

THRIVE SOUTH SUDAN

Project Update October 2026



“See I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; Do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.” Isaiah 32 v19

October 2026

Dear friends at St Finnian's Parish,

I hope this message finds you well. Its been a while since I was in touch, so I wanted to share an update with you on our Thrive South Sudan programme given we launched the second phase of it earlier this year.

Thank you for your faithfulness in standing with us to make a tangible difference in the lives of children in South Sudan. Thank you too for loving and supporting them. It's people like you - who choose to stand alongside the vulnerable and advocate for those without access to life's basic necessities - who bring hope where it's needed most. Since its original launch in January 2023, Thrive South Sudan has been working to improve enrolment, retention, and graduation rates across 9 selected schools. As we are now in Phase 2, we widened the programme to 15 schools. Even with challenges, Thrive South Sudan continues to make remarkable progress, all because of supporters like you. We are excited to have started drilling for fresh water in South Sudan for the first time.

Thank you for believing in these children and helping them grow in strength and purpose. Because of you, they can say: I am Educated, Safe, Fed and Loved.

Every blessing,

Heather



Thrive South Sudan

Location:

**Ibba district and Maridi District,
Western Equatoria, South Sudan**

Number of schools:

15 schools

Number of pupils:

7239 pupils

As mentioned above, there have been 15 schools participating in the Thrive South Sudan Phase 2 Project. The project continues to try to improve the number of children enrolling at, staying at and completing their time at school.

Phase 2 introduces several new interventions that were not included in the first phase of the programme. These interventions include the establishment of Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs). These are savings and micro-loan schemes encouraging entrepreneurship within the communities to enhance well-being and build resilience.

Thank you for standing with the children and communities in South Sudan to help meet these needs and let these precious children, their families and communities thrive!



**This report includes an update on the wider Thrive South Sudan programme!
We hope you are encouraged!**



I am Educated

A child can only thrive if they are educated. We want every child to have access to a quality education right from early childhood. We are building nursery schools and providing existing schools with safe infrastructure, educational resources, training programmes and teacher salary top-ups.

Continued Improvement in Teaching and Learning

Support for teachers and school leaders has continued at all our partner schools, with salary top-up and a focus on strengthening the quality of teaching and learning. Training has focused on effective teaching practices, lesson preparation, and the use of learning resources.

The salary top-up scheme ensures teachers feel valued and has contributed to greater teacher stability, improved morale, and enhanced continuity in teaching and learning, ultimately benefiting the pupils. Training has also taken place for the School Management Committee and Board of Governors on leadership and strengthening school governance.



St Peter's pupils learning in class



Some of the new recruits on the teacher training course.

Highlights include:

Improvement in girls' enrolment - Over the last 3 years, there has been a significant increase in girls enrolling for school. It is up from just under 30% female enrolment to just over 46%! This incredible increase reflects the positive impact of interventions implemented by Fields of Life to value and support the girl child.

New cohort of teachers being trained - Fields of Life is supporting the in-service training of 20 teachers from all our partner schools with the aim of improving the quality of education. The training programme is being implemented by the National Teachers Training Institute (NTTI) in Maridi and graduates will leave with a Certificate in Primary Education.

150 teachers benefiting from salary top-up!

“The teachers salary top up has really helped our teachers and retain them in the schools. Some of our schools have no extra support apart from the contribution of the parents. This intervention by Fields of Life to support the teachers with teachers' salary top up has come at the right time.
Canon Emmanuel



I am Fed

A child can only learn well when they are nourished. In East Africa, many children arrive at school hungry, having not eaten since the previous day. Hunger makes it difficult to concentrate, and many pupils leave at lunchtime to search for food, causing them to miss afternoon lessons and fall behind.

Our aim is to ensure that every child receives at least one meal a day and has reliable access to safe, clean drinking water so they can stay healthy and thrive in school.

Trying to Grow More Food for School Meals

Fields of Life supported seven Thrive schools in South Sudan with a School Feeding Programme. However, due to prolonged drought in the country, crop yields have been reduced and has placed the school feeding programme under strain. Please pray for rain to come so food can be grown and the feeding programme resumed.



Highlights include:



I am Safe

A child can only thrive if they are safe. We want every child to know they are valued and deserve to be treated with care and respect. We provide schools with safe infrastructure and training programmes to protect children.

Training raises confidence and self-esteem in pupils

Pupils at all our partner schools took part in training designed to help them understand the changes that come with growing up and to make positive, informed choices. Girls also received practical guidance on menstrual health and learned how to make reusable sanitary pads. By equipping pupils with knowledge and practical skills, the programme is helping to build confidence, promote good hygiene, and remove barriers that can prevent girls from attending school regularly.

One other barrier that has been removed recently is the need to collect water. Everyday, this time-consuming task puts children and young people in danger and often prevents them from attending school. As a result of drilling, water has now been found at Haddow Secondary School.

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The way we used to suffer here in this school looking for water was so much...God listens to the prayers of His children. What we are seeing here today is an answer to our prayers. The girls will not walk miles to look for water again."

A pupil at Haddow SS



Highlights include:

Drilling for water has begun in South Sudan - The drilling team reached Maridi in the first week of September. The first borehole to be drilled was at Haddow Secondary School. A total of 5 wells are to be drilled in South Sudan this year.

I am Loved

We believe a child can only thrive if they are loved and valued. We want every child to know they are unconditionally loved by God and precious to Him.

Pupils in all our partner schools have continued to engage actively in the school's Christian Clubs, where they meet together for prayer, Bible study and devotions.

Club leaders have been trained and encouraged to take an active role in leading these activities, helping pupils deepen their faith and grow in confidence as young Christian leaders.



Training for the School Christian Club Committee Members

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Now I know we are loved and cared for. We learned to teach bible stories to others and respect our elders. We will do this. As a group leader at school, I will make sure we put our light on a lamp stand for all to see and praise God our father."

(A pupil)



Haddow PS pupils worshipping God

Highlights include:

Christian Club leaders were encouraged to lead regular devotions, helping pupils grow in their faith and deepen their understanding of the Bible.

Children and youth camps are scheduled to take place in October 2026.



**Thank you
St Finnian's for making
a tangible difference in
thousands of young
lives.**

