

**EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF SUDAN AND SOUTH SUDAN,**

**P.O. BOX AWEIL DOWN TOWN.**

**PROGRESS REPORT ON GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION IN AWEIL  
DIOCESE, SOUTH SUDAN 2014:**

This School is going to be the first Girls High School not only for ECS but the whole Northern Bahr El Ghazal State with the population of 720,898 (2008)

Northern Bahr El Ghazal is one of 10 states of South Sudan with largely Dinka and other Migrating tribes from Sudan such as Misseriya and Rezeigats

It has an area of 30.543 km and is part of Bahr El Ghazal region. It borders South Darfur to the north, Western Bahr El Ghazal to the west and south, and Warap and Abyei to the east. Aweil is the Capital of the State and head Quarter of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan, Diocese of Aweil.

May be I will just give you a brief history about Northern Bahr El Ghazal State and called originally Aweil under which the Diocese of Aweil is named and how Northern Bahr El Ghazal became one of the States that seriously need education of Girls.

Because of its proximity to Kordofan and the presence of a railway lines through it to Wau it suffered extensively in the recent ended civil wars in southern Sudan. Northern Bahr El Ghazal and adjacent parts of Western Kordofan to the north are among the most politically sensitive regions in Sudan.

Misseriya Arabs from Kordofan have interacted with Dinka in Aweil over a long time. While relations during the colonial era were largely peaceful, the recent war saw an upsurge in hostilities. Government backing to the Misseriya gave them a decided advantage over local Dinka groups, raiding by *muralhileen* militias and other government backed groups including some Dinka militias in the Northern Sudan by then resulted in considerable loss of life, widespread of abduction of children girls and boys, girls were turn to wives and boys cattle keepers and farmers for Arabs and pillaging of Dinka villages and so many untold destruction.

Therefore, Aweil ECS Girls High School will accommodate about 40-50 girls students as it is the only girls high school in Aweil State. Girls have so many social, cultural and economic issues that has made it difficult for them to go to school or even those who got a chance to go to school do not finish their high school due to early marriages for economics purposes, culture does not promote Girls child educations, boys do disturbed girls in shared schools hence environment sometime become unfavorable and unconducive for their learning. Aweil Diocese is responding to such huge need by constructing this vibrant project in the community as its commitment and dedication to holistic development that encompasses human needs.



These are burnt bricks transported to the project site. The gentleman standing next to bricks is the constructor.



Burnt Bricks gathered at the project site. **LEFT TO RIGHT.**

Revd. Joseph Mamer Manot,

Revd. James Akol Mawien and Angelo Azeber Athuai. The construction of this school started late because of current conflict in South Sudan which delays half funds for the project to be wired by the donors to requesting body. There were uncertainties whether this project will really be implemented since fighting was getting escalating and displacements and insecurity in South Sudan, we thank God that we walk forward by faith and indeed this vibrant project started despite enormous insecurity, humanitarian challenges including untold deaths in South Sudan.

Before construction started, there was a formation of a small team to work with Revd. Joseph Mamer to assist him on overall work of school construction. Comprised with Revd. Stephen Mayuen Mou who is the Diocesan administrative Secretary, Revd. William Aguer Aguer, pastor in-charge of Holy Trinity Cathedral, Rural dean, James Akol Mawien, security guards Akuardit, and Revd. Joseph Mamer Manot who is the executive Secretary of Projects to spearhead construction. The construction began on 24<sup>th</sup> April 2014 but rain stopped the transportation of bricks for 2 weeks, the road to project site were impassable/blocked by water.



See above is a heap of burn bricks transported to the project site in Riang-Makuei.



The builders have begun clearing the ground to lay foundation



**(Innovation)-Water Container)**

Because limited funds could not allow us to buy water containers to store water at project site. See above is a short well locally dug to store water for construction at the project site, Water points are far from project site. Some Church members volunteers to transport water for school constructions as their in-kind contribution towards this project.



Those are classes, you could see builders are very busy doing construction at Project site.



This is the wall of classes raised.



Those are offices for teaching and non-teaching staffs in the future.



Classes on back view 6 by 8. One class can take 45-60 students. It is now raised remaining roofing only.



Class on back view. We are appealing for more funds for roofing and other parts.



Front View.





**PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS:**

Those young Girls are excited and waiting eagerly to enroll once it is finished. Most of these girls are in Primary 8 and one girl one in white shirt is in Senior One looks so happy and confident to enroll next year. They pray at Holy Trinity Church



Josephina Ahok who is also a church choir member but in Senior One. I asked her why do you like Girls School only? And this is what she had to say “ I like to study where there are no boys because boys disturb us, they say I love you, we do not get time to play, when we play boys looks at us” but when we have our school a lone we shall be able to concentrate on education only and distance ourselves from boys and other social disturbances. We shall be able to read the Bible better since its going to be church school unlike the mixed ones we have.



**Elisabeth Ayen Atak** (smiling) in the middle whose father Revd Daniel Atak Atak recently died of asthma in Cairo. She is now left with her jobless mother whose hope is only in the Lord. Ayen said, "Although my dear and beloved father died, I pray to God to bless me with only school fees so that I complete my Senior Four in this upcoming Girls High School". She holds some Dinka cultural values where young ones do not look at adult eyes when talking as a kind of respect when you do not look at elderly people's eyes directly which may be different from other worlds where its disrespect when you do not look at elderly people's eyes. She and her colleagues are so excited to hear in the church today that there is a girls High School in being started.



Teresa Atong is very excited and happy, she could not believe her ears that there is

going to be a Girls High School. Teresa Angong Malong at right side in black is very keen and happy when she heard that Girls High school being started in the Diocese. She is one of the committed girls she came from the interior village to her uncle to study when she sees that villages' schools are giving quality education as well as social disturbances her peer group. She said the following words" I'm happy today because I will be in a school that has Christian **values, Principles** and **disciplines**. I'm sure and confident that I will finish my high school, I hope it is going to be an environment peaceful and conducive for studies where there are fewer disturbances socially"



One blessing counts," last year we got this biggest church in the State, We are more than a blessed God's children, we have a space to worship our true God in" as you can see at their back is their beautiful Cathedral, Holy Trinity Cathedral, ECS,

Aweil Diocese. They have just come out from Dinka Service. Holy Trinity is not finished but most Christians members do rejoice and happy to have such an amazing church. We again blessed to have Girls High School where we shall definitely enroll next year God willing.

### **ST.JOSEPH CATHEDRAL PRIMARY SCHOOL (ECS MATHIANG)**



### **LEARNING IN A SHADE OF THE CHURCH BUILDING (Potential children for Girls High School as most of them here are girls)**

In South Sudan many young children are hungry of education despites enormous challenges they face in yearning for education. These children are learning in the shade of Church building because they lack a building space for learning. They spend less than 3 hours a day in the class because of sun hence students do not finish the syllabus which always result to poor performance of students. They only need temporarily shelter for learning. Most of these children come from very poor families as it was hoped they would get better education with considerable school fee.



**PRIMARY ONE LEARNING IN UN-OPEN SHADE: ( Potential Girls among these children)**

These primary one students are taking their classes in an open shade as you could see, this shade was covered by tents but got spoil because of direct heat of sun and now they are learning in an open class. One of the boys (Tong) told me that “ we have not been able to take our lessons because of constant interruption of rain ad sun and I do not know when shall we have lessons taught” Their shelter was made by the community but now are unable to cover it because of poverty and exhausted of being cover every year.

Adut of St. Joseph School was also happy saying that she will soon join Girls High School at Riang Makuei.

It is not only the shade that they lack but they do not even have something to sit on in the class, you could see they normally take their classes on the floor but look serious and attentive their only much concern in rain and sun, lack of bench or chair is a secondary need to them.



**ABUK AJANG WHO IS A FAMILY TEACHER WITH HER COLLEAGUE STANDING IN FRONT OF STUDENTS.**

She is telling me that the only serious challenge is lack of shelter for learners. “You could see these young ones are seriously hungry of education but there are so many factors that do not allow them to learn. One of the challenges is lack of a conducive learning environment, they are always interrupted by rain and sun” We have hung up their blackboard because there is no class. We have qualified teachers but we do not have classes for our students to learn in. The school is under ECS church administration and the church does not have funds to support teaching and non-teaching staff.

## **GIRLS' DORMITORY NOT STARTED YET:**

We have got a limited grants from Anglican Relief and Development Funds but those funds will not be cover both classes, administration block and dormitory reasons are that, there is insufficiency of those funds already received from ARDF and at the same times high inflation of construction items and high cost of everything in South Sudan has significantly impacted this project. The projected budget for this school to complete needs as estimate of \$90,000-\$100,000 or even more depends with the presence of peace and stability in South Sudan which we all hope to have it soon to pave ways for developmental activities.

We are yet to begin dormitory, to buy bricks and other materials for starting.

## **ACHIEVEMENTS:**

### **1. School land**

School land has been identified and given by the community and state authority as an in-kind contribution to Girls High School. This land can take big dormitory, Library, Chapel, kitchen dining Hall and Space for Sports and Games and many other activities.

### **2. Classes (Form 1-Form 4)** this school is a High School which will only enroll Girls from Form 1 to Form 4 with acceptable Entry qualifications after open recruitment. Classes have ready been built, roofed as you could see them in the photo attached, windows and doors are also been fixed remaining plastering of floor and wall which needs more money to complete this.



**Four classes and administration block photoed by Mamer**

**3. Administration block.**

The school Administration block has been built and roofed which will be used by the school administrator, School Head Master and teaching Staffs. It has a capacity of 5 tables



**Administration Block, standing in front is Rev. William Aguer Aguer, a construction team member inspecting the building.**



**Administration Block.**

**Fence:** The school has been fenced wire with big gate fixed.





**4. Student Chapel:**

This is one of components of this project, one of the objectives was on spiritual part of it, this chapel is still under thatching but soon gets finish, it has 150 members but number keeps increasing each day. Many are being converted to Christ. We are glad to acknowledge the enormous and visible contribution made by our local church members and are very positive to continue their in-kind contribution to see this school is built and girls are enrolled yearly. Here is our grass-Thatched chapel inside the school compound for students.



## **STUDENT CHAPEL**

### **CHALLENGES:**

#### **1. CONFLCIT, INSECURITY AND INSTABILITY IN SOUTH SUDAN:**

- Current conflict in South Sudan had delayed the funds to be sent in advance when there was no rain because of rain prices especially construction and building materials have raised high double. As it has limited many traders who bring goods from Sudan, East Africa such as Kenya, Uganda and hence encourage heavily pricing of limited resources available for until late or early next year.
- Unexpected high cost has been incurred and this had significantly and negatively impacted to the constructions as South Sudan depends on exported commodities and construction materials.

#### **2. RAIN:**

The project was started late due to current conflict in South Sudan, rain started soon after we begun the project which also hindered our activities so much as some of roads became impassable.

### **3. LIMITED FUNDS FROM Anglican Relief and Development Funds (ARDF)**

The third biggest challenge is that the funds we received from ARDF have been spent on buying the followings items.

1. bricks,
2. raising of wall,
3. labour,
4. purchasing of timbers
5. timbers for roofing,
6. nails, windbreakers,
7. Cements
8. Transportations
9. Doors and windows and many other small essential materials of construction etc.

### **APPEAL FOR MORE FUNDING FOR COMPLETION:**

#### **4. PLASTERING:**

The school has not been plastered yet.

#### **5. DORMITORY FOR GIRLS:**

The dorm has not built yet we appeal to our partners and donors to help with any contribution- We shall send you BOQ specifically for dormitory with estimated budget of **395,375** South Sudanese Pounds equivalent to **\$ 49,421.875**. Girls will be accommodated in this dorm as a technical way of distancing them from social disturbances and those that hinder them from paying much attention to school.

#### **PLANS:**

The Diocese of Aweil under leadership of Bishop Abraham Yel and entire Education department/school administration plan to enroll students in Jan 2016 from Form1- Form 4 Girls only. The Diocese is currently working with our local churches to put benches and other essentials assets in place before the opening of school. The State Ministry of Education will soon be invited to inspect the school again for their final approval for opening next year.

Therefore we appeal to our friends, partners to support this viable project which will help not only South Sudanese girls but also Sudan and other nationalities living in South Sudan.

Your generous support will be appreciated and a blessings to Aweil community.

Yours sincerely

Rev'd. Joseph Mamer Manot

Project Coordinator and Executive Secretary.

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