



REPORT ON THE WORK OF THE SVP IN SUDAN

JULY 2011

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Firstly I would like to thank all those who continue to provide support and encouragement for the work we do in Sudan. In particular I must thank the members of the International Relations Committee of SVP (England & Wales), the members of the Swiss Association of the Friends of Sister Emmanuel with whom we work in partnership through their direct funding of SVP projects in Sudan, and of course our members and management team in Sudan.

The purpose of this report is to:

- ❖ Update readers on the current situation in Sudan
- ❖ Assess how this affects the work of the SVP in Sudan
- ❖ Identify success and areas of concern in the last year.
- ❖ Recommend any changes in future policy and strategy, and identify ongoing action

(Readers may find it useful to refer to previous annual reports, briefing notes on the different projects and the SVP Twinnage web site: <http://www.twinnage.org.uk/>)

It was a considerable shock and surprise when Kamal announced his intention to retire in September this year and move to Australia where he and his wife Madeleine plan to spend their retirement with their daughter and her family. This is not surprising since they have been sorely missed after Maria Louise moved from Khartoum to Australia with her family to take up a position as a doctor. I considered myself very privileged to be present when Kamal made his announcement at our meeting in Geneva in May; he had clearly planned to tell us when we were all together and we were told at the same time as his 2 key members of staff. John Ugo and Hakim (Doctor) Betram Kuol Gordon have been prepared by Kamal for this transfer of responsibility and authority for many years. Unfortunately we haven't formulated similar plans in SVP (E&W) and this should be given priority.

Currently there are 3 significant challenges which are affecting to work of the SVP in Sudan and need to be considered:

1. The changing political scene and the return of displaced people to the south.
2. The secession of the south and formation of South Sudan
3. Changes in staffing and resources in the SVP National Office in Khartoum.

In short, southerners are either voluntarily or being forced to return south. The problem is that South Sudan does not have the infrastructure in terms of roads, utilities, medical services or education to support mass migration. Once people travel south and find this situation they are trapped as they will not be allowed to return the north. It is reported that the situation with street children now in South Sudan resembles exactly those who had been in Khartoum in 1986, when SVP started the street children program.

We have lost a number of staff in Khartoum as they too have returned south. The management team in Khartoum don't appear to be unduly worried about this at the moment as the number of beneficiaries has also fallen. However this is a situation which will have to be resolved in the medium to long term - as will staff salaries which are below those paid by other NGO's.

The SVP in Sudan is not immune from world economic problems. Oil and basic commodity prices together with fluctuating interest rates and very high inflation are all having an impact. The financial situation of the SVP is continually under pressure. In one week recently, the exchange rate against the euro went from 1€ / 3.1 SD (Sudanese Dinar) to around 4 SD within the official banking system. This devaluation was officially announced as a temporary measure, but is good news for donors, since we gain 29% more purchasing power. There are two drawbacks: no one knows how long this

1 Introduction

This report has been prepared by Ian Mawdsley, using information provided by Kamal Tadros, the National Secretary of SVP in Sudan during our meeting in Geneva on 5th to 7th May 2011. This annual meeting is held in Geneva each year and is attended by the President General of the Swiss Association of the Friends of Sister Emmanuelle, Kamal and representatives of SVP from England & Wales. This year the meeting was attended by Christine Dyson of the Shrewsbury CC and Ian Mawdsley, the member of the International Relations Committee SVP (E&W) responsible for Sudan. The meeting was attended by 2 additional representatives from Sudan: John Ugo Gambolon, Kamal's deputy and Hakim (Doctor) Betram Kuol Gordon, Executive Manager in Khartoum and project coordinator in Juba.

The purpose of the meeting was to:

- a. Review the work of the SVP in Sudan and assess the outcomes of that work.
- b. Agree priorities for the coming year
- c. Review the financial needs of the SVP in Sudan
- d. Agree the budgets for the following year and the support which can be provided by SVP (E&W)
- e. Identify any other support required during the coming year

PLEASE NOTE:

1. This annual meeting in Geneva is even more important in years when no visit has been made to Sudan by a member of SVP (E&W).
2. Interest in our work in Sudan is increasing, particularly within the Society in England & Wales, as the number of people who are aware of our work increases. The report prepared this year is more detailed because it contains more background detail for those who are new to our efforts.

The role of The Swiss Association of the Friends of Sr Emmanuelle (ASASE) has (for years) been to act as a "fund finder" for the work of the SVP in Sudan. In 1986 Sister Emmanuelle visited Sudan and identified the SVP as the body she needed to deliver support to the poor, using funds that she knew she could raise. In one of their recent publications ASASE best describe the relationship as:

"the Swiss Association of the Friends of Sister Emmanuelle, through the intermediary of the St Vincent de Paul Society, provides an enormous amount of assistance to this population in distress."

ASASE has been instrumental in developing relationships with other organisations throughout Europe¹ which has resulted in raising substantial funds which provide most of needs of the SVP in Sudan.

I have expressed the view in previous reports that I believe that the relationship can best be described as a true partnership, which results in a considerable impact on the lives of many people, who are marginalized through poverty whatever the cause. The President of ASASE Michel Bittar has stressed that it was his fervent hope that SVP (England & Wales) will play a greater part in the future funding of these projects. This would be a great relief and ease the mounting burden of funding these projects by them alone.

¹ Other partner NGOs who provide funding include:

Asmae
Caritas Graz
Geneva State
French Foreign Aff.
Missio
Geneva Town
André Hiller
Ade
Svdp Bolzano Siegfied
Sit Spain

Scottish Int. Relief
Caritas Monaco
Caritas Hilfswerk
Operation Orange
Johan Rauscher
Municipalities
Fondation J. Lovioz
Fondation Coromandel
Individuals Ge.
Dr Hoffler

When we met our Brothers from Sudan on the Thursday evening they were clearly stressed as a result of a meeting they had had with visitors from France. Their relaxation and trust at meeting us was clearly perceptible.

Our meeting on Friday morning followed the normal format in reviewing progress on all the support provided by the SVP in Sudan, changing need as a result of the political situation (and particularly the coming secession of the South) and the funding requirements and sources for the coming year.

At the end of the meeting Kamal dropped a bombshell by announcing his retirement and plans for him, and his wife Madeleine, to join their daughter and her family and live in Australia. This was completely unexpected by Kamal's colleagues from Sudan. Later that evening I asked John Ugo how he felt after having time to consider his new position; he replied "I feel like an orphan". On reflection I consider myself very privileged to be present when Kamal made his announcement; he had clearly planned to tell us all when we were together. It felt like the end of an era.

In the time that followed and at times when Kamal and I could share some plans for the future he did concede that he still planned a trip to Europe each year but on a more informal basis and that he was always available to act as a consultant to his successors.

He had clearly thought out a plan to transfer responsibility and authority to John and Betram.

Kamal's history of successes in Sudan together with pen pictures of his successors follow.

2 Changes in the SVP in Sudan

Kamal Tadros - retiring

Place of birth: Atbara

Ethnic origin: Southern Egypt

Catholic

Married, 1 child, 4 grand-children

Fluent in English



Joined SVDP in the seventies, and very soon became its National Secretary; received two medals from the Pope Paul VI.

Professional background: He worked for about 30 years as chief accountant for Shell. During this time he received several job offers that would have allowed him to settle in different countries (Switzerland, Italy, United Kingdom, Yemen, USA), but he turned all of them down to stay in Sudan. In 1978 he left the Shell Company to launch, with his brother-in-law, a business importing spare parts for vehicles. Very soon this business became prosperous.

He was the eldest of a Sudanese family of ten children. His father was an agent for an English company importing gum Arabic. At 13, he had to leave school to help his father support the family. Thanks to his dedication, all his brothers and sisters were able to continue their education, and some of them became doctors or famous surgeons.

In 1979 he was ordained a deacon of the Catholic Church. In 1985 he met Sister Emmanuelle during her stay in Sudan. She asked him to leave his job to care for the street children. The following day, he decided to agree to take this leap. Thus in 1986 was officially opened the first home for orphaned boys which Kamal had literally fetched from the streets.

The same year he was appointed Headmaster of the Archbishop's schools located in the IDP camps. Thanks to his efforts, and the significant support of the Sister Emmanuelle Associations in Europe and various religious institutions, the number of children benefiting from this program increased ten-fold within 15 years, reaching 70,000 in early 2000. Teachers were trained during summer sessions, and the academic achievements of the children living in the camps turned out to be excellent.

Unfortunately, Kamal and SVDP had to endure all sorts of harassment and pressure from the Islamic government. One year, 17 schools were destroyed for various reasons. But, refusing to give up, Kamal and his team rebuilt the schools elsewhere.

In 1993 Kamal was also appointed Director of the committee in charge of organizing the program for the visit of Pope John Paul II to Khartoum. The authorities worked hard to make this event a failure, but the organization turned out to be a big success, and the Pope's visit was unforgettable. In 1994 Kamal was jailed for two weeks under very hard conditions. After Sister Emmanuelle's personal intervention with the President of the country, an order was eventually issued to release him and to stop all threats and abuses.

In 2002 Kamal decided to resign from his post as Education Headmaster for the Archdiocese in order to devote himself entirely to the programs of SVDP.

Kamal is succeeded by:

John Ugo Gambolon
Kamal's former deputy

Age: 42
Place of birth: Juba, at the Sudanese/Uganda border.
Ethnic group: Madi.
Catholic
Married, 5 children
Speaks English

Education: PHD in Economics (thesis: The impact of the economic policies on the development of the private sector, particularly in the South)
Joined SVDP in 1999



Before being Kamal's deputy, he was in charge of the finance in SVDP.
Professional background: worked with the local government in Juba in the early eighties. Promoted to the rank of Inspector of local government.

“My father was married to seven wives. He was an activist. My brother was the leader of Aniania movement. My father had a lot of sufferings in prison. We had difficulties when we were left alone. I left the South in 89 during the war when the situation was unbearable.

My maternal uncle is the Bishop Paride, now retired. I was doing charity work with Kamal. I joined SVDP because I was inspired by its work and the suffering of the people. I feel the sufferings of the people, the needy, I used to live in the villages, I know how they suffer. When I had this chance of working to help the poor, I felt very motivated. I am spiritually motivated to do this job. If you want to know God, you know him through the sufferings of the poor.”

Betram Kuol Gordon
Executive Manager in Khartoum and
project coordinator in Juba



Age: 48.
Place of birth: Bor
Ethnic group: Dinka
Catholic
5 children (living in Australia with their mother)
Speaks Dinka, Arabic, English and German
Arrived in Khartoum in 1985

Education: PHD of Agricultural Sciences in Breeding, University of Bonn, Germany, 2004
Betram has lived in Adelaide, South Australia, for 4½ years. After having taught secondary classes in a State school, he became a Customer Service Adviser in an Australian Government Customer Service Delivery Department (called Centerlink), which coordinates the social security payments from several ministries (Social Affairs, Veterans etc...) for about 6 million people. His job was to meet the people who were from different cultures, backgrounds, and assess their needs by conducting interviews, and then process social security's payments... He linked jobseeker customers with employment services network, made referrals to other programs and services such as Vocational Rehabilitation Services, Disability Employment Network, Job Capacity Assessment, Language, literacy and numeracy programs...

He then worked for the Ministry of Education with non-English speaking children having problems in schools. His job was to assist students in classroom, provide social guidance, link with service providers and community organizations to meet various students' needs, assist in registration and enrolment of NAP students and coordinate between school administration and parents/care givers etc...

He joined SVDP in 1992 as a project manager for 8 years, before he moved to Germany to continue his studies, and came back at SVDP in 2008.

We wish both John and Betram every success in the future and assure them of our continued support.

3 The political situation

Source: Telegraph but typical of reports in other newspapers

The birth of a nation is always a momentous event. All the more so when the gestation has been scarred by nearly 40 years of civil war in which an estimated 2.5 million people have died. In a day the 10 states of southern Sudan severed their ties with the Muslim-dominated north to become the 193rd country recognised by the United Nations. Achievement of sovereignty follows a referendum last January that recorded an almost unanimous desire for independence.

The Republic of South Sudan comes into being with the whole-hearted support of its citizens. Added to which it is endowed with oil, timber, minerals and well-watered land. It will need both popular enthusiasm and nature's bounty to see it through infancy. It is one of the poorest countries on earth, with barely any paved roads, sporadic electricity supplies and minimal health and educational facilities.

A few days later it was reported that Sudan is shelling civilians, "summarily executing" rebel sympathisers and reportedly using chemical weapons as conflict intensifies in its Nuba Mountains area, according to two leaked UN reports seen by The Daily Telegraph.

At the same time, the UN's mission in the country, UNMIS, is unable to fulfil its mandate to protect people because authorities are refusing to allow them access. "Our ability to carry out Human Rights promotion, protection and monitoring activities within [Southern Kordofan] is inconsequential," according to one of the reports. Sources linked to the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army forces in Southern Kordofan, in Sudan's south-east, claim as many as 3,000 people have been killed or have disappeared since the fighting broke out early in June. But it is impossible to verify this because the regional government and the administration in Khartoum, led by Omar al-Bashir, has barred the UN or other aid agencies from the area. The attacks have "completely undermined UNMIS' ability to fulfil the most basic requirements of its mandate in the fields", the report states.

Sudan halts South Sudan oil shipment

Sudan has blocked a shipment of southern oil after Juba refused to pay customs fees, the foreign ministry said, escalating a row in which the south accuses Khartoum of sabotaging its economy.

"Sudan has blocked the ship in Port Sudan ... When the ship leaves the port, the south has to pay the customs authorities. This is the first time they didn't pay," foreign ministry spokesman Al-Obeid Meruh said. Earlier, he had said the 600,000 barrel crude cargo had been blocked because the Juba government refused to pay the north's fees for the use of its entire oil infrastructure, including its pipeline, refinery and Red Sea port, which is the south's only export terminal.

Mr Meruh confirmed no agreement had yet been reached between north and south on transit fees, one of the most sensitive of Sudan's various unresolved issues, following the formal independence of the south on July 9. He said Khartoum was asking for \$32 dollars per barrel.

The ministry of energy and mines in South Sudan, from which 80 per cent of the divided country's total oil production of 470,000 barrels per day is pumped, accused Khartoum of delaying the negotiations to squeeze the south.

.....and so it goes on. For a country profile of the new Southern Sudan please see Appendix I

South Sudan - Facts and figures:

- Population: 7.5-9.7 million
- Size: 619,745 sq km (239,285 sq miles), larger than Spain and Portugal combined
- Major languages: English, Arabic (both official), Juba Arabic, Dinka
- Religion: Traditional and a Christian minority
- Main export: Oil

Challenges ahead:

- One of world's least developed countries: Worst maternal mortality rate; most children below 13 not in school; 84% of women are illiterate
- Relations with Sudan: Dividing debts and oil; border disputes; citizenship
- Security: At least seven active rebel groups

4 SVP Sudan Major Projects - Update

4.1 The SVP in South Sudan

It has been generally agreed for the present that although a new country has been established the SVP will remain as one for the time being.

It is reported that large numbers of the population who had been displaced to the Khartoum area are now moving back to the south (some at the insistence of the Khartoum Government). It is generally felt that when they arrive back they are going to be faced with a critical situation where there is little in terms of infrastructure, roads, water, power supply, housing, medical facilities, communications, law & order, schools, churches etc. This is going to exert considerable pressure on the SVP; the bad news turned into good could be that some of the former employees of the SVP in Khartoum could put their newly acquired talents to good use by developing similar support in the south. This is already happening at Luluggu in Juba where the delivery of the modern competency-based theoretical and practical vocational skills training courses are providing training and community development for substantial numbers of the population and are modelled on the proven success of the centres around Khartoum. The training program's aim is to provide occupational skills training for a total of 180 beneficiaries within the period of nine months in the SVDP training centre in Juba. Of these beneficiaries 64 (35.6%) are mainly former IDP's coming back from the North, 38 (21.1%) are former refugees returning to the South from neighbouring countries and one trainee returning from Australia, whereas the other 78 (43.3%) are a mix of school drop outs, former child soldiers - boys who had led partial street life, orphans and children deriving from poor families of the most disadvantaged communities in Juba town and its surroundings. A 13 page report has been received on this project and is available to anyone who is interested.

It is planned to extend activities such as this and therefore the focus of attention in future could well be extended to South Sudan. The scale of the activity will be influenced by the new government in South Sudan to establish a stable and developing situation.

The situation with street Children now in the South Sudan resembles exactly those who had been in Khartoum in 1986, when SVP started the street children program.

4.2 The SVP in El Obeid

Extracts from reports by Sister Jean Thomas:

In El Obeid, we have had to part with many of our Southern families, who have joined in with the convoys moving out. There is a general atmosphere of fear and insecurity in the country, even among the Muslim population. No-one knows exactly how events will evolve. The crucial issue is that nearly all the petrol of Sudan is to be found in the South, and it is feared that the reaction of the North will be violent. "Crisis management" courses have been introduced in the Church dioceses, but have done little to allay the fears of the majority.

The conference in El Obeid consists (2010) of nine members, most of whom attend regularly the monthly meetings after Sunday morning mass.

At meetings: prayer, sharing of the Sunday Gospel, reporting and planning.

Activities:

Two members receive the requests of the poor, and needy and these are discussed and addressed at meetings three times a week with the co-ordinator. The women members were visiting the hospital and homes in their area (mostly Rokob, Hay es Salam and Tayba). One member, a medical assistant at the hospital, reports on people needing help there and co-ordinates the help. Clothes are distributed to the very poor, and this year, we distributed, during the rainy season, 10 plastic sheets to those suffering from the rain in their poor "rokubas". Thanks to the parish priest, Fr. Salva Marreno, who contributed to this project.

During the year, 1,100 poor, old, sick, including T.B. people were helped by the weekly encounters, and church members in difficulty have been helped by modest contributions. A morning of prayer followed by a lunch was organized for the members during Advent and was much appreciated by us all, especially the in-depth sharing during the prayer session. The feast of the St. Vincent Centre, Hay es Salam, was prepared this year by all the groups of the Centre. A celebratory mass was followed by a concert (Hafla). The parish choir and the Don Bosco band shared in the concert.

Project:

Purchase and sale of sheep, kept at Ben Jedid. At the beginning of the year, there were 18 sheep; we sold 6 and 1 died, so there remain 11. These are looked after by a resident worker, and the sheep are visited regularly by 2,3 of our members.

Financial reports are included in appendix II of this report.

4.3 The SVP in Khartoum

The SVP in Khartoum continues to deliver services to the displaced population, through the large and very significant support initiatives. These include:

- The care of street children in foster homes and farms
- Medical Centres and mobile clinics
- The provision of clean water
- Vocational training of young people and adults
- Baby feeding centres

Further detailed information on these initiatives in the form of briefing documents are available on the SVP Twinnage website: <http://www.twinnage.org.uk/>

However, these initiatives are being affected by the latest current political climate and the secession of South Sudan. It is extremely difficult, within the confines of this report to describe the current situation in detail but here I've tried to capture information which has been provided by our members in Khartoum and that provided by both Michel and Patrick Bittar based on their recent visits and expert knowledge of the area. I believe that we can trust the interpretation of Michel particularly as, until the military junta which resulted in the present government Michel was resident in Khartoum and ran a significant business there.

- I would like to thank Michel for sharing his recent experiences.

In Khartoum, more than half of the beneficiaries of our "Street children" program decided to leave for the South before the actual partition of the country. It was necessary to re-structure the programme. The 151 remaining teenagers were grouped into the two Gebel Awlia farms; the one in Haj Yousif will now be dedicated to farming. The home for girls El Takamul has been closed. The girls are currently living in the homes Eid Essein in Mayo (8 girls) and Sahafa in Khartoum (15 girls).

The majority of the very poorest people have no more work than they had before, and if they do have a job, their wage has not kept up with price rises. One thing is certain: the poor are now poorer than they were before the war, and the number of street children is rising all the time in the capital.

The SVP will have to react quickly to such a fluctuating environment; its work is more important than ever in northern Sudan, where Southerners risk once again being entirely forgotten.

The financial situation of the SVP is continually under pressure. In one week, the exchange rate against the euro went from 1€ / 3.1 SD to around 4 SD within the official banking system. This devaluation was officially announced as a temporary measure, but is good news for us, since we gain 29% purchasing power. There are two drawbacks: no one knows how long this situation will last, and the rise in the price of imported goods as a result will have an overall inflationary effect.

In June the SVP had drawn up a tight budget, assuming that costs would remain stable from 2009; however inflation over the year has been so high that, in December, SVP was facing a very tight cash flow situation. Fortunately ASASE were able to react quickly and use their reserves to fill the gap which, notwithstanding the current favourable exchange rate, still represented 11% of the 2010 budget.

In January 2011, 244 young people have left the Street Children program; 70 because they have reached majority, 174 because they followed the mass exodus to the south, where they preferred to return (where they had family) before the partition of the country. They left in haste, often without the knowledge of the SVP (SVP cannot lock them up nor constrain them), and sometimes not permanently as some returned after a few days!

One of the four Friday clinics, Square 9, at Haj Youssif, was closed, following the building of a hospital nearby (at least there are some green shoots). This clinic provided 3500 consultations in 2009. In January eight employees of SVP resigned, and five others in early February. These numerous departures are due to the combined effect of the country's political situation and the internal wage policy. For those who, for many years, have had difficulty making ends meet with the wages paid by SVP, this was the now or never time to return to the South.

The fate of Southerners remaining in the North is at best uncertain, at worst threatened. When Michel Bittar visited Khartoum, daily statements from Arab officials hinted at the consequences of secession for the remaining Southerners in the North: they will become "second class citizens," said Al Tahir, Speaker of the Assembly; they will be totally "stripped of their citizenship", according to Kamal

Obeid, Minister of Information, "they will lose jobs and aid, will not be authorized to sell or buy on the market in Khartoum, nor to be treated in hospitals." Although these threats, which were aimed to deter secessionists, have since been contradicted (after acceptance of the results) by a recent statement of President Bashir in a local newspaper, they have had a real effect on the target population.

The "natural" reduction of the scale of our programs in the North should help us improve the physical care of our children and strengthen their psychosocial support. One of the priorities this year will be to raise the salaries of SVP staff in order to take into account the actual needs of the current team, and to enable the hiring of more qualified personnel without causing a discrepancy with long-time employees. At present **monthly** salaries in SVP are ranging from £72 to £340, with an average of £224. As a result of this situation SVP is experiencing difficulties when trying to recruit social workers, with a starting salary which is half that proposed by state agencies, and a quarter of that proposed by international NGOs! **END.**

So the SVP in Khartoum faces tremendous challenges but in spite of this, the members and staff are resolved in helping those who have absolutely nothing. **Witnessing their dedication makes me very, very humble.**

The following table shows a summary of the numbers of beneficiaries and total costs for each area of support:

Year	Cost (€)	Numbers of beneficiaries		
		2011	2012	
Street children (290)	608,209	518	290	Note 1
Medical (47150)	206,940	50,000	47,150	
Baby & feeding 5880 3 x week	352,008	6,000	5,880	Note 2
Vocational training	100,000	304	165	
Juba	290,762	180	180	
Misc	186,641			Note 3
TOTAL	1,557,919			
Admin costs	117,000			
Grand total	1,674,919			
Total donations	1,678,000			
Shortfall	-3,081			
Note 1 - Could be €70,000 more with increases in staff				
Note 2 - Cost pre baby 60 per year for 3 days per week				
Note 3 - Costs substantially reduced through generation of income				

Contribution from SVP (England & Wales)

The International Relations Committee of the SVP (England & Wales) has developed and agreed a budget for the support of the SVP in Sudan for a period of 5 years. Based on this budget and considering the donations received in the last year the following calculations were made:

	£	€	
As IRC strategic plan		380,000	
Income this year to 1/4		319,516	
Shortfall		60,484	
Specific contributions	£	€	% of total specified
Baby feeding	193,698	215,820	97.20%
Vocational training	2,500	2,786	1.25%
Medical	3,090	3,443	1.55%
TOTAL	199,288	222,049	
Total funding from Twinnage a/c	380,000		
Allocated at request of donors	222,049		
Unallocated funds	157,951	To be distributed at Kamals discretion	
Conversion rate 3rd May 2011			
	£1	=	€ 1.11421

Graphs which show the relationship between all these costs and the other sources of funding are shown in Appendix V of this report. The overall total budget for all operations in the coming year is €1.8 million as follows:

	€
Street children	684,162
Baby feeding	352,008
Vocational training	100,000
Medical	206,940
Juba	288,957
Others	183,228
TOTAL	1,815,295

5 Twinnage

We currently have 134 twins in Khartoum Archdiocese, 20 in or under Juba and 11 in or under El Obeid giving a total of 165.

We are frequently asked questions regarding the lack of response to letters sent by Conferences in England & Wales to those in Sudan. My response has always (and will continue to be) that in the case of Sudan, any form of correspondence is particularly difficult, and not surprising given:

1. The nature of the country,
2. Postal service – the one post office in Khartoum is a bus ride away for most at least and costs the equivalent of half a day's pay.
3. The dispersed nature of the Society.
4. There is also a language problem, more so than in India.
5. The costs of a stamp is would feed a family for a day

We can only ask that people are sympathetic to these issues in the knowledge that their generosity has a tremendous impact.

6 Future help from the SVP (England & Wales)

There are 3 significant issues to be considered:

1. The changing political scene
2. The secession of the south and formation of South Sudan
3. Changes in staffing and resources in the SVP National Office in Khartoum.

We have committed the sum of £360,000 in support of the major projects in the coming year. We will also support our members and staff in Khartoum with encouragement and advice as we have done in the past. In considering the issues listed above, time is needed for the situation to become stable. During this period we will monitor progress through direct communication with Khartoum and through continuing our relationship with ASASE in Geneva who are in almost daily contact with Khartoum and who control a significant funding stream.

It is hoped that after allowing a period for the new team to settle and the political situation to become stable the situation will become clearer. At this point a visit to Khartoum from SVP (E&W) is recommended.

Up to now the SVP in southern Sudan has been made up of very willing and committed volunteers. There has been no evidence that the SVP in that area has the expertise required to develop and manage significant initiatives such as those in the Khartoum area. It is not yet possible to assess the need in South Sudan until a team of professional staff is developed in the location, closer links are developed and methods of communication established.

As far as South Sudan is concerned it is strongly recommended that any thoughts of a visit to this area are not considered until HM Foreign & Commonwealth Office clearly indicates that it is safe to do so. The general advice from the Foreign & Commonwealth Office is against travel to South Sudan so at the moment we will have to rely on reports through the SVP in Khartoum. The FCO advice is summarised below:

This advice has been created for the Republic of South Sudan which declared independence on 9 July 2011. We advise against all travel to within 40km of South Sudan's northern border with the Republic of Sudan.

- *On 9 July the semi-autonomous region of Southern Sudan seceded from Sudan and declared its independence as the Republic of South Sudan. There are political tensions and unresolved issues related to the separation of the South from the North.*
- *Movement around the capital, Juba is likely to be severely restricted and face regular interruptions. Accommodation and transport will be in short supply. Basic supplies such as food and water will also be under strain. It is not yet clear what immigration requirements will be imposed on visitors to the new Republic of South Sudan prior to, through or after 9 July.*
- *There is a general threat from terrorism. Attacks could be indiscriminate, including in places frequented by expatriates and foreign travellers.*

- *Banditry and crime are a problem, both in population centres and rural areas. Small arms remain in circulation and tribal conflicts and operations by armed militias regularly occur.*

- *We advise those living and travelling in South Sudan to maintain several days' stock of food and water as the security situation can change quickly, impacting on the borders and supplies of goods.*

- *You should take out comprehensive travel and medical insurance before travelling. See General - Insurance.*

Those currently in or considering travel to South Sudan should keep abreast of the latest situation, check the Travel Advice regularly, and register locally. You should be aware that the capacity of the Embassy to assist in times of crisis will be limited and we recommend that you consider your own travel arrangements should there be the need to leave at short notice, ensuring you have up-to-date travel documents and visas.

7 Succession planning

The thorny issue of who will succeed those people who are currently involved in ensuring that the people of Sudan continue to receive the help they need raises its head regularly; everyone agreed that something must be done but the issue has not yet been addressed - at least in SVP (E&W).

In recent years we have seen increasing involvement by Patrick Bittar as he takes on more duties of his father, Michel in terms of running ASASE in Geneva. This year we are witnessing the transfer of accountability from Kamal to John and Betram in Khartoum. Unfortunately we haven't formulated similar plans in SVP (E&W).

In the light of my experience over the last 13 years I strongly recommend that the personal qualities which should be possessed by any individual considered for membership of the IRC Committee should be:

- ✓ Young enough to be able to develop and use their experience over a minimum of 10 to 15 years (suggested maximum age 55).
- ✓ Old enough to be aware of the global nature of the work (worldly wise)
- ✓ Demonstrate compassion for those with very serious (sometimes life threatening) problems.
- ✓ Be able to take a dispassionate view when necessary
- ✓ Be able to write reports (better than this!)
- ✓ Be an accomplished public speaker
- ✓ Be able to maximise the effective use of I.T. and multi-media methods.

This person must exist amongst the members here.

APPENDICES FOLLOW:

- I. Sudan Country Profile
- II. The SVP in El Obeid
- III. Report from John Ugo in Khartoum
- IV. Observations by Christine Dyson
- V. Cost analysis and project comparisons

APPENDIX I

Southern Sudan - Country profile

Source: BBC



South Sudan Profile

South Sudan gained independence from Sudan on 9 July 2011 as the outcome of a 2005 peace deal that ended Africa's longest-running civil war.

An overwhelming majority of South Sudanese voted in a January 2011 referendum to secede and become Africa's first new country since Eritrea split from Ethiopia in 1993.

The new nation stands to benefit from inheriting the bulk of Sudan's oil wealth, but continuing disputes with Khartoum and a lack of economic development cloud its immediate future.

Geography

Formed from the 10 southern-most states of Sudan, South Sudan is a land of expansive grassland, swamps and tropical rain forest straddling both banks of the White Nile.

It is highly diverse ethnically and linguistically. Among the largest ethnic groups are the Dinka, Nuer and Shilluk.

Unlike the predominantly Muslim population of Sudan, the South Sudanese follow traditional religions, while a minority are Christians.

History

As Sudan prepared to gain independence from joint British and Egyptian rule in 1956, southern leaders accused the new authorities in Khartoum of backing out of promises to create a federal system, and of trying to impose an Islamic and Arabic identity.

In 1955, southern army officers mutinied, sparking off a civil war between the south, led by the Anya Nya guerrilla movement, and the Sudanese government.

The conflict only ended when the Addis Ababa peace agreement of 1972 accorded the south a measure of autonomy.

But, in 1983, the south, led by the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) and its armed wing, the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), again rose in rebellion when the Sudanese government cancelled the autonomy arrangements.

At least 1.5 million people are thought to have lost their lives and more than four million were displaced in the ensuing 22 years of guerrilla warfare. Large numbers of South Sudanese fled the fighting, either to the north or to neighbouring countries, where many remain.

The conflict finally ended with the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement, under which the south was granted regional autonomy along with guaranteed representation in a national power-sharing government.

The agreement also provided for a referendum in the south on independence in 2011, in which 99% of southern Sudanese voted to split from Sudan.

Economy

Long based on subsistence agriculture, South Sudan's economy is now highly oil-dependent. While an estimated 75% of all the former Sudan's oil reserves are in South Sudan, the refineries and the pipeline to the Red Sea are in Sudan.

Under the 2005 accord, South Sudan received 50% of Sudan's oil proceeds, which provide the vast bulk of the country's budget. But that arrangement was set to expire with independence.

Despite the oil wealth, South Sudan is one of Africa's least developed countries. However, the years since the 2005 peace accord ushered in an economic revival and investment in utilities and other infrastructure

Alongside the oil issue, several border disputes with Sudan continue to strain ties. The main row is over border region of Abyei, where a referendum for the residents to decide whether to join south or north has been delayed over voter eligibility.

The conflict is rooted in a dispute over land between farmers of the pro-South Sudan Dinka Ngok people and cattle-herding Misseriya Arab tribesmen.

Another source of conflict is the Nuba Mountains region of Sudan's South Kordofan state, where violence continues between the largely Christian and pro-SPLA Nuba people and northern government forces.

Inside South Sudan, several rebel forces opposed to the SPLM-dominated government have appeared, including the South Sudan Liberation Army (SSLA) of Peter Gadet and a force led former SPLA general George Athor. Juba says these forces are funded by Sudan, which denies the accusation.

Appendix II

SVP in El Obeid - Financial statements.

St. Vincent de Paul Conference

Financial Statement 2010

<u>Expenditure</u>	<u>Income</u>
Jan. 509.00	14,000.00 S.V.P. U.K.
Feb. 850.00	300.00 Fr Salva
Mar.1,248.00	200.00 Church box
Apr. 1385.00	
May 758.00	
June 1577.00	
July 1168.00	
Aug. 846.00	
Sep. 1248.00	
Oct. 1010.00	
Nov. 980.00	
Dec. 1362.00	
<u>TOTAL : 13,843.00 S.P./ 3,955 GBP</u>	<u>14,500.00 S.P./ 4142 GBP</u>
<u>Sheep Project:</u>	
<u>Expenditure:</u>	<u>Income</u>
840.00 worker's pay	1450.00 six sheep sold
1555.00 food/care of sheep	400.00 U.K.
	300.00 Contribution(members)
<u>.TOTAL: 2395.00 S.P.</u>	<u>2150.00 S.P.</u>
<u>TOTAL Expenditure: 16,238.00 SDG</u>	<u>4,639 GBP</u>
<u>TOTAL Income: 16,650.00</u>	<u>4,757GBP</u>
<u>BALANCE: 412.00</u>	<u>117 GBP</u>
<u>Explanation of the ordinary expenditure:</u>	
Medical help: visits to doctor/ medicine	3,897.00 SDG
Help to the poor, old, infirm, hospitalized	4,739.00
Contributions: births, marriages, deaths....	610.00
Travelling, transport (for the displaced)	1,644.00
Administration: office work, payments...	847.00
Work: repair of car, daily displacement of	
Members, work with the boys on the farm	1,730.00
Miscellaneous....	375.00
<u>Total:</u>	<u>13,842.00 /3,954 GBP</u>

Contributions to parishes

Income: Twinnage 2010 660 GBP(twice) for 10 parishes.

Exchange: January 2010: GBP = 3.5 SDG

June 2010:GBP =3.6 SDG

Each parish received 230.00 SDG

NB: FOR MONEY RECEIVED Jan.2011,The exchange is

1 GBP = 4.20 SDG !

Sr. Jean Thomas Coordinator

Mr. Amin Arno President

Mr. Boutros Hassan Acting Treasurer

A report from John Ugo - 20th June 2011

A) Political:

Tension is high in Abyei, which was seized by northern troops at the weekend. A move condemned by the UN Security Council. The region is also claimed by South Sudan, which is due to become independent in July. Analysts fear the dispute could reignite the North-South conflict, in which 1.5 million people were killed. The status of Abyei was left undecided in the 2005 peace deal and a referendum, due in January, on whether the area should be part of the North or South has been postponed indefinitely. The Misseriya are northern nomads and one of two groups to claim Abyei along with the Southern Dinka Ngok. The two groups often clash as their herds of cattle look for water and pasture. The Misseriya are also being blamed for burning and looting in Abyei. Reports suggest many Misseriya have arrived in the town since the northern armed forces control of it on Saturday. On Tuesday, a Southern minister in Sudan's national government resigned, saying "war crimes" had been committed in the region. Luka Biong Deng, a Senior Official in the South's ruling party, originally from Abyei said he could no longer work with Mr. Bashir's party in the Unity Government. Some 20,000 people have now fled the town of Abyei, which has been left deserted, aid workers says. Many of those who fled are in a miserable situation. Northern Forces had been shelling and bombing civilian areas.

Precipitations of a confrontation between Sudan and International Community were looming after the Sudanese Government rejected the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) statement asking it to withdraw the Sudanese armed forces (SAF) from Abyei, whereas the Country Foreign Minister fiercely criticized the UNSC statement. He said that the Government will not bow down to UNSC threats and described the statement as delusive.

It is to be mentioned that, the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) has reached more than 45,000 displaced people from Abyei with food assistance following the fighting that broke out between the Sudanese Armed Forces and Sudan People's Liberation Army.

The takeover of Abyei puts at risk moves to cancel billions of dollars worth of Sudan's debt warned US envoy to Sudan Princeton Lyman. He also said Washington will find it difficult to remove Sudan from its list of State Sponsors of Terrorism unless troops were withdrawn from Abyei.

Under these sanctions Sudanese companies are banned from using US Currency a major obstacle to international trade.

The US has previously suggested that a peaceful transition to independence for the South ends a negotiated solution to the separate conflict in Darfur could normalize the relations.

- Opposition delegation head for Doha to prod on the talks:
A delegation of top opposition leaders will head for the Qatar Capital Doha today at the invitation of the Qatari Mediation to push forth the Doha talks as well as participate in a civil society conference scheduled for tomorrow, under the participation of civil society leaders of Darfur.
The opposition's delegation is led by the Secretary of the Communist Party, Mohammed Ibrahim Nugud, and Secretary of the popular congress party, Hassan Abdullah Al-Turabi and Secretary of Splm-North Sector, Yasir Arman.

- The president of the Republic Omer Al Bashir and First Vice President, Salva Kiir, will convene today Sunday June 12, 2011 in the Ethiopian Capital, Addis Ababa, to discuss the adverse security developments in Abyei and South Kordofan.
- The Government of south Sudan will grant dual citizenship to foreigners wishing to become South Sudanese Nationals after it declares independence on July 9th.
- The US Special Envoy to Sudan says Khartoum's belligerent actions are threatening delicate negotiations on border issues and revenue sharing ahead of the South's independence next month.
- In its final report on South Sudan referendum, the European Union (EU) mission monitoring the South Sudan referendum said the vote was both fair and credible despite the flaws that tainted it. The mission described the vote as having been well-organized and reflected the wish of the overwhelming majority of voters in South Sudan.
- Jonglei State is currently facing red-shift in food prices that are mainly imported from north Sudan (Khartoum), Uganda and Kenya due to impossible roads connecting Bor to Juba.

B) SVDP Affairs:

- ✓ Separated V.T for our children from the community.
- ✓ Appointed four (4) female social workers among them one (1) Psychologist.
- ✓ Continue with maintenances of Sahafa and Ed Hussein homes for girls and Gebel Awlia old.
- ✓ Earmarked an Internal Auditor and Accountant to work on part time basis.
- ✓ Improved quality and quantity of food in Farms and Homes.
- ✓ Trained SVDP staff on the financial coding and procedures.
- ✓ Monitored registration of children in schools.
- ✓ Conducted Health Screening in Homes and Farms.
- ✓ Intensified sports activities in Gebel Awlia new and old Farms.
- ✓ Equipped Farms and Homes with new T.V sets and Receivers.
- ✓ Interviewed a prospective Project Manager for Homes and Farms Project.
- ✓ Increased field visits to project sites.
- ✓ Collaborated with UNICEF, Save the Children Swedish and Child Council on TR Programme.
- ✓ SVDP to be the only focal point of reference for FTR Programme of Southern Children in the North. SVDP will sign a memo of understanding to be prepared by the two Ministries of Social Affairs in the North and South.
- ✓ We shall serve you with a copy prior to signature.

Best regards,

John

Appendix IV - Some observations from Christine Dyson following our meeting in Geneva (May 2011)

Ian

As agreed, I am penning some thoughts arising from our few days in Geneva and my growing understanding of the SVP's work in Sudan. Firstly though, thank you for inviting me. It was an absolute privilege to meet Kamal, John and Betram in particular, and to witness so dramatically the ending of an era brought about by Kamal's impending move to Australia.

I now understand the extent of our financial commitment to the Sudan and the likelihood of its continuance beyond the 5 year plan which you mentioned. It is from this perspective that I believe a secure, stable and long term fundraising solution must be found for the project work in particular.

The current basis of fundraising in the Sudan derives, in the main, from the Christmas appeal which, for understandable reasons, concentrates on the baby feeding programme and uses the rhetoric of "life and death" (which is accurate of course). Whilst this has been very successful to date there has to be a real risk that this type of emergency based appeal is just not sustainable, or perhaps even appropriate, for long term developmental aid. Inevitably, and perhaps understandably, we are likely to experience donor fatigue coupled with the possibility of organisational fatigue/inertia. We do have experience of some Twinnage Reps who, for a variety of reasons, have been unable to spearhead the Christmas appeal.

Of further concern is that the financially driven focus on baby feeding as an end in itself could be seen as inconsistent with our *raison d'être* for international work which I understand as being to promote self sufficiency for individuals, families and communities through education, the acquisition of practical skills and financial aid to stimulate work opportunities. The reality is, of course, that the project work in Sudan fulfils these criteria in spades and is capable of developing whole communities.

One possible solution could be to reposition our Sudan efforts squarely within our developmental aspirations and publicise the adult education and skills programme (masonry, electricity and carpentry), the street children fostering / farm programme and the medical provision, all of which is so effective due to the partnership with A.S.A.S.E and the greater purchasing power of combined donors. The statistics which Michel spoke about are impressive and speak for themselves 10,000 street children passing through the centres with 180 graduates, 7 of whom are doctors and 1 of whom now works for the SVP with a further 180 ex-street children now at university being just one example.

I believe that if the efforts of the society can be channelled into a campaign for a 5 year gift aid plan, financial security could be achieved rendering unnecessary annual appeals and the massive effort which this entails. The campaign should be directed externally at parishes but, inevitably, many members would subscribe. On the basis that we have 1300 conferences we have access to that number of parishes and would need only 3 people per parish to take out a 5 year gift aid commitment at £10 per month to raise £468,000 with gift aid of £117,000 per annum (2 per parish would translate to £312,000 with gift aid of £78,000 per annum). The disaster fund could then be used to deal with genuine emergencies when inflation soars, exchange rates fluctuate widely or we experience an unforeseen influx of children perhaps due to the volatility of the political situation. Such situations properly fit the definition of emergency relief and would provide us with the ability to "flex" our support which would be tremendously beneficial for those on the ground.

If it were decided to attempt such a funding solution it would have to be co-ordinated well before any Christmas period - the October awareness SVP week/month would be a fantastic opportunity, providing us with a platform for promotion but also providing us with a safety net of a late cash appeal if take up was disappointingly low. We may have to consider some sort of provision, perhaps by way of short term loan to compensate for the first years receipts being limited to 6 months (assuming payments are to be made to A.S.A.S.E in May?) It would even out in the second year.

Key to any campaign success would be effective communication to the membership and wider community. Some suggestions could include :

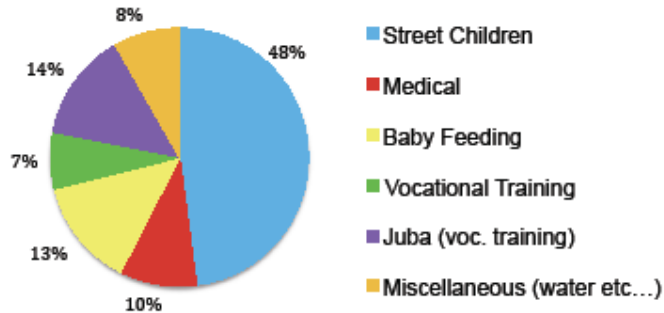
- The creation of a new Sudan film
- An extraordinary meeting of all Twinnage Reps to explain the campaign and achieve “buy in”
- Briefings of all Central Councils by IRC members
- A Twinnage information booklet produced with a section on Sudan explaining the new gift aid scheme, distributed by email and post to each conference
- Template information distributed / read by all Conference Presidents at SVP awareness Masses with compliant gift aid forms distributed to all attendees combined with a personal invitation for parishioners to attend a Sudan social evening organised by each DC with a presentation given by the Twinnage Representative (and other keen members) to include film, template script and distribution of gift aid forms

With the potential for such significant sums to be raised, and mindful of the changes in A.S.A.S.E’s accountancy procedures, it would be prudent to ask the SVP accountants to liaise with Florence and certify that on the basis of last year’s A.S.A.S.E’s accounts and the current draft that all charity law requirements are being complied with.

Société Saint Vincent de Paul (SVDP) sudan 2010

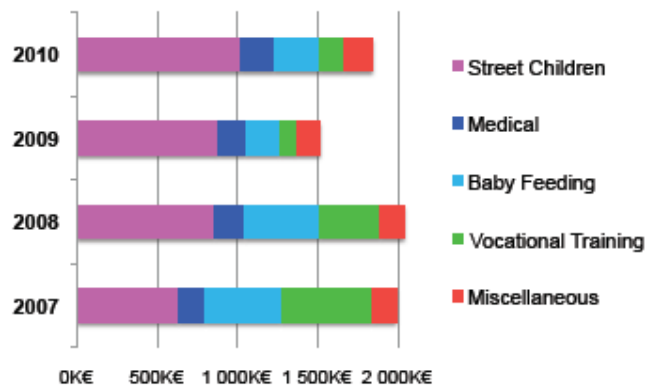
COSTS BREAKDOWN BY PROJECT

TOTAL 2010 : 2 128 601 €



PROGRESS 2007-2010 OF THE COSTS BREAKDOWN BY PROJECT (KHARTOUM ONLY)

Since 2009, the costs of our children vocational training have been integrated in the Street Children Program.



ORIGINS OF DONATIONS

TOTAL : 2 329 709 €

