



# **Society of Daughters of Mary Immaculate and Collaborators - South Sudan**

**Country Strategy  
2021-25**

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## **VISION**

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

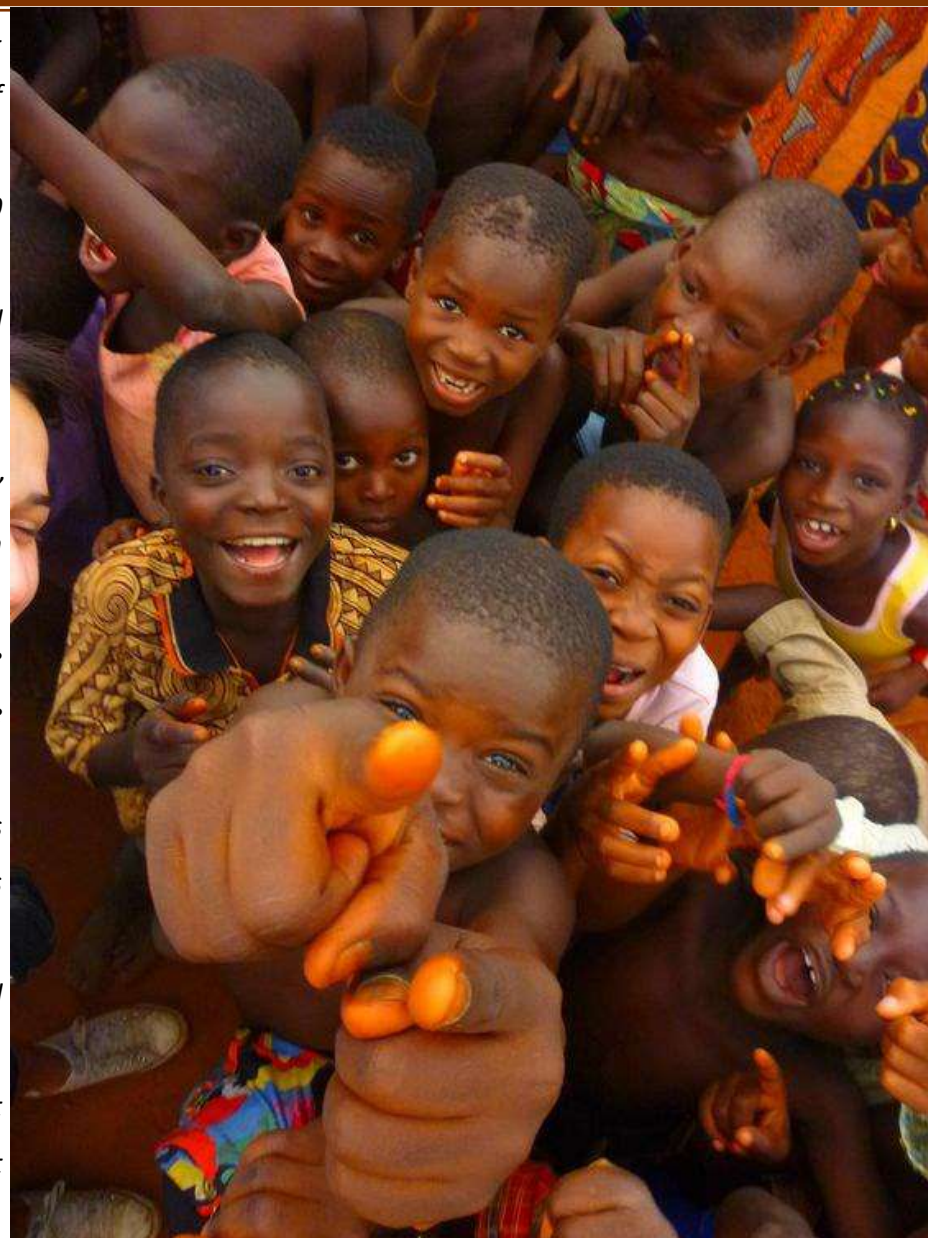
## **MISSION**

**Committed to love and serve the poor and marginalized communities unconditionally, especially the women and the children to enable them to get their legitimate share in the socio-economic and political development. Work with the communities to bring peace and reconciliation for peaceful coexistence**

## KEY RESULTS ACHIEVED IN FIRST STRATEGY PERIOD (2014 – 2020)

*SDMIC programs while responding to the emergency needs due to conflict also promoted several community institutions and built local capacities. The key results of the concluding strategy are presented below:*

- ◆ *Nine thousand seven hundred and twenty (9720) farmers were organized into 180 farmer's associations and they practice sustainable farming methods.*
- ◆ *The cultivation area was expanded by 1887 acres that resulted in increased food production for 1183 households.*
- ◆ *Provided primary education to 6600 children through 15 community schools.*
- ◆ *Promoted School Management Committees (SMCs) and Parent and Teachers' Associations (PTAs) in 12 schools that ensured participation of the communities in the schools management for sustainability.*
- ◆ *Formed 20 women protection committees comprising of village chiefs, police officers, school teachers and elected government leaders to prevent violence against women and child marriages.*
- ◆ *Women in Warrap, Lakes and Central Equatorial states formed 503 village savings and loan association (VSLA) with 15,000 members and were engaged in savings and loan activities.*
- ◆ *A platform to promote peace and address community conflicts was created through the establishment of 55 Peace and Reconciliation Committees (PRCs).*
- ◆ *Health services through monthly medical camps reached 15703 patients (pregnant women, lactating mothers, children and the elderly) from UN camps and host communities.*

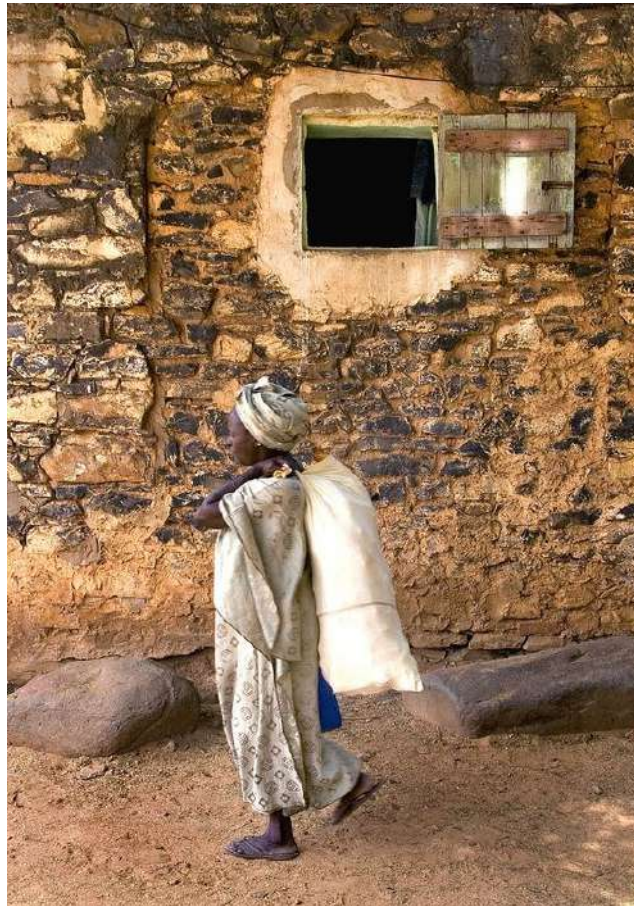




# Country Context

South Sudan is one of the three most- food insecure countries despite its favorable conditions for agriculture. The country is at the bottom of the Human Development Index (HDI) at 185 out of 189 countries (Ref: 2020 HDR). Out of 12.4 million population, about 85% are involved in agriculture and 65% own cattle. Currently less than 5% of the total land area of the country is being used for cultivation. It was estimated by UNFAO that by July 2022, 7.74 million people will face food shortages at Integrated Phase Classification (IPC) level 3 (Crisis level) and this shortage has been recurring over the years.

The literacy rate of the country is only 35% (Ref: WB) and 2.2 million children are out of school (Ref: UNESCO). Only 44% teachers are trained and qualified (Ref: WB) . Most of the rural schools lack basic infrastructure and teaching and learning materials. Out of the country's 51% youth population, most did not have the opportunity to either complete formal schooling or acquire a work skill for gainful employment.



Up to 52% girls in the country get married before their 18th birthday. Sexual and gender-based violence is prevalent, with at least 4 out of 10 women reported to have experienced one or more forms of violence. Traditional beliefs, cultural

practices and patriarchy encourage child marriage and marginalizes women.

The formation of the unity government on 22nd February 2020 paved the way for the reintegration of 1.5 million Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) and 2.2 million refugees. The UN mission in the country has started phased withdrawal from the Protection of Civilian (PoC) Sites. It is expected that the IDPs will explore possibilities of returning to their native communities. Likewise, the facilitating NGOs have started to review their IDP support strategies to align with the unity government's priority for reintegration of IDPs and refugees.

While the government of South Sudan had developed policies that ensure food security, education, protection of women and employment opportunities for youth, the government welcomes the collaborative efforts of Civil Society Organization (CSOs) for the realization of these policies.

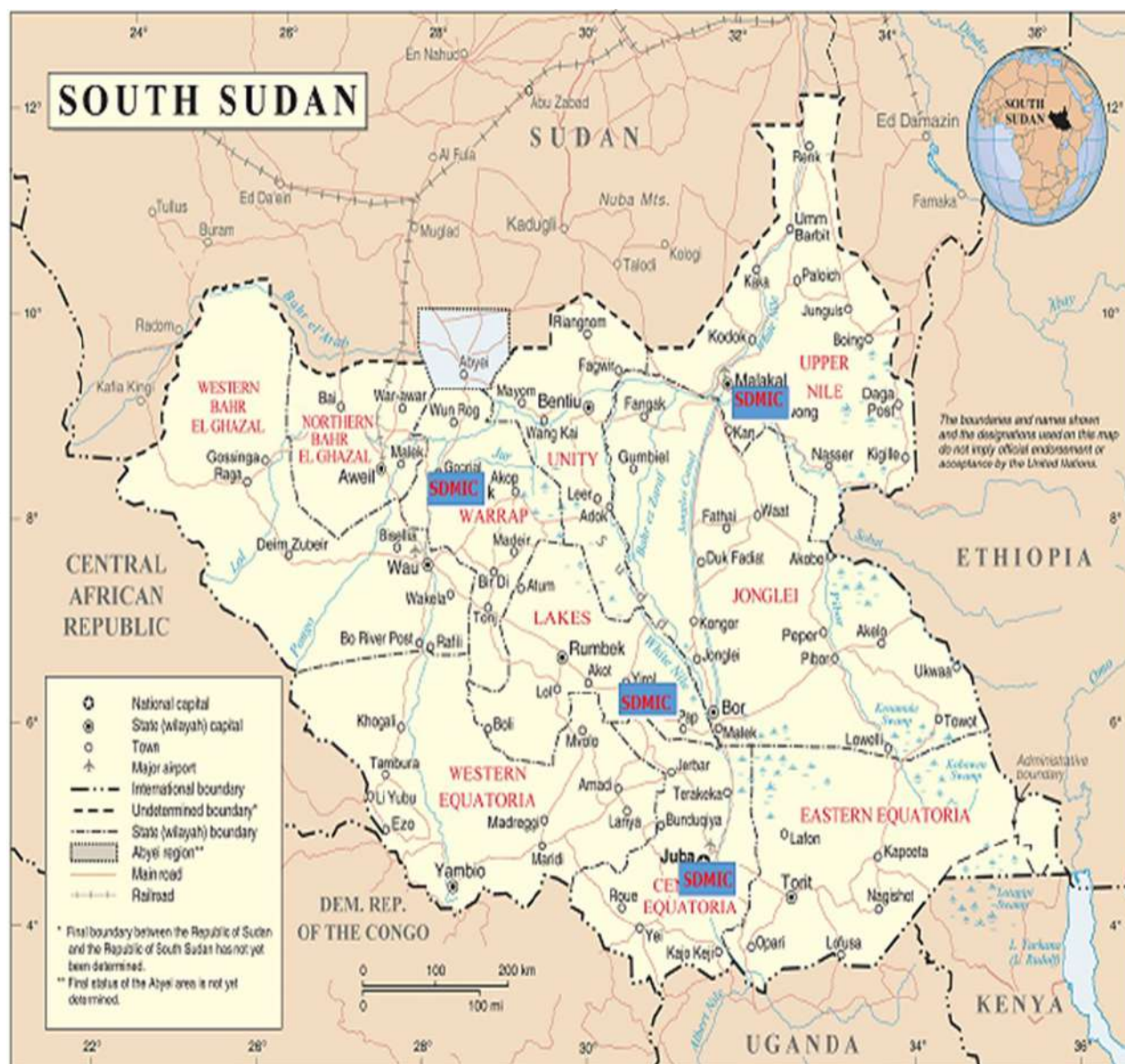
## Introduction to Strategy Document

## Geographic coverage

The strategy development team reviewed the progress that was made against the first strategy, reflected on the learnings from the field and identified the critical gaps which formed the basis for development of the new strategy.

Based on the review of the strategy document in March/April 2022, changes have been made to bring in more clarity for effective implementation. The strategy document now includes programme areas, objectives and activities. Strategy Map has been replaced with Theory of Change. We will conduct an impact assessment to measure our goal realization in 2024, to develop next 5-year strategy.

We shall promote sustainable communities in four states (Central Equatorial, Lakes, Warrap and Upper Nile) in which community institutions such as farmers' association, children and youth groups will be promoted. In addition, Humanitarian responses may extend beyond the four states mentioned above.





# THEORY OF CHANGE

**Purpose: Women, children and smallholder farmers improve their socio-economic status; accept diversity and foster peaceful co-existence**

## Pathways for change

## Outcome

## Impact

### *When the farmers*

- ◆ come together and form solidarity groups
- ◆ acquire knowledge and skills and practice
- ◆ generate internal group fund and use loans for agriculture and supplementary business activities

### *When women*

- ◆ come together and reflect about their status in the family and society
- ◆ determine to act together as group for social and economic improvement

### *When youth*

- ◆ pursue gender-sensitive and peace-promoting process of acquiring skills for employment

### *When adolescent girls and boys*

- ◆ come together in group and use sports as a medium to learn about peace and gender equity

### *When primary school Children*

- ◆ have an opportunity to learn in a child-friendly class room environment with teachers using child-centered methodology

### *Functional Farmers Associations that:*

- ◆ provide access to loans and improve/expand livelihood opportunities for members
- ◆ enable members to utilize acquired resources and access services leading to increased agricultural productivity
- ◆ aggregate agricultural produce and promote value-addition for increased profit
- ◆ provide women opportunities to take up leadership positions and contribute to equitable gender relations
- ◆ foster respect for diversity and peaceful co-existence

### *Functional Women Associations that:*

- ◆ provide access to loans and improve/expand livelihood opportunities for members
- ◆ provide women opportunities to take up leadership positions and contribute to equitable gender relations
- ◆ foster respect for diversity and peaceful co-existence

### *Youth*

- ◆ become gender-sensitive, peace-conscious, productive and lead an improved standard of life

### *Adolescent girls and boys*

- ◆ respect gender differences and contribute to peaceful co-existence

### *Children*

- ◆ attain class-appropriate learning levels and transition to the next class

**Economically and socially empowered communities contribute to peace, gender equity and nation building**



## **Objectives**

- 1) Small holder farmer's associations promote sustainable agriculture practices leading to increase in crop production**
- 2) Small holder farmer's associations create internal funds for financing agriculture and allied activities leading to increased income**
- 3) Farmers Producer Organizations promote collective marketing and value added services leading to increased profits**





## Program Activities

### 1. Establish Smallholder Farmers' Associations (FA):

- ◆ Form Farmers Associations
- ◆ Formulate bye-laws and create decision making structure
- ◆ Organize regular meetings with proper record keeping

### 2. Establish Smallholder Farmers Producers Organizations (FPO):

- ◆ Form FPOs
- ◆ Formulate bye-laws and create decision making structure
- ◆ Organize regular meetings with proper record keeping
- ◆ Acquire infrastructures that could support members to cultivate, store and market
- ◆ Conduct market assessment to identify potential market
- ◆ Create linkages that support the marketing of the member FAs produce

### 3. Build Capacity of small holder farmers to:

- ◆ Manage Farmers Associations and FPOs
- ◆ Generate internal fund using Village Savings and Loan Association (VSLA) methodology
- ◆ Develop and manage individual and group businesses
- ◆ Adopt soil and water conservation techniques for farming
- ◆ Adopt sustainable farming methods
- ◆ Adopt climate-resilient agricultural practices
- ◆ Manage and practice post-harvest storage methods
- ◆ Undertake value addition of farm produce
- ◆ Create linkages for collective marketing
- ◆ Develop linkages with relevant Government structures



## **Objectives:**

- 1) Design and deliver market-driven vocational training courses that create employment opportunities for youth**
- 2) Design and deliver training on child-centered methodology for primary school teachers leading to quality education for children**

## **Program Activities**

### **1. Vocational Education:**

- ◆ Conduct Market Assessment to inform selection of courses
- ◆ Develop Curriculum based on TVET guidelines
- ◆ Integrate gender-sensitivity, peace-promotion and small business management modules in the training curriculum
- ◆ Acquire training equipment and expand infrastructural facilities

- ◆ Plan and conduct training courses
- ◆ Network with potential employers for job placement

### **2. General Education**

- ◆ Assess capacity gaps of in-service teachers
- ◆ Develop curriculum based on assessment and MOGEI guidelines
- ◆ Plan and conduct school-based training for teachers





## **Objectives**

- 1) Women's Associations contribute to protection of girls and women from violence and harmful practices**
- 2) Women's Associations enable women to improve their social and economic status**

## **Program Activities**

### **1. Sensitize women's associations**

- ◆ Form women's associations
- ◆ Sensitize members about women's role and status in family and society
- ◆ Motivate women to take up leadership in the association

### **2. Promote internal fund development**

- ◆ Introduce savings and lending in women's association
- ◆ Develop internal fund
- ◆ Utilize loan for individual and group businesses



### 3. Care and support for survivors

- ◆ Familiarize with the current referral pathways for women and GBV survivors
- ◆ Identify GBV survivors and lead them through specialized services through the referral pathway
- ◆ Facilitate immediate counseling and other support services
- ◆ Facilitate economic empowerment to restore their dignity

### 4. Promote women's leadership

- ◆ Identify women with leadership potential
- ◆ Provide leadership training and mentor selected women as successful entrepreneurs and/or social change agents

### 5. Build capacity of women associations to:

- ◆ Manage the association
- ◆ Participate in decision making at family
- ◆ Enable members to take up leadership positions at community-level
- ◆ Generate internal fund using Savings and Loan Association (VSLA) methodology
- ◆ Develop and manage individual and group businesses
- ◆ Develop linkages with relevant Government structures





# Humanitarian Assistance (HA)

## Objectives

- 1) Provide relief and recovery support to food insecure communities affected by natural and man-made disasters
- 2) Pilot and develop scale-up model that enables reintegration of IDPs to their native counties/state

## Program activities

### 1. Emergency Relief Assistance

- ◆ Medical Camps and referrals
- ◆ Psycho-social counseling
- ◆ Distribution of food and non-food items
- ◆ Education in Emergencies

### 2. Recovery and rehabilitation

- ◆ Vocational training for youth
- ◆ Primary Education for Children
- ◆ Health Education
- ◆ Life skills for adolescent girls
- ◆ Sports for gender equity
- ◆ Play for peace
- ◆ Care and support for GBV victims
- ◆ Savings and Lending
- ◆ Entrepreneurship training

# Organizational Capacities and Strategies for Resource Mobilization and Sustainability



**Organizational Capacities** The internal 'capacity assessment' confirmed our ability to promote community institutions that will sustain beyond project term. We shall strengthen our capacities on core agriculture practices, soil and water conservation techniques, working with young men and using sports to enhance gender equality. Our demonstrated leadership, accountability and management competencies will be further strengthened to realize our country strategy.

**Resource Mobilization** We will continue to build our internal capacities for designing high quality proposals and subsequently develop and submit time bound, result oriented and sustainable projects that will meet the standards of multilateral, bilateral organizations and international NGOs. We shall redesign our website, use social media and other digital platforms to attract online donations for specific activities and increase our visibility with potential donors.

**Sustainability** We co-design projects with communities and support them to acquire the required knowledge and skills to implement it. We promote community institutions, strengthen their competencies, leadership and management capacities that will ensure some of the best practices are continued beyond the project period. We build basic community infrastructure that promotes participation and/or enhances their livelihoods. We train teachers from Government, Faith-based and Community schools resulting in contextual learning experiences of children that motivates them to complete formal education. Since the community members actively participate in their own development during the project term and witness success, it is expected that they will continue to lead their own development.