



Keeping in touch

Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart

OVERSEAS AID INCORPORATED

November 2012

Development in the Republic of South Sudan

**Excerpts from a letter from Sr Rita Grunke
(3 August 2012):**

Greetings from the Republic of South Sudan! We are often asked "Has independence made any difference? Has it made a difference in Mapuordit?"

Although Mapuordit is still considered an "in the bush" location, independence has made a marked positive difference and we perceive real attitudinal changes. Since my work is mainly in Women's Ministry I notice very positive changes with real expressions of hope for such things as lessening the gender imbalance; for improved opportunity for education and participation in viable projects. Women's groups provide a secure avenue for dialogue and freedom of expression in relation to sensitive gender-related topics such as forced marriage; previously women had no voice in such issues.

Thankfully the government is leading the way regard-

only 15 out of a total enrolment of about 220 were female, with most of these girls being married. It is an advance though to have some husbands allowing their wives to continue in school.

Both climate and soil support agriculture. The biggest irony is that one of the poorest people on the



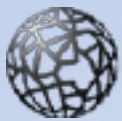
planet lives on the richest soil available. This year the government ordered everyone to cultivate, so we see extensive areas under crop and in the coming months more agricultural activity is being planned. It will be a wonderful day when the Southern Sudanese can feed themselves and this should be a real possibility, given soil fertility and a constant wet season. Let us help to make it a reality.

Thank you to all who have so generously donated to our efforts in Mapuordit and making our work possible. Know that when we answer a need, when we provide food or help establish gardens or teach in permanently constructed classrooms it is you who have made it all possible.

God bless you.

Sincerely, Sr Rita Grunke.

ing paid employment in public institutions where at least 25% of paid staff must be female. This is a great advance and provides women with a real incentive to train to be employable. While progress is evident, the journey is far from over. Although female enrolment at Comboni Secondary School has increased, in 2012



**ACFID
CODE**

The *Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Overseas Aid Incorporated* is a signatory to the Australian Council For International Development (ACFID) Code of Conduct. The Code requires members to meet high standards of corporate governance, public accountability and financial management.

www.acfid.asn.au

**Gifts of \$2 or more
are tax deductible**

Recent Projects

Republic of South Sudan:

Star of Hope Restaurant at Aluakluak

A Women's Development project managed by Sr Rita Grunke (Funding received \$5000): Women were fully involved in constructing a simple gable building 12m by 4m – they made 2000 mud bricks, which when dried and smeared over with a sand/cement mixture are really durable. They also kept the builders supplied with water – not easy as it needed to be carried almost a kilometre. The excitement and enthusiasm of the women at the opening in July 2012 showed their deep appreciation for the opportunity provide by Overseas Aid donors. It is a great success and gathering momentum. In the coming months more restaurants are planned. The development of fruit and vegetable gardens, as well as creative cooking and presentation instructions are also part of these projects. Transplanting of seedlings of mango, paw paw, banana, guava, sweet potato and cassava will lead to a greater variety of foodstuffs



Satellite Schools - Amatahom Satellite School

The provision of latrines qualifies this school for aid from the United Nations World Food Program. An example of how a relatively small investment (\$5000) can make a great difference.



Special Fundraising Project from the Friends of Philippa – Health and Nutrition Centre.

Sr Philippa's friends raised around \$22000 which was used to construct a Community Kitchen in Mapuordit, incorporating a safe, secure food store room, hygienic food preparation areas and a well ventilated dining area.



South Africa

Leadership Programs at Ave Maria Nzhelele



Ongoing Sponsorship of Granny Sarah, who has responsibility of raising her grandchildren



Bakhita Village

Refurbishment of dormitories and the roof – repainting



Security Gate and Fencing for the Nzhelele Clinic



Philippines

Capital Education Project

In Manantubig, a squatter settlement home to some of Manila's poorest people, a project is underway sponsoring the tertiary education of some well-motivated youth from very poor families if they become involved in tutorial and nutrition programs for local young children while they are studying. The hope is for sustainable development in the community and improved standards of living.

DONATIONS 2008 TO 2011

Campaign	2008	2009	2010	2011	Grand Total
ANGOLA		\$6,774.00	\$14,470.75	\$2,528.46	\$23,773.21
BURKINA FASO			\$11,000.00	\$2,800.00	\$13,800.00
CONGO			\$5,000.00		\$5,000.00
EAST TIMOR	\$4,165.00				\$4,165.00
GENERAL	\$160,060.65	\$145,330.71	\$140,415.38	\$247,070.75	\$692,877.49
KIRIBATI	\$5,321.48	\$7,098.25	\$9,766.61	\$23,736.61	\$45,922.95
PAPUA NEW GUINEA		\$781.70	\$8,682.00	\$7,247.60	\$16,711.30
PHILIPPINES	\$1,473.60	\$1,520.00	\$38,007.21	\$32,934.05	\$73,934.86
PHILIPPINES-MARIGONDON	\$11,000.00	\$12,813.00	\$32,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$60,813.00
PLEDGE DONATIONS				\$18,446.00	\$18,446.00
S AFRICA GENERAL	\$14,855.00	\$90.00			\$14,945.00
S AFRICA: TZANEEN	\$33,482.18	\$57,023.12	\$42,769.83	\$77,325.44	\$210,600.57
S AFRICA: AVE MARIA	\$4,200.00	\$15,900.00	\$8,100.00	\$7,800.00	\$36,000.00
S AFRICA: BAKHITA VILLAGE	\$9,250.00	\$4,520.00	\$23,143.59	\$12,050.00	\$48,963.59
S AFRICA: HOLY FAMILY	\$12,806.00	\$15,908.10	\$21,358.00	\$20,288.45	\$70,360.55
SOUTH SUDAN	\$170,667.75	\$152,014.40	\$269,526.08	\$289,854.46	\$882,062.69
Grand Total	\$427,281.66	\$419,773.28	\$624,239.45	\$747,081.82	\$2,218,376.21



Gift Certificates for Christmas.

If you would like to give a gift certificate to a loved one at Christmas instead of a regular present, contact us and we can prepare them for you. They can be for any of your favourite missions and will state the amount gifted and the area it will be sent to.

Dear Supporter

Due to your generosity the OLSH Overseas Aid Fund raises some \$750,000 annually. Without this support the work of the Sisters in New Guinea, the Philippines, Fiji, Kiribati, South Africa and the Sudan would be greatly diminished. Administrative expenses are contained at well below 10% so you all know your donation, virtually in its entirety, "gets through" – no government body intrudes, though all donated amounts do need to bear their share of the administrative expenses.

MICHAEL O'DEA, KCSG, AM
Chair, OLSH Overseas Aid

Would you Like to make a bequest in your will to OLSH Overseas Aid?

If you would like to include the work or our Mission in your will, we will gladly advise your solicitor of the specific terms of the bequest. Alternately, Michael O'dea AM of carroll and O'Dea Lawyers, would be happy to advise you at no cost. He may be contacted directly at 02 9291 7100.

Or would you like to request mourners at your loved one's funeral to donate to OLSH Overseas Aid in lieu of flowers? Both these things can make a significant difference to the way we can help the people in need.