>Details</b>	<b>Receipts (South Sudan Pound)</b>	<b>Payments (SSP)</b>	<b>Balances as of December 31, 2023 (SSP)</b>
Opening balance as of January 1, 2023	300,368,148	300,368,148	0
Total Receipts from DMI & Payments from that fund	33,750,000	33,430,000	320,000
Total Receipts from all donors and payments from that fund	1,360,266,000	1,244,016,000	116,250,000
Total Receipts from in- country donation/fee/sale and other minor incomes	63,462,500	51,812,500	11,650,000
<b>Total (South Sudan Pound)</b>	<b>1,757,846,648</b>	<b>1,629,626,648</b>	<b>128,220,000</b>
<b>Total (USD) @ 1000</b>	<b>1,757,846</b>	<b>1,629,626</b>	<b>128,220</b>

## CONCLUSION

The year, 2023 has been a critical year with multiple dynamics that impacted our operations. Despite the shift in the funding paradigm, some of our donors and well-wishers maintained support for our work throughout 2023. We would like to use this opportunity to express our profound gratitude to UN-FAO, CARITAS/Germany, CAFOD and Troicair in Partnership, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), and Manos Unidas, Africa Directo organizations for their countless support. We are grateful to the government of South Sudan for creating the conducive working environment. We are particularly grateful to the Ministers and the staff of the Central Equatoria State, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Environment, Central Equatoria, Ministry of Gender Women, Child and Social Welfare, Central Equatoria, State Ministry of Education, the Relief and Rehabilitation Commission and the security forces for providing us the support needed to deliver our programs unhindered. The local authorities have always stood with us in creating an enabling environment for the designing and implementation of our programs.

We are grateful to the chiefs and the community women, the federation leaders who are determined to take leader their own change and development. The achievements mentioned here were made possible only because of the dedication and commitment of our Sisters and staff in the program areas. I will would like to express thanks to all sisters and staff members.



## ANNUAL PLAN - 2024

### C. Program & Financial Plan:

<b>Program Area/Plan details</b>	<b>Number of Boma</b>	<b>Number of direct participants</b>	<b>Annual Projected budget (USD)</b>	<b>Funds raised for this program (USD)</b>	<b>Balance funds to be raised for this program (USD)</b>
Strengthening Women' Community Institutions (VSLAs, Federation and Business women' association)	7	2050	225,000	128,000	97,000
Nursery & Primary education in two DMI managed schools (Juba & Gogrial)	2	1800	65,000	0	65,000
Empowerment of IDP Youth to promote Gender Equity	1	80	8,000	8,000	0
Vocational training for youths	1	60	18,000	18,000	0
Strengthening Farmers' Community Institutions (Associations, Cooperatives), building capacities and giving inputs	3	11500	923,914	828,210	95,704
Technical Assistance Services to other NGOs	0	5	100,000	19,657	80,343
Humanitarian Assistance activities	1		68,000	68,000	0
<b>Total (USD)</b>			<b>1,407,914</b>	<b>1,069,867</b>	<b>338,047</b>



## B. Staffing Plan:

<b>Category of staff/Numbers in each category</b>	<b>No. of Senior Leadership staff (CD/DCD/Senior Manager and others)</b>	<b>No. of Middle-level staff (Unit/office/program/Project Manager, Coordinator)</b>	<b>No. of Entry-level staff (Officer/Assistant and other support staff)</b>	<b>DMI managed Schools</b>
DMI members	2	6	8	1
Expat staff		2	3	
In-country staff		2	34	27
<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>Grand Total = 85</b>				

## C. Capital Investment Plan:

<b>Category of Capital Investment</b>	<b>No. of Units to be purchased</b>	<b>Budget (USD)</b>	<b>Amount raised for this purchase</b>	<b>Balance amount to be raised</b>
Building Construction (Juba, Kodok & Malakal)	3	543,000	290,000	253,000
Storage container at Kodok	1	12,000	12,000	0
<b>Total (USD)</b>		<b>555,000</b>	<b>302,000</b>	<b>253,000</b>

## D. Revenue Generation Plan:

<b>S.No</b>	<b>Sources of revenue generation</b>	<b>Annual Surplus amount that will generated</b>
1	School	5,000
2	Vocational School	20,000
	<b>Total (USD)</b>	<b>25,000</b>



**The Society of Daughters of Mary Immaculate and Collaborators  
(DMI Sisters)**

**Post Box: 318, Juba, South Sudan**

**Mobile: +211 921 026 569/+211 914 942 998**

**Email: southsudanco.sdmic@gmail.com**

**Website: <http://www.sudanabbafathermission.org>**