



Loreto
Rumbek

ANNUAL REPORT - 2022

2022

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Special thanks to our photographers - Mr Paul Jeffrey and Ms Emma Walkin and our Development Office personnel

DIRECTOR'S FOREWORD



2022 has been a year of great fruitfulness for us all here in Loreto Rumbek. Our third annual report gives you a glimpse of the achievements and programmes over the course of the year.

The presentation of our report has changed, allowing for more voices to be heard, while you will also see the statistics of the different programmes. We have linked our various programmes to the UN Development goals.

We have welcomed many and various guests over the past year. Visitors are always a blessing for us in Rumbek and we are grateful that with greater security and better transport systems more people have been able to see what do here first hand.

One of our great achievements this year has been the presentation of our new strategic plan. The plan aims to guide us over the coming five years, as we work towards greater consolidation, quality education, and sustainability within the spirit of Loreto ethos and education.

This mission is not possible without our many collaborators, funders, donors, partners, and local partnerships. We have welcomed our new Bishop and our new Governor. In recognition of our work around girl child education, the national Minister of Education, her Excellency Awut Deng, visited Loreto and congratulated the students and leadership on their work. Both Church and Government leaders have continued to support our school and we are grateful for this. We have also had international visitors, including our Irish Ambassador to South Sudan, Ambassador Nicola Brennan, who spent time with us seeing how the programme has developed with the support of Irish Aid.

Our students and graduates continue to make great contributions to their families and local communities and all know the name of Loreto. We continue to dream Mary Ward's vision that "women in time to come will do great things".

Thank you for your partnership and continued support. Feel share to share this report with others whom you feel would be interested.

Blessings for 2023,

Sr Orla on behalf of all of us in Loreto Rumbek

ABOUT US

The Loreto Sisters first came to Rumbek in 2006 at the invitation of the Bishop of Rumbek to begin a new mission for girls. The mission was to focus on establishing a girls' boarding secondary school. It was to be located in the village of Maker Kuei, 8km from Rumbek town centre. The local community offered the land to the Sisters to begin this mission.

Over the years the mission has expanded greatly. Today Loreto has three core programmes: a community based co-educational Primary School, an all-girls Secondary Boarding School, and a woman and child-centric Primary Health Care Centre (PHCC). Other projects such as Agriculture, Internship, Vocational Training serve to support the main three programmes. All projects in Loreto hold education as their central focus.

While the parents in our host community did not benefit from formal education, all are committed to ensuring their children have a chance to study and access our health-care facilities.

As our past pupils move into internship they provide an important service in supporting all our departments. After two years our interns go on to university with the hope of returning to South Sudan to serve their communities. Thankfully we have been privileged to journey with many of our graduates through university. Today we are fortunate to have eight former interns back with us as qualified staff members.

Young women are beginning to change the environment of South Sudan and the country is slowly changing. After years of insecurity 2022 has been the most peaceful period for Rumbek.



WHAT WE DO



Loreto Rumbek adopts an integrated and comprehensive approach by working simultaneously on promoting education, health, and livelihoods in the local community of Maker Kuei, Rumbek. Our programmes focus on girl child education, health and wellbeing, environmental sustainability, agricultural sustainability, empowerment, emergency response, and food security. Through our programmes we create opportunities for the most vulnerable in our community.

SCORECARD

1,758

(55% of whom are girls)

Learners attending Loreto
Schools in Rumbek

1,041,577

Wet-meals provided
through the feeding
programme

54

Participants of the vocational
training programme taking
tailoring classes.

71

Former students currently being
supported with scholarships to
university

50

Interns benefited from the
Professional Internship
Programme

212

Children under age 5 benefited
from nutrition AND twins
support programmes

10.5 Tonnes

Groundnuts produced from the
school farm

42,492

Clinical consultations done at
Mary Ward PHCC

COMMUNITY UPDATES

THE SITUATION

The young nation of South Sudan is one of the poorest and least developed countries in the world. The country is suffering from a dilapidated economy, effects of prolonged conflict, as well as severe food crisis and lack of availability of basic services. According to WHO statistics, South Sudan has the fifth highest under 5 child mortality rates in Africa and more than 70% of the population above the age of 15 years is illiterate. The humanitarian situation in South Sudan is dire. Women and children in South Sudan are highly exposed to risks and rights abuses because of persistent sub-national violence which is combined with other factors such as climatic shocks, economic hardships, and cultural practices. Due to the prevailing conditions, community members, mostly in rural areas are unable to access basic needs including food, potable water, healthcare, and education.

OUR INTERVENTION

Being in the community and living through the challenges that community members face, Loreto programmes have diversified from just providing education for young women to also having a big component of livelihood support programmes. These are aimed at promoting peace in the community, advocacy for girl child education, decent livelihoods, provision of clean potable water, education on positive cultural practices and promotion of sustainable agriculture.

NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS

Since its inception, Loreto has been working closely with the local people and state administrations to promote education. Over time, the uptake of education for girls has gone up and an increasing number of community members have been sending their girls to school, a practice that was previously not encouraged. Following increased success and advocacy, the state government in 2022 passed legislation that criminalised early or forced marriage for girls of school going age. The announcement of the passing of this legislation was done by the State Governor while on an official visit of Loreto Girls Secondary School.

In the promotion of health, sustainable livelihoods, and peace in the community, Loreto has so far drilled 10 community boreholes through the support of various donors and partners. These community boreholes have provided a much-needed resource which has for a long time been a key trigger for inter-communal conflicts. The availability of water, combined with sustained education have led to improved health and hygiene. These have also promoted the establishment of irrigated plots around homesteads which have contributed towards availability of food for households. Efforts at promoting peace and non-violent conflict resolution are continuing. Through our School's student Peace Club held various forums with community groups to pass the message of peace and reconciliation.



PROMOTING A PEACEFUL, HEALTHY COMMUNITY

“Before we had this community borehole, women from our village had to walk for long distances into the neighbouring villages to get water. We faced a lot of challenges including fights which would result from crowding at the boreholes. It also took a lot of time before one got the water and this was particularly bad for our young girls who also had to attend school. They would come back home tired and at times even miss school simply because of the pain and aches in their bodies from that work.

Since the installation of this borehole through Loreto’s support, we are now able to access clean water easily and our children no longer have to do the hectic task of fetching water from far places in the mornings. This has been helpful for them as they now attend school more frequently. Conflicts with the neighbouring community have also reduced, because we now have more water points which serve us well.”

ALUEL, a community member from Adol village.

LORETO GIRLS SECONDARY SCHOOL

THE CHALLENGE

Progress in education has faced tough challenges in South Sudan due to high levels of poverty, conflicts, violence as well as cultural practices. According to UNDP, children from the poorest communities are four times more likely to be out of school than those from richer households. The disparity between the urban and rural areas is also high. Achieving inclusive and quality education for everyone is a challenge for sustainable development. Our goal is to ensure that young women in South Sudan get access to education, complete their secondary schooling, and together we can contribute to the elimination of gender inequalities.

OUR APPROACH

Loreto Girls Secondary School promotes access to education for young South Sudanese girls. The compound provides a safe learning environment where they are protected from the common challenges which threaten their education, including early marriage, conflict, and hunger. The girls boarding school accommodates up to 356 students enrolled in the school for 42 weeks each year, though some girls stay all year.

Key Achievements in 2022

This year, 91 students were enrolled in the senior one class and 36 in the transition class, bringing the total number of new students to 127. More than 300 potential students expressed interest in joining the school, which was an indication of the increasing demand for female education in South Sudan.

This year also, 52 students sat their national examinations and recorded a good performance, with an average score of 81.7%. Loreto Girls Secondary School produced some of the top female students in Lakes State and throughout the country.

In addition to classroom learning, students were also involved in extra-curricular activities, sports, and community service. Students in the Senior 4 class held a pilgrimage walk to Thon Aduel, where they visited the new parish. Younger students involved in club activities also visited the local state hospital, the children's home in Rumbek, and held a peace concert in the local community.

OUR IMPACT

- 356 young South Sudanese Women Accessing Education at Loreto Girls Secondary School.

- 52 Graduate students in the year 2022.

- 345 students graduated since the School's Inception

- Increased uptake of STEM subjects and agriculture among female students including active participation in club activities

- Renewed interest and advocacy for girls' education in the local community and in South Sudan.



HIGHLIGHTS

356

Young women from across South Sudan studying at Loreto Girls Secondary School.

52

students sat end of Secondary School National Exams in 2022 attaining a mean score of 81.7%

OVERCOMING THE BARRIERS

"I was excited when I received the communication that I would join Loreto Girls Secondary School. I came to school after being at home for some months after clearing my primary school. This period was not an easy period for me, because some of my relatives were of the idea that I get married since secondary school was too expensive and in my family no girl had ever gone beyond primary school level.

This made me worried about my life and my future, because I could see what happened to girls of my age when they were denied the chance to go to school. I could not imagine that happening to me and so on one dark night I decided to run from home and come live with an uncle who stays in Rumbek town. It was while I was there that the opportunity to apply for a chance at Loreto came and I gave it my all.

I am now in my fourth year of school and I cannot be happier that the end is now in sight. There have been challenging times when I have had to rely on the school to protect me from my relatives who wanted to withdraw me from school forcefully. Despite this, I am happy that I have overcome the barriers so far. This has renewed my spirit and hunger to get to higher levels of education. After finishing school, I want to join the university and study nursing to be able to provide medical care to the sick children in our community."

ACHILIEC, Senior 4 Student

**SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT
GOALS**



LORETO PRIMARY SCHOOL

THE CHALLENGE

According to UNICEF, there was a significant increase in the number of out of school children in South Sudan from 2.2 million in 2018 to 2.8 million in 2021, mostly attributed to the school closures because of COVID-19. An additional challenge faced here is the lack of trained teachers. Approximately 63% of the teachers in South Sudan are without formal training and therefore are not able to effectively deliver the curriculum.

OUR APPROACH

Loreto Primary School prioritises the provision of quality education to pupils enrolled in the school. The school mainstreams enrolment of girls and advocates for their continued stay through advocacy, protection from early marriage, as well as the provision of supporting structures to keep them in school, such as providing healthcare and school meals. Loreto Primary School also works to improve the capacity of local teachers through teacher training programmes targeting local teachers from the school and other nearby schools.

Key Achievements in 2022

792 Boys and 610 girls were enrolled in our Primary School in the 2022, mostly in lower classes. Gender parity was prioritised in the enrolment process. with the school now having a total student population of 1,402. Students participated in various school activities, including sports, drama, agriculture, and music.

Pupils benefited from daily school meals, as well as access to healthcare at Mary Ward PHCC. This was particularly helpful during the height of the malaria season, which is typically a period of increased absenteeism.

Three sessions of teacher training were held during the year. This included two weeks training on psycho-emotional learning for teachers working specifically with pupils in lower kindergarten and lower classes.

OUR IMPACT

1402 Pupils from the local community of Maker Kuei community accessing education at Loreto Primary School.

47 pupils, including 18 girls and 29 boys, graduate from Primary School in the year 2022.

3 sessions of teacher training workshops, including peaceful play methodologies conducted within the year



HIGHLIGHTS

Active participation of students in co-curricular activities including Arts, drama, sports, and agriculture

<1%

Student dropout rate in 2022

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



AN OPTIMISTIC LEARNER

“I like coming to school because I like my teachers and friends and all that we learn here in school every day. Particularly, I like singing and learning in English, which is a new language for me and my friends. Since I joined class one this year, coming to school and learning has been interesting because every day I learn something new from my teachers who have so many songs and games which are very enjoyable for us while in class or even out of class.

Being from a big extended family, my parents struggle to meet other family needs such as providing food for us because of the problems that are there in our community. Here in school, I am happy that I get food daily and that when I get sick, I was taken care of in the clinic without having to stress my parents. This has made it easier for my parents who have seen my good performance and are encouraged to support me stay in school and reach the levels that my elder sister who is currently in secondary school has reached.”

PIATH, a class one pupil at Loreto Primary school

MARY WARD PRIMARY HEALTH CARE CENTER

THE CHALLENGE

Access to quality healthcare is one of the biggest challenges facing South Sudan. In rural communities, lack of health facilities or poorly staffed facilities contribute to the high prevalence and deaths resulting from preventable illnesses. WHO statistics indicate that South Sudan had one of the highest rates of infant mortalities in the world. Malaria and nutrition related illnesses particularly for children under the age of 5 are the leading cases of morbidity and mortality.

OUR APPROACH

Mary Ward PHCC adopts an integrated approach in the provision of healthcare by implementing both preventive and curative programmes. Health education is a key crosscutting component across all programmes implemented in the facility including; community outreach programme, expanded programme on immunisation, under 5s nutrition feeding programme, twins' support programme, psychosocial support, and vulnerable support programme.

Key Achievements in 2022

In 2022, the facility increased its medical outreach component, which included medical consultations to community members in the villages as well as implementation of the expanded programme on immunisation. 7,989 clinical consultations, including 3,951 consultations on children under the age of 5, were conducted through the outreach programme.

In the delivery of the nutrition and twins' support programme, the PHCC was able to construct a dedicated kitchen and feeding area for children, as well as facilities to promote good food storage and hygiene. A handwashing station for beneficiaries of the programme was also installed.

IMPACT

More than 40,000
Clinical consultations
conducted in 2022

Over 2,000 Children in
the Rumbek were
immunised through the
expanded programme
on immunisation

Over 15,000 cases of
malaria Infections
diagnosed and treated

Over 100 sessions of
health education
conducted

Over 200 children
benefited from
nutrition feeding
programme

7,989 clinical
consultations were
seen in the local
community. 3,951 were
children under 5 years.



HIGHLIGHTS

4550

Community members benefitted from at least one programme offered by Mary Ward PHCC

<2 days

Average number of school days missed due to illness in the year for boarding school students

SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT
GOALS



A HEALTHY ASSURANCE

“This year has been busy since we have had our first full year in school since COVID-19. Our teachers have been guiding us on the subjects in class as well as out of class, where we did a lot of agricultural work in the school farm. Second term was particularly challenging for some pupils who got infected by malaria and had to miss some classes because of the illness. We are thankful for having the clinic and the support that it provides for us because when someone falls sick, they are always ready to help and provide medicine to ensure that we do not miss out on many classes. In addition, the clinic has also been doing health education with us. This has helped us to understand some of the practices that we can adopt every day to ensure that we fall ill less often.”

ACHIEK, a Class 7 pupil at Loreto Primary School.

PROFESSIONAL INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME

THE CHALLENGE

Young women who complete their secondary school education face additional challenges in transitioning to third level studies. In the local culture, access to education is prioritised for boys and a girl with secondary school education is considered too educated. This in effect has meant that the professional pool in South Sudan is male dominated, as female learners do not get the necessary support to advance.

OUR APPROACH

The Professional Internship Programme provides a platform for young women who have recently graduated from secondary school to have an experience where they get to improve their skills and knowledge working in various departments, learn basic computer use as well as obtaining English language accreditation. Supporting these recent graduates in the one or two-year programme improved their awareness of the available career opportunities beyond secondary school, as well as helping their approach and preparation to studying at tertiary level.

Key Achievements in 2022

This programme supported 36 former Loreto Girls Secondary School students secure admission into the programme where they got to interact with professionals in different departments, who provided them with professional guidance while working as assistants. By being at Loreto Rumbek, the graduates were able to take advantage of the resources available within the compound, particularly use of the internet for e-learning, as well as opportunities for practical experience for interns attached to the Loreto Primary Health Care Centre, Loreto Primary School, logistics, agriculture, maintenance, and administration. Having gone through the programme, 24 students have been able to transition into various universities either in East Africa or in South Sudan.

IMPACT

50 Secondary School graduates enrolled in the Professional Internship Programme comprising of 46 female and 4 male interns.

23 interns participated in vocational training programmes, including tailoring.

20 Interns successfully took part and graduated with a certificate in introduction to guidance and counselling

36 interns undertook a professional English course as part of their preparations for university



EQUIPPED TO SUCCEED

“I am glad that I have been part of this programme which really teaches us a lot of practical life skills. I am particularly happy to take part in the computer, counselling and English language courses which have improved my knowledge and understanding in those fields. I apply these skills every day in my class in the Primary School, where I get to interact with so many diverse students, parents and colleagues. I also hope to use these skills, particularly in computers, communication, reading, listening and effective communication once I join the university where the mode of learning is different from that which we used in secondary school.

Through the constant training and mentorship in the programme, I am now able to adapt well to the work environment and I find it easy to interact with professionalism. I have also grown to be more independent, planning my finances, and making intentional choices towards my future goals. Having been an ambitious lady since my childhood, I am hoping to pursue a career in entrepreneurship. I am confident that this experience will develop me and enable me to pursue skills at the university which will spur me towards this goal of becoming a successful business lady.”

ADONG, Professional Internship Programme

VOCATIONAL TRAINING PROGRAMME



THE CHALLENGE

Lack of relevant market-oriented skills has been a big contributor to unemployment in South Sudan, where over 50% of the youth population is unemployed. This high unemployment is driven by low levels of education, limited skills among the youth, as well as few opportunities offered by the weak national economy.

OUR APPROACH

Loreto Rumbek seeks to provide a platform for the local youth to chart their own paths to self-sustainability through linking them with opportunities to learn skills in their areas of interest. Opportunities available in the Loreto mission include learning computer use and applications, tailoring, block making, and masonry.

Key Achievements in 2022

The tailoring programme was started in 2022 with an initial 54 participants comprising of students, interns, and community members working with eight tailoring machines. A professional tailor was employed to help learners to gain skills and knowledge in sewing and tailoring.

IMPACT

54 beneficiaries; 26 secondary school students, as well as 23 interns and 5 community members taking tailoring classes.

36 interns took part in the professional English training course. 10 attained level B2

36 interns took computer training classes

FEEDING PROGRAMME

THE CHALLENGE

Prolonged food insecurity in South Sudan because of changing climatic conditions, inter-communal conflicts, macroeconomic crises, and the lingering effects of Covid-19 shocks have led to the country's worst food crisis since 2014.

In late 2021 until mid-2022, South Sudan faced its highest levels of food insecurity and malnutrition. Over half of the country's population were in need of food assistance, including 2.4 million school going children, 1.4 million children under the age of 5 and 480,000 pregnant women and new mothers.

OUR APPROACH

The Loreto school feeding programme seeks to promote school going, regular attendance as well as active participation of school going children. It provides simple, but nutritious meals daily to children in both day primary school as well as young women in boarding secondary school. The programme also supports vulnerable community members through food packages given on a regular basis. Malnourished children under the age of 5 also benefit from a nutritional support scheme which provides meals, nutritional supplementation as well as medical support to promote their healthy growth and development

Key Achievements in 2022

The school feeding programme provided cooked meals to beneficiaries who included students, staff of Loreto schools, casual workers, as well malnourished children.

Kitchen staff received health and hygiene training to ensure high quality of meals to beneficiaries. In the year, a total of 1,041,577 meals were distributed and these significantly contributed towards promotion of school retention, treatment, and prevention of acute and severe malnutrition, as well as supporting the most vulnerable community members.

IMPACT

1,705 school goes in Loreto Rumbek benefited from daily meals. Day scholars had one meal each school day and boarding students three meals each day

Over 1 million meals given through the feeding programme in the year 2022.

More than 200 children under age 5 benefited from nutrition support provided through the nutrition feeding programme

23 vulnerable families benefited from weekly food packages



HIGHLIGHTS

68%

of primary school pupils reported eating from a different food group while at school

11.7%

of meals provided through the programme benefited vulnerable community members receiving support at Loreto Rumbek

PROMOTING ACTIVE LEARNING

“One of the reasons why I enjoy being in school is that we can access all our meals here every day. Back at home, it is not always easy to access food all year round, particularly in our culture where we have big households living together with our extended families in the same home. This makes access to food quite difficult and often at times some family members have to go hungry because the food that our caregivers are able to bring home is not enough for all of us.

School feeding has therefore been an essential component for us girls coming from the local community who have experienced this challenge. It has enabled us to study freely without having worries of where the next meal will come from and therefore focus on our studies.”

ADUT, S1 Student at Loreto Girls Secondary School

**SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT
GOALS**



AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

THE CHALLENGE

Agricultural production in South Sudan remains significantly low in relation to the demand for food, as well as the potential for increased production. Most of the agriculture practiced is small scale subsistence farming carried out by rural communities with the main objective of meeting the food needs of their households. Agricultural production is heavily reliant on rainfall and therefore erratic or delayed rains often result in poor or no harvests. Conflict and mass displacement continue to force farmers from their fields during key times in the planting season hence rendering most households' food insecure for large parts of the year.

OUR APPROACH

Agriculture and internal food production have been identified as key components of ensuring sustainability in the Loreto programme, particularly in food security. Agricultural activities in the school are implemented with the active participation of both students as well community members working as casual workers. Promotion of non-traditional farming methods including irrigation and green house farming are key elements in ensuring that there is produce from the farm all year round.

Key Achievements in 2022

Additional land was allocated to agriculture in the year 2022 and students from both the primary and secondary schools were encouraged to actively work in the farms to increase the school's agricultural production. Students mainly planted groundnuts, which are consumed in the schools on almost a daily basis.

In addition to this, volunteer secondary school students also took up extra plots of land on which they planted additional groundnuts for purposed of selling to the school. These students used the income that they generated from the sale of their produce to contribute to their pocket money and savings, in order to reduce the burden on their parents. The installation of two additional water points in the school garden aided in irrigation and all year production from the school farm.

IMPACT

Approximately 10.5 tonnes of groundnuts harvested in the school farm in the year 2022. Students participated in planting in the school farm.

Over 100 community members worked in the school farm as casual workers. This provided an avenue for them to learn skills in irrigation as well as planting non-conventional crops.

Piggery and goats project successfully contributed to the school feeding project with about 80 pigs and goats in the farm



HIGHLIGHTS

89%

Contribution of produce from irrigated agriculture to fresh food consumed in the school.

Loreto is able to produce fresh vegetables all year round to supplement the school feeding programme through irrigation and green house agriculture

**SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT
GOALS**



EMBRACING SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

"I appreciate our school for the idea of having an agricultural project where students can get on the farm and contribute to the production of food that they consume while in school. As one of the students taking agriculture as an elective subject, we have been able to provide academic support to each other as well as participate in food production in the school farm. This year we started a new concept in the school where those of us taking agriculture were divided into groups and allotted plots in the school farm where we get to demonstrate some of our skills with the support of our agriculture teachers.

In addition to this, this year, students also had commercial plots where we planted crops and sold the products from these fields to the school to support us in obtaining some income for our personal effects and school fees. This was very popular among us students because we can relieve our parents of the burden of providing for all our needs. In future, we hope to engage in more sustainable agriculture that will also enable us to be able to produce food even in the peak of the dry season."

AWUT, Senior 4 Student at Loreto Girls Secondary School



PASTORAL, PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

Under the guidance of our school Chaplain, Fr. Alan Neville MSC, spiritual support and pastoral development programs have gained interest from students, staff, community members. Weekly mass is held in the Secondary, as well as the Primary School, on a regular basis. Fr. Alan has taken the lead in celebrating mass and prayers for all. This year, students were also taken through Sacramental classes where a total of 100 students participated. This helped to improve their understanding, grounding, and profession of the Catholic faith as they live and learn in a Catholic based Institution.

Sunday School for young children was also a core programme implemented this year for the spiritual development of children from the community to trigger their interest and knowledge of Christianity. Approximately forty children attend weekly and benefit from the programme. They had weekly classes which comprised of singing, drawing, and colouring.

In addition to spiritual and pastoral support within the Loreto compound, the school chaplain, Fr Alan has taken over leadership of the Catholic University of Rumbek, the only non-government third level institution of higher learning in Rumbek. Revitalisation of the institution has helped in spurring interest in higher education for secondary school graduates in the state, as well as providing an alternative institution with additional courses which are not available in the state university.

In promoting knowledge development and reaching out to unqualified teachers in remote school, Sr. Baiada Mary, working with the Jesuit Teacher Training programme in Cueibet led weekly teacher training to teachers in schools supported by local government. This year, Sr. Baiada Mary has held 36 sessions reaching 160 teachers weekly.

Psychosocial and counselling support provided through a resident counsellor was also an integral part of the services provided by the PHCC in 2022. Through this programme 413 individual sessions, as well as 56 group therapy sessions, were conducted in response to various stressful or traumatic events in the community. Psychosocial education sessions for 356 students held in secondary school by the counsellor has been helpful as it has increased the student's self-awareness and knowledge on response to stressful as well as traumatic occurrences. 64 pupils in Primary school class 8 have also benefited from the psycho-social education provided by the counsellor. Individual counselling on self-referral or referral by teachers, matrons or by other students have also been provided.



MEMORIAL WALL

We remember and pray for our many donors who died over the year. In a special way we remember Mr Joe Duggan, from Ireland. Joe was one of our first donors to our mission in South Sudan. He contributed annually to the running of the programme and always had an interest in hearing how the mission developed. He was predeceased by his wife Eva.



Sadly, we also three of our students: Nyanhok Magok (5) had just begun Kindergarten class. John Ater Gum (6) from Primary 1 died in drowning accident and Maria Achan Maker (pictured above) died after a short illness. She was seven years of age and in her third year in Loreto, Primary 2 class.

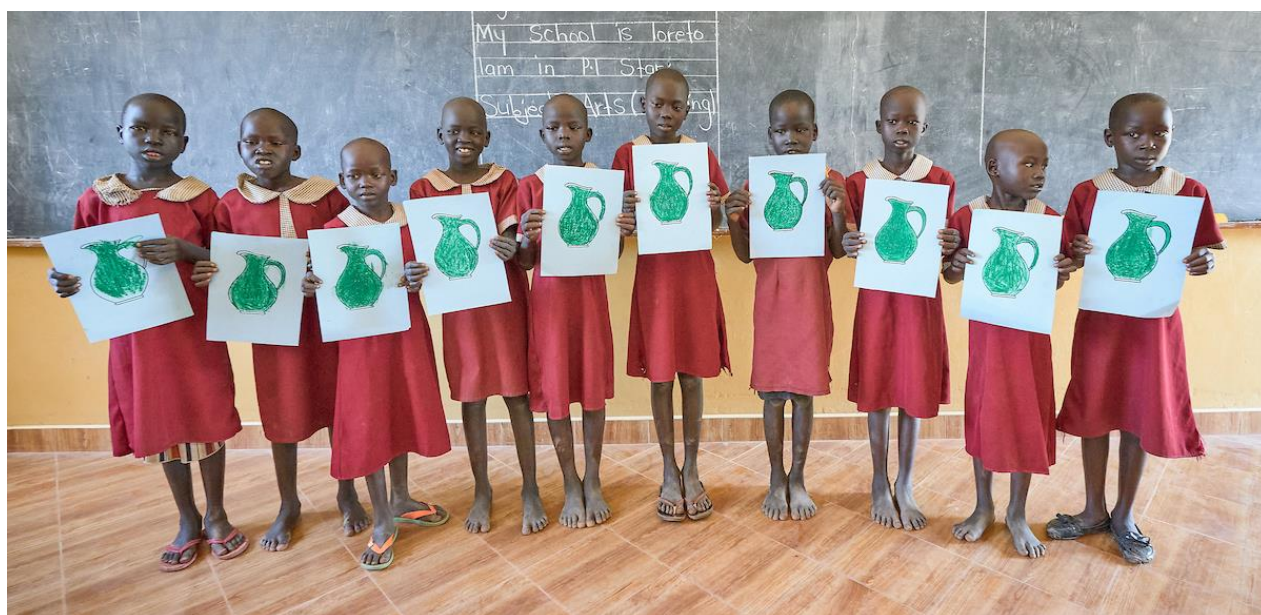
May they rest in peace. Amen

ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2022

In our last annual report, we listed the many hopes that we had moving into 2022. A comprehensive list of forty-five targets were offered under six different headings. As we end 2022 and review our goals, thirty-nine of the targets were successfully completed and the other six are still in progress.

Among some of the great successes for 2022 our top ten are listed, in no particular order!

1. Two former interns graduated as secondary school teachers and have recently joined our staff.
2. All our goals for construction were met, including the installation of the various solar lights.
3. Twenty-two graduates with former interns were supported to go to university this year.
4. Seven graduates/former interns supported by Loreto graduated from university.
5. Intensive English language courses have been offered to all our primary teachers and interns.
6. The Loreto feeding programme prepared over one million meals this year.
7. Creative Arts are beginning in Loreto, with more art classes in the Primary School. We have also employed a new music and drama teacher.
8. Over 40,000 patient consultation were conducted over the year.
9. Construction department ensured the completion of PHCC and agricultural stores, extension of classrooms, upgrading of student toilets, and staff houses.
10. More student involvement in the planting of crops and preparation of seedlings.



HOPES FOR 2023

STRATEGIC PLAN

Our new Strategic Plan of 2022 to 2026 outlines four strategic goals. These have been identified to help us work and plan for the next five years, with a focus on consolidation for the whole mission.

1. Provide holistic education
2. Work towards creating an environmentally, economically and equitably sustainable future
3. Strengthen organisational capacity
4. Be guided by Loreto values and ethos across all programmes.

In 2023 we have identified a number targets under each goal:

1. Ensure greater financial sustainability in programmes, with particular focus on the Primary School.
2. Construction and development of the new Education and Administration Centre.
3. Development of the administration team, ensuring greater support and oversight for all programmes. In practical terms, this involves the recruitment of a HR person.
4. Continued development of policies and handbooks.
5. Implementation of a new induction programme for all new staff.
6. Facilitate staff and students to further engage and become more aware of our Mary Ward spirituality.
7. Through the English language programme, enrich the level of professional English used by all qualified staff members.
8. Continue the programme of tree planting within the compound and facilitate tree planting in the community through the staff and students.
9. Continue to support our vulnerable families and mothers through health education classes and the agricultural programme.
10. Support capacity building of our staff, particularly among our South Sudanese personnel.

BANKING AND DONATIONS

The Loreto Rumbek Development office is responsible for fundraising as well as maintaining relations with donors and partners of Loreto. The Development Office works closely with the Finance Office to ensure that grants are well implemented and timely, quality reports submitted. The Finance Office ensures that financial reporting standards for the various partners are met and that project funds are used and reported on as expected.

Donor funded projects have been key to the success of the Loreto mission. Projects over the past years have been many and varied, but generally cover the areas of access to education particularly for girls, access to healthcare particularly for children under the age of 5, agricultural development and food security, livelihood support, and sustainable incomes for vulnerable community members.

Updates on the work in the Loreto Rumbek are available through a monthly newsletter, on the Loreto Rumbek Facebook page and twitter account, and the official website.

To support the Loreto programs in Rumbek, please donate to:

Bank Details

BANK:	Bank of Ireland
Address:	College Green, Dublin 2
Account Name:	Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary- Irish Province- Loreto Rumbek
Account No:	60775342
Sort Code:	90-00-17
IBAN:	IE76 BOFI 9000 1760 7753 42
SWIFT:	BOFIE2DXXX
Currency:	Euro
CRA Name:	The Institute of the Blessed Virgin – Irish Province
CRA No.:	20014186

Loreto Ireland Address: Loreto House, Beaufort, Rathfarnham, Dublin 14

Loreto Ireland Phone #: +353 1 4935463

For more information about supporting our programmes, for potential projects and/or partnerships, please contact: director@loretorumbek.ie - Or visit the Loreto Rumbek website on www.loretorumbek.ie

A special Thank You to all of the donors, advocates and supporters of Loreto Rumbek. Without your hard work and support none of this would be possible.