



# LA SALLE SECONDARY SCHOOL

## RUMBEK, SOUTH SUDAN

De La  Salle  
Solidarietà Internazionale  
ONLUS





## PROVIDING QUALITY EDUCATION FOR YOUTH IN SOUTH SUDAN: A NEW SECONDARY SCHOOL IN RUMBEC, SOUTH SUDAN

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### THE RELAF BEYOND THE BORDERS PROJECT

The school is in Rumbek, Lakes State, South Sudan, the world's youngest nation that became independent in 2011 after a long and bloody war with northern Sudan.

Due to the ongoing civil war, started in 2013, many of the already insufficient educational infrastructures have been destroyed or misappropriated and converted for other use. Educational attainment is extremely poor because of the lack of schools, qualified teachers, and materials.

In order to respond to this urgent need, the new **LA SALLE SECONDARY SCHOOL IN RUMBEC** opened its doors in March 2018 in the Loreto Sisters' existing facilities, with a first cohort of 23 students coming from Loreto and public primary schools.

The local chiefs donated 48 hectares of land and the Brothers' goal is to build and equip a brand-new school, which will be able to host more than 300 students. To ensure consistent and quality instruction, the Brothers will provide advanced teacher training to local secondary school teachers.

Thanks to its holistic approach which integrates child rights, trauma and a relevant curriculum that provides students with sought after skills, La Salle Secondary School represents a beacon of hope for youth and the local community.







## BUILDING IN RUMBEK

Rumbek, the capital of Lakes State, South Sudan, suffered serious destruction during the long civil war with Sudan. and the ongoing civil war started in 2013. It has a small airport, with a runway, like all of its streets and main access roads, that is dirt . Rumbek is practically closed off and isolated to the outside world during the rainy season (June – November).

Local building material is totally absent with the exception of sand that has to be fetched from the bank of small rivers located 50/60 Km outside of Rumbek. The rest of the building materials (cement, iron, fixtures, doors, windows, electric and sanitary items, roofing, etc.) must be imported from Kenya or Uganda. The distance from the Ugandan capital of Kampala to Rumbek is 1053 km and once in South Sudan there are no asphalted roads and from Kajo Keji, the border town in the south, to Rumbek - a 737 Km stretch of very rough and insecure road. This explains the very high building costs and the urgent time frame.

The La Salle Secondary School started in March 2018 in the compound of the Loreto Sisters' boarding school. In the meantime we have successfully completed the the bureaucratic process to assure the ownership of the land donated by the local Chiefs, finished drilling two bore wells and started construction of the temporary chain link fence to secure the property.





## Challenges

By March 2019 the Loreto Sisters will welcome a new group of students and will need the space currently used by La Salle Secondary School. The new site for La Salle must be operational to ensure the continuation of quality Lasallian education for these students who have persevered and endured incredible challenges to pursue a viable future. The main challenges confronting us are:

- **Human Resources:** Teachers, even at primary level, are very scarce. At the secondary school level 90% of teachers are coming from Kenya or Uganda, increasing the costs and requirement for accommodation. We foresee a future investment in training and professional development for our own secondary school teachers;
- **Costs:** knowing the limits posed by the absence of local building materials, the need to import everything with high risks of transport (natural and man-made), the costs are very high;
- **Expertise:** the majority of skilled workers and engineers come from abroad (namely Kenya and Uganda);
- **Technology:** due to the very basic living conditions and lack of utilities the only possible answer is import high performance solar systems to assure electricity and running water.

## Answers

Being aware of all these challenges we have set the project in motion and the following actions have already been undertaken:

- Hiring of qualified teachers and candidates to train as secondary school teachers;
- Securing land ownership;

### Ordered:

- Car for the community and teachers;
- Prefab structures for the school, Brothers' community, Staff quarters and a dormitory;
- Solar system for light, air conditioning and water pumping.

### Already Realized

- Two bore wells drilled and a temporary solar pump with reservoir installed (1) for water distribution to local communities (2);
- Land fenced (3).

(1)



(2)



(3)





## Who needs your help?





# ABOUT SOUTH SUDAN...

**A**round 80% of South Sudanese depend on subsistence farming or herding as their primary source of livelihood. While there is sufficient water throughout Lakes State, the average person does not have access to potable water. Water contamination exacerbates an already precarious health situation.

Roads are unpaved and have suffered from the ongoing civil war (started in 2013 after independence), as funds dedicated to their repair were reallocated for military purposes. Public transport is nonexistent, movement is reduced to a bare minimum due to road conditions and lack of security; it stops completely during the rainy season from July to December.

In South Sudan the two major cultural groups are the Dinka (35%) and the Nuer (15%). Within each tribal group there is a system of sub-tribes, clans and familial groups. Lakes State's constituency is largely Dinka, which represent over 70% of the population.



## Education in South Sudan

**E**ducational attainment is extremely poor due to the lack of schools, qualified teachers, and materials. Less than a third of the population is literate (27%), and only 16% of women can read and write. Fifty percent of South Sudanese live below the poverty line. Most of the country's teachers are untrained, poorly paid and lack the most basic teaching materials. Due to internal conflict that began in 2013, many of the already insufficient infrastructures have been destroyed or misappropriated and converted for other use.





## Why open a secondary school in South Sudan?

**I**n 2017, the secondary school gross enrolment rate is approximately 5% totaling about 80,000 students with a dropout rate of over 70%, it is clear that the current secondary school system is not working effectively or efficiently. Such catastrophically low enrolment rates for entry into secondary education have a profoundly negative effect on future economic and social development. It helps to explain why there are so few skilled or qualified South Sudanese workers in sectors as diverse as the building trades, the hospitality industry, business, and accounting. A productive future for South Sudan depends on improving the standards of education and a long-term commitment to training the leaders of tomorrow. Without more secondary school students, who will teach the next generation of South Sudanese?

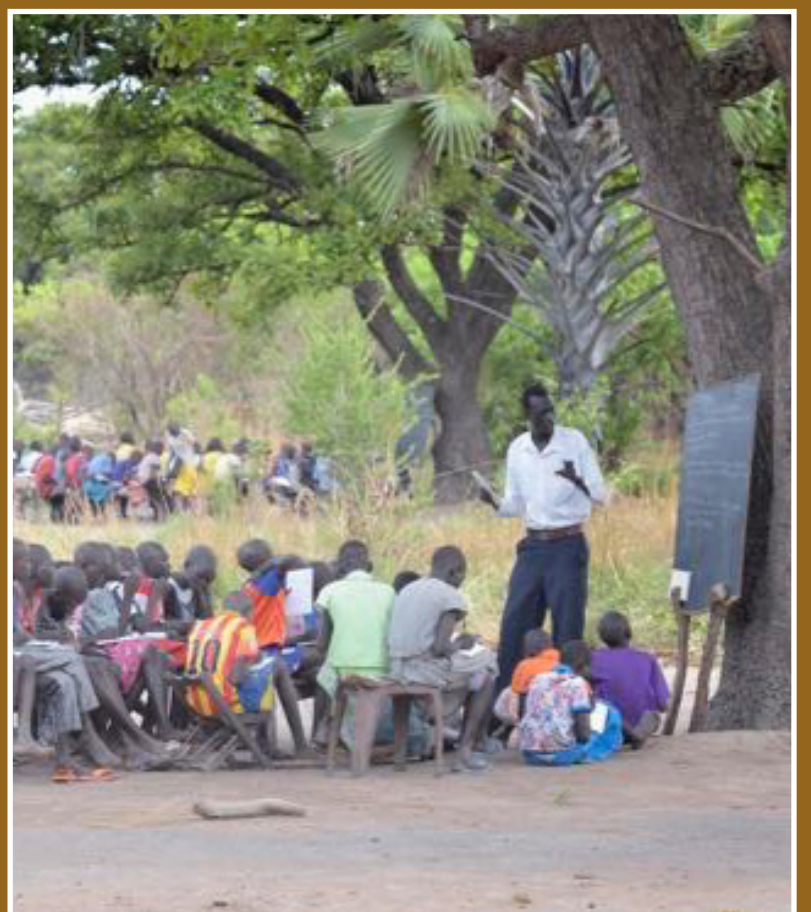


## Why Rumbek?

Br Regis and Br Hossamm, both of whom have extensive educational experience in South Sudan, were asked by the Institute to conduct an exploratory visit to determine the viability of opening a secondary school in South Sudan. Two other places were considered, Bentieu and Wau. Rumbek was chosen because there is relative security and a pre-existing strong presence of Catholic education. The Loreto Sisters with their co-educational primary school and all girls secondary school provides a solid foundation for the Brothers to launch a complementary secondary school for boys and work together to build upon of the important work the Sisters in service of the local community.

## LORETO SCHOOL

In 2006, the Loreto Sisters arrived in Rumbek at the invitation of Msgr. Mazzolari, Bishop of the Diocese of Rumbek. In 2008 the Sisters opened a secondary boarding school for girls within the community of Maker Kuei, Matingai Payam and one of its primary goals was to be a centre of inter-ethnic peaceful coexistence. The girls come from across the country, only 15% are from Rumbek area while 85% represent most of the ethnic groups of South Sudan. Later, as local schools were overcrowded or repurposed during the ethnic civil war, the local community made pressing requests for a primary school. In 2010, the Loreto Sisters began a co-educational kindergarten and 1st class of primary under the trees. For many children who had never attended school and needed additional assistance, the Sisters opened an afternoon tutoring program to allow older students to complete the primary school program in four years instead of the standard eight. This program has been institutionalized and is known as the Accelerated Learning Program (ALP). In March 2018 the Loreto primary school opened its new facilities with 16 classes, covering the eight-year government primary school curriculum from 1st to 8th grade, with a total of 905 students (610 morning pupils and 295 afternoon ALP).







## YOU CAN BUILD OUR SCHOOL!

Help us build a new secondary school in Rumbek, South Sudan,  
and give us back the EDUCATION which the war has stolen!

**DONATE NOW!**

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