

MANIKAKARA PRIMARY SCHOOL NEW CLASSROOM BLOCK, WITH FURNITURE, AND LATRINES

Project name:

Construction of
Manikakara
Primary School – 4
classrooms
plus furniture, 2 latrines

Project location:

Ibba Diocese, Maridi
State, South
Sudan

Local partner organisation:

Episcopal Church of
South Sudan
(ECSS), Diocese of Ibba



Project period: October 2018 to September 2019

PROJECT SUMMARY

Fields of Life received a total of \$64,723 from African Revival to support the Construction of a four-classroom block with furniture and two sets of latrine blocks at Manikakara Primary School, Ibba County, Maridi State, South Sudan, a school run by the Diocese of Ibba of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan.

PROJECT BACKGROUND

Fields of Life has been partnering with African Revival and the Diocese of Ibba (along with the adjoining Diocese of Maridi). Additionally, the then Fields of Life International Development Officer (also the Project Manager for much of this project) had previously worked with many of the Diocesan staff team. Infrastructure, especially school buildings, have been scarce for many years due to the aftermath of a 21-year civil war between Sudan and Southern Sudan. Most schools that survived were held in temporary structures because there were no permanent buildings, and the majority of classes were taught under the shade of mango trees with children sitting on tree branches supported off the ground on Y shaped branches. During the war most qualified teachers were conscripted or fled the country to become refugees in adjoining countries. Thus any teaching which was carried out immediately after the war was often delivered by untrained secondary school students at best. This situation still persists in many areas, and you can still find students in their mid to late twenties attending P1 to P4 classes. Ibba county in Maridi State is located in Western Equatoria, was relatively peaceful during the conflict due to the cosmopolitan make-up of the area, with a number of tribes living there. Education has been a priority of Ibba Diocese

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for some time, especially since South Sudan gained independence in July 2011. This work has been supported by various international partners with a mix of funding sources including government, individual, church, trust and foundation grants and donations. The project work has fundamentally concentrated on teacher training and also construction of infrastructure, including water and sanitation provision.

Fields of Life had carried out a field assessment originally in 2013 and updated in 2015 which identified the need for further investment in education infrastructure and teacher training in both Ibba and Maridi Dioceses. Prior to this project Fields of Life had worked on construction of other schools in the Dioceses – including Onjirima Primary School and Haddow Secondary School. This report provides achievements of the activities carried out in this project from October 2018 to September 2019.

PROJECT ACHIEVEMENTS

Before approving the project, Fields of Life carried out a due diligence process with the Diocese covering criteria including the following:

- Evidence of land title and ownership
- School official registration evidence
- Evidence of qualified teachers
- Active School Management Committee
- Active Parent Teacher Association
- Approval from the Diocesan Education Officer
- Approval of plans by the County Engineer
- School sustainability plan
- School governance SDC and PTA



Maniakara was seen to be an active school but did not have enough classroom space for everyone. When everything was shown to be satisfactory, the project was given approval by the Fields of Life Senior Management Team. A tender process was entered into with three construction companies, all of whom had either previous experience of working with Fields of Life or a previous connection. The plans and specifications were emailed to the three companies and a tender deadline was set. The decision by the Tender Committee was to appoint Ayoro Investment and Construction Co. Ltd. for the total project, as it was the lowest price and satisfied the tender committee that they would be able to carry out the work. While being based in Maridi, they also have significant presence in Gulu, northern Uganda. The decision was communicated to Ayoro Investment and Construction Co. Ltd. and a contract was issued and signed by the three parties – Fields of Life, the Episcopal Church of South Sudan Diocese of Ibba, and Ayoro Investment and Construction Co. Ltd. – in October 2018.

Despite the difficulty of acquiring some building supplies, good progress was made with the construction. There was some delay in construction due to poor weather hampering supply of materials, made worse as some supplies had to be purchased in Uganda (e.g. cement, windows and door frames) and transported to the site. During the construction period, the Diocese made supervisory visits to the site every one to two weeks to check progress and encourage the community about the work. Occasional photos and updates on progress were provided by the Diocese and the contractor. The contract was for a fixed price, with an agreed payment schedule of 25% on award of contract, 25% interim payment when the building reached roof level, a further 25% on completion of the latrines, and a 20% payment on practical completion and sign off by Diocese and government officials. A final 5% retention payment is withheld for 9 months after issue of completion certificate, allowing for any and all snags and defects to be made good.



The completion certificate was issued in July 2019, and the retention payment is still being withheld, due to be paid in April 2020. Tony Allen from African Revival will be visiting Maniakara in March 2020 with Vincent Komakech (ARU Engineer) to do confirm if there are any snagging items needed to be fixed before final payment is made.

At practical completion, the contractor officially handed over the school to the Diocese and the local community. An official opening ceremony took place which was well attended and was a time of great celebration. The community were very happy and pleased to have the building which will help them for a long time and promote their children's education. Pupils too were happy and were presenting news on Maniakara community and the School. In his speech, the chief of Maniakara remarked on the love that God, and the partners of Ibba Diocese, must have for them. He commented that the community themselves could not pay for a classroom block, and they hope that God will reward those who helped to improve the situation for the community of Maniakara.

CHALLENGES AND LESSONS LEARNED

The major challenges faced throughout the project and lessons learned included the following:

- The Diocese staff (including the program manager) had the challenge of fuel for regular visits to supervise which sometimes delayed visits to the site
- During the construction, the price of many construction materials was not stable, which made the mobilisation of the materials sometimes challenging

- The source of water at the school is unreliable, which made it challenging for the contractor to mix cement etc. It remains a challenge for the staff and pupils who have to go out to the stream for water.
- While the new classroom block is very good, the challenge remains for the renovation of the old buildings, for the school to be a friendly school environment to the pupils



Picture above is children playing in front of the completed classroom block

PROJECT SUSTAINABILITY

The sustainability of the school will be the responsibility of the Diocesan Education Department. They will ensure that the government provide teachers and textbooks. The governance of the school includes the Diocesan Management Committee and the commitment of the Parent Teachers Association. This combination has proved successful since the inception of the school some 6 years ago.



SUMMARY

We are delighted for the people of Manikakara that their school now has a new classroom block and the pupils have access to hygienic latrines.

One of the parents, a blind man named Minaida, has said that he is very happy to hear that partners have taken their Manikakara school into consideration and built it to the level of a full Primary School. Although Minaida cannot see it physically himself, he knows that this will help him a lot and allow his children to continue with their education.



FINANCIALS

INCOME		
	Budget	Actual
Initial grant received from African Revival (Oct 18)	\$64,723	\$36,750
Second grant payment received from Africa Revival (Apr 19)		\$27,973
Total Income	\$64,723	\$64,723
EXPENDITURE		
25% advance payment on award of contract		\$15,385
25% for construction to roof level		\$15,385
25% on completion of the latrine blocks		\$15,385
20% payment on practical completion		\$12,308
FOL management/ cost recovery		\$ 3,183
Total Expenditure (to 31 December 2019)		\$61,646
5% retention payment, balance due April 2020		\$ 3,077
TOTAL PLANNED EXPENDITURE		\$64,723

