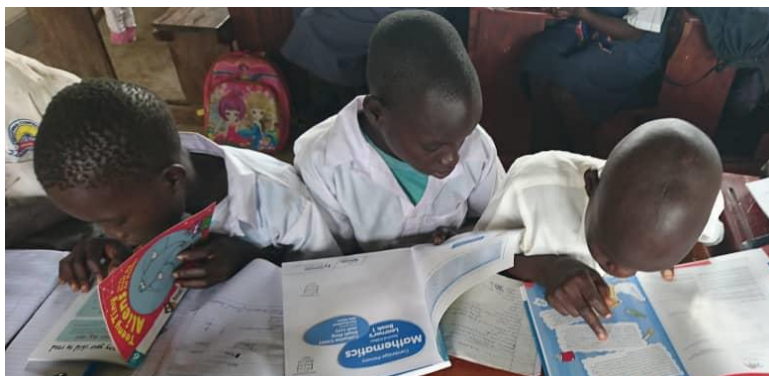


Thrive South Sudan – Impact Report - April 2024

(Project duration 2022 to 2025)



Introduction:

Our vision is an Africa where **every child has equal access to quality education**, as we believe education is the key to overcoming poverty. Since 2005, we have worked with primary and nursery schools in Uganda, Zambia, and South Sudan. We don't just provide infrastructure; we empower whole communities – pupils, teachers, and parents – to transform schools into thriving learning environments that build better futures.

Background:

African Revival has been working in South Sudan for over 15 years. South Sudan is one of the poorest and least developed countries in the world, ranking last in the Human Development Index. South Sudan has the highest poverty rate at 82.3%, indicating severe economic challenges and a need for significant humanitarian and developmental aid (World Population Review). Infrastructure, sanitation, and public services are lacking, and many South Sudanese people are displaced. The country has been officially peaceful since 2020, however, traversing nomadic herders from neighbouring countries and local ethnic disputes still cause violence to erupt and the area remains unstable.

Up to 2.8 million children in South Sudan are not receiving an education - the highest proportion of out-of-school children in the world (UNICEF). The voluntary return of refugees from neighbouring countries will further exacerbate the pressure on existing school facilities. South Sudan is one of the toughest places in the world to complete an education, particularly for girls. Around 90% of South Sudanese women are illiterate and women are more likely to die in childbirth than to complete primary education.

UK FCDO advises against travel to South Sudan, which makes operating there a challenge. African Revival chooses not to employ staff on the ground in South Sudan, but instead works closely with in-country contractors, construction partners, and the local Diocese. All infrastructure projects are overseen by our Ugandan Country Manager, Vincent Komakech, who is a qualified engineer. Vincent has been working with the local contractors for over 10 years and travels to the schools on occasion, when it is safe to do so. African Revival's Founder & Chairman, Anthony Allen, visits South Sudan once or twice each year for monitoring purposes.

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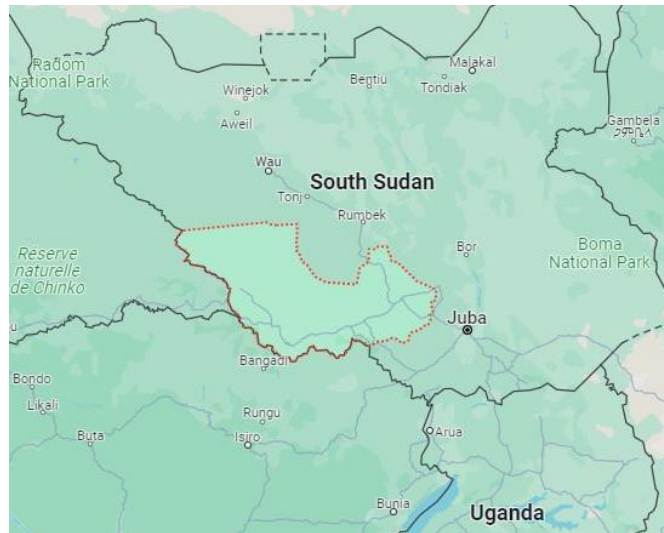
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Location:

African Revival projects are based primarily in Ibba and Maridi counties, within Western Equatoria State, in the extreme south-west of the country, bordering DRC, where we estimate only 1 in 5 children attend school. There are several community schools established in Ibba and Maridi, but all are lacking basic facilities and qualified teachers. Many of the children are learning outside in makeshift shelters, or outside under trees. Ibba and Maridi towns are 42km apart, connected by one road heading east to west (continuing to Juba, the capital city). The road further south goes towards Yei, where African Revival has supported teacher training and other education projects, in partnership with The Brickworks.

Right: Location of Western Equatoria State within South Sudan



Below: Counties of Western Equatoria State



AR focus areas: Ibba, Maridi and Yei

Objectives:

In February 2022, African Revival Founder & Chairman, Anthony Allen, visited Ibba and Maridi, visiting over 40 schools in the area to complete a needs assessment, with a view to developing a three-year strategy of support for six focus schools, as part of the Thrive South Sudan three-year project. In May 2022, a proposal was agreed, whereby African Revival (AR) and Fields of Life (FOL) would work independently, but in parallel, to improve enrolment, retention, and completion of basic education in six schools in Maridi and Ibba counties of South Sudan by April 2025. Target schools originally identified were: Mamenze PS (Maridi), Town PS (Maridi), Haddow PS (Maridi), Haddow SS (Maridi), Baamani PS (Ibba), and St. Mary Nakuri (Ibba).

This report summarises African Revival’s activities in Y1 & Y2 (2022 into early 2024).

Construction:

Before construction projects commence, we obtain proof of land ownership, and the community agrees, along with parents and teachers, that they will contribute local building materials, as well as some labour, security of building materials and accommodation for the contractor’s employees. Community involvement is important for sense of ownership and helps reduce project costs.

All construction uses eco-friendly ISSB (interlocking stabilised soil block) technology (also known as Hydroform). The blocks are compressed then cured in the sun, rather than fired, which eliminates the need for firewood and charcoal and helps to reduce the destruction of fragile ecosystems. ISSB bricks use less cement to mould and build with too.

We carry out a risk assessment and agree how the new facilities will be maintained by the School Management Committee (SMC), together with the county administration and local Diocese, once the project is complete.

Baamani Latrines – completed July 2022

Baamani Primary School, in Ibba County, was established in 2015 by community members whose children would have to walk over 13km to the nearest school (in Nabanga - a peri-urban centre) or go to stay with a relative there during term time. Before AR started working at this school, enrolment was 474 (232 girls, 242 boys), with 6 volunteer teachers (all untrained; the headteacher is educated to S4).

In September 2021, AR completed construction of a 1x4 classroom block (CRB), with 72x three-seater wooden desk benches and 4x teacher tables and chairs at Baamani Primary School, funded by North Downs Walk sponsorship, Ball funds, and The Allen Trust.



The following year, AR completed construction of 3x blocks of VIP drainable latrines; 5x stances for girls (with a changing room), 5x stances for boys and 2x stances for teachers, with 3x handwashing stands. Cost was \$28,013.

Haddow Floor Refurbishment – completed January 2023



Renovation and construction of three permanent classroom floors in a 1x3 classroom block at Haddow Primary School, Maridi County, funded by The Allen Trust. This included excavation and compaction of foundations, casting of concrete slab floors, construction of aprons and veranda. Before and after pictures above. Prior to construction, children were bitten by insects in the dirt floors. Cost was \$12,500.

Construction of a 1x4 classroom block at Town Primary School – completed May 2023

Town Community Primary School is in Maridi County. The school was started in 2005 by community members whose children needed education (the nearest primary school is privately owned). In 2008, The Allen Trust, in collaboration with The Brickworks, built two 1x4 classroom blocks and, later, a third 1x4 block was built, along with an ECD block and latrines. The improved infrastructure has led to increased enrolment - in 2023, there were 875 enrolled pupils (406 girls, 469 boys) and 17 teachers (5 female, 12 male) - all untrained volunteers.



In 2023, a 1x4 classroom block was built with ISSB, including blackboards, 72x three-seater wooden desk benches and 4x teacher tables and chairs, funded by The Allen Trust and The Adam Handling Group. The school decided to allocate this as a secondary school block, to expand the school. Cost was £66,319 in total.

Construction of a 1x4 classroom block at Baguya Primary School – completed November 2023

Baguya Primary School is located 4km west of Maridi Town. The school was started in 2021 for P1-P8 pupils, by community members whose children needed education. This was the first project African Revival had undertaken at this school, following a visit and needs assessment by Anthony Allen in February 2023. Before the project commenced, enrolment was 644 pupils (327 boys, 317 girls), with 13 teachers (10 male, 3 female). The number of pupils enrolled, and lack of trained teachers made this school a priority for infrastructure support, however enrolment can drop to 150 during heavy rains.



In late 2023, a 1x4 classroom block was built with ISSB, including blackboards, 72x three-seater wooden desk benches, 4x teacher tables and chairs, and 2x 5,000L rainwater harvesting tanks, funded by The Allen Trust and The Adam Handling Group. Cost was £59,937.

There is an urgent need for latrines here too, and African Revival is currently constructing 5x stances of drainable latrines built with ISSB for girls (with a changing room), 5x stances for boys and 2x stances for teachers. Construction commenced February 2024.

Construction of Playgrounds at Hadow and Town Schools – completed December 2023

Two playgrounds, funded by Robertson & Co., were built at the end of 2023 at Hadow and Town schools in Maridi. The playground elements were fabricated by Play Action International in Jinja, Uganda, and transported to South Sudan for installation, where the Play Action team were supported by local labour to provide employment and skills-development opportunities.



The playgrounds included: traditional elements of slide, climbing wall, tyre wall and fireman's pole, seesaws and two sets of four swings, as well as an assault course, an imaginative zone and a relaxation zone with loungers and game boards. Cost was £33,690.

Provision of Furniture:

In October 2022, African Revival delivered 25x wooden three-seater desk benches, with 2x teacher tables and chairs to each of the following schools:

Maridi: Owungasa Primary School, Hadow Primary School, Ras Tigi Primary School

Ibba: Manukakara Primary School, Marko Kpaipai Primary School, Hope Primary School

The cost was \$11,290, including delivery.



In November 2022, another 150x wooden desk benches and 6 sets of 2x teacher tables and chairs were delivered to the following schools:

Maridi: Town Primary School (20 desks), Amaki Primary School (20 desks +teachers), Matta Primary School (20 desks), Amaki Primary School (20 desks +teachers), Haddow Primary School (25 desks +teachers), Dokulomu Primary School (25 desks +teachers).

Ibba: St. Peter’s Primary School (25 desks +teachers), St. Mary Primary School (25 desks +teachers)

The cost was \$9,840, including delivery.

All furniture was stencilled with the words ‘Supported by African Revival’.

Book Aid international:

In February 2023, 12 schools received 160 storybooks donated by Book Aid International, from a shipment of 2,000 books that arrived at the University of Juba. A representative from the Diocese collected, counted, stamped, and delivered the books on our behalf. The beneficiary schools were:

Maridi: Haddow Primary School, St. Jude (Kazana Two) Primary School, Dokulomu Primary School, Amaki Primary School, Owungasa Primary School, Town Primary School, Ras Tigi Primary School.

Ibba: St. Mary Nakuri Primary School, St. Peter’s Primary School, Marko Kpiapai Primary School, Manukakara Primary School, Hope Primary School.



**Laptops:**

African Revival has so far provided two laptops to the Thrive project, delivered in person by Founder & Chairman, Anthony Allen, with several more prepared and ready to be delivered on the next monitoring visit.

Outcomes:

The following outcomes have been achieved by African Revival:

- Construction of ISSB latrine blocks for girls, boys and teachers, with three handwashing stands, at Baamani Primary School.
- Construction of 1x4 CRB with 72x desk benches, 4x teacher tables & chairs at Town Primary School.
- Construction of 1x4 CRB with 72x desk benches, 4x teacher tables & chairs and 2x 5,000L rainwater harvesting tanks at Baguya Primary School. (Originally, we planned to build the above CRB at Mamenze Primary School, but the higher enrolment and need at Baguya caused us to review this. Construction will start in May 2024 to construct a 1x4 CRB with furniture and one 5,000L plastic rainwater harvesting tank at Mamenze, along with latrines for boys, girls and teachers – all built using ISSB).
- Floor renovations in 3 classrooms at Haddow Primary School.
- Construction of 2x playgrounds at Haddow and Town Primary Schools.
- Provision of furniture for pupils and teachers at 13 schools.
- Provision of 2,000 donated reading books from Book Aid International, with another shipment on the way.
- Provision of two laptops – we tried to provide a printer for exams at Haddow PS but were unable secure assistance to make this happen.

Alongside the work we have completed, Fields of Life have constructed 2x4 latrine blocks each at St. Mary Nakuri PS and Araka (Betty & Cyril Johnson Memorial) Schools, provided in-service teacher training/continuous professional development for 16+ teachers, provided salary top-ups for 95 primary and secondary teachers @\$20pm, established school farms and school feeding at 7 schools, trained PTA members to implement school improvement plans at 8 schools, provided MHM, reusable pad and soap training and distributed 1,000 bibles. They plan to also provide sports and games equipment over the next two years.

Challenges:

- Poor road conditions due to heavy rainfall affected delivery of materials.
- Renovation of classrooms and erecting fences at Haddow Primary and Secondary Schools was deemed not to be viable in Y1, as too expensive. This remains under review.
- We had planned to construct rainwater harvesting tanks with ISSB at four school sites. This has not been possible, due to a lack of knowledge and access to a special ISSB brick press on the ground in South Sudan. Instead, we have incorporated plastic, 5,000L tanks into our most recent CRB construction projects, to utilise the large surface area of the roof and provide a clean water source on site.

**In Summary – projects completed:****Maridi & Ibba:**

1. Furniture at 13 schools
2. Books – 2,000 distributed
3. Laptops x2

Maridi:

1. Town Primary School – CRB with furniture
2. Baguya Primary School – CRB with furniture and 2x RWHT, latrines
3. Haddow Primary School floor refurbishment x3 classrooms
4. Haddow & Town Primary School playgrounds x2

Ibba:

1. Baamani Primary School – CRB with furniture, and latrines with HWS

Future Plans throughout 2024/25:

1. At Baguya Primary School in Maridi, African Revival is currently constructing 5x stances of VIP drainable latrines for girls (with a changing room), 5x stances for boys and 2x stances for teachers – due to complete May 2024.
2. In May 2024, we will commence a CRB & Latrines project at Mamenze Primary School in Maridi (four-room classroom block with 1x 5,000L RWHT and furniture – 72x desk benches, 4x teacher tables and chairs - 1x6 block of latrines for girls (5 stances plus one washroom), 1x5 stances of latrines for boys and 1x2 stances of latrines for staff), all built using ISSB.
3. In 2024, we plan to construct a 1x4 CRB with furniture at Hope Primary School in Ibba (four-room classroom block with 1x 5,000L RWHT and furniture – 72x desk benches, 4x teacher tables and chairs).
4. In 2024, we plan to provide 40 portable blackboards for distribution to various schools in both Maridi and Ibba.
5. 2024/2025 we plan to provide in-service teacher training for 20 community teachers from Maridi and Ibba. This will be a two-year course, led by two qualified teacher-trainers from Yei Teacher Training College (two weeks in May & two weeks in September). The Diocese will work with African Revival on recruitment of community teachers.

African Revival – Investing in Education, remains committed to improving the quality of education for children at schools in South Sudan. We will continue to assess and prioritise project activity within the Thrive South Sudan project, based on the need and funds available.

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