

## 1x4 Classroom Block with Furniture at Town Primary School, South Sudan



### Introducing African Revival:

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 brighter, better futures. The end goal is simple: to improve equal access to quality education.

### Overview of Project:

<b>In-Country Office</b>	Uganda (with oversight of work in South Sudan).
<b>Project Name</b>	Construction of 1x4 Classroom Block, Town Primary School.
<b>Project Location</b>	Town Primary School, Maridi County, South Sudan.
<b>Historical support</b>	African Revival had not worked with this school before, although The Allen Trust has previously built 3x4 classroom blocks, an ECD block and latrines.
<b>Was this project located within an existing programme or new?</b>	This forms part of our Thrive South Sudan programme, to improve infrastructure and education support in Maridi and Ibba, South Sudan.
<b>Project Goal and Outcomes</b>	<p><b>Outcome 1:</b> Provision of an improved learning environment</p> <p><b>Outcome 2:</b> Construction of a 4-room classroom block, built with eco-friendly ISSB.</p> <p><b>Outcome 3:</b> Provision of classroom furniture; 72 wooden desk benches for pupils and 4 desks &amp; chairs for teachers.</p>
<b>Target Population</b>	875 primary pupils (406 girls/469 boys), 17 teachers (5 female/12 male).
<b>Project Duration</b>	October 2022 - April 2023
<b>Project Budget</b>	<b>£66,319</b>
<b>Donors</b>	The Allen Trust and The Adam Handling Group
<b>Contact Person in Uganda</b>	Vincent Komakech – Country Manager Email: <a href="mailto:vincent.komakech@africanrevival.org">vincent.komakech@africanrevival.org</a>



**Background:** Town Community Primary School is located in Maridi County, South Sudan. The school was started in 2005 by community members whose children were in need of education (the nearest primary school is privately owned). In 2008, the Allen Trust, in collaboration with The Brickworks, built 2x4 classroom blocks and, later on, a third 1x4 block was built, along with an ECD block and latrines. The improved infrastructure has led to increased enrolment. All teachers at Town Primary are untrained volunteers.

**Community Engagement:** Before the project commenced, African Revival agreed with the community - parents and teachers - that they would contribute local building materials for the construction, as well as some labour, security of building materials, and accommodation for the contractors. Community involvement is important for sense of ownership and helps to reduce project costs. However, community contributions were affected due to local restriction of public gatherings and the community were only able to offer labour to load and offload building materials, security and contractors' accommodation.

**Risk Assessment:** A risk assessment was carried out and no issues occurred.

**Outputs:** 1x4 classroom block built with ISSB, with blackboards, 72x three-seater desk benches, 4 teacher-tables and 4 chairs.

**Outcomes:** 875 students (406 girls and 469 boys) and 17 teachers (5 female and 12 male) will benefit from the new classroom block. Appropriate classroom furniture makes a huge difference to pupils' concentration in class, as they can be seated on benches with integrated writing tables, instead of on the floor or leaning books on their laps. These facilities will contribute to improved enrolment, attendance and education, with reduced drop-out rates of both pupils and staff.

**Impact:** We expect improved pupil retention and better academic results during the school year. Improved education has been proven to have a fundamental and direct impact on numerous social markers such as sanitation, health and mortality, nutrition, civic participation, and rural poverty. These returns will contribute towards rural development, eventually lifting many children and families out of poverty.

**Sustainability:** The School Management Committee (SMC) and Diocese of Maridi leadership have been part of the project throughout and it has been agreed maintenance of the classroom block and furniture will be the SMC's responsibility, supported by the county administration and Diocese of Maridi.

**Monitoring & Evaluation:** Monitoring and evaluation of this project will be the responsibility of Country Manager, Vincent Komakech. Vincent will liaise with the Diocese Programme Manager to assess usage of the facility and its impact on the quality of education through enrolment and attainment. The SMC agrees to be part of this monitoring and pledges to set aside a budget to conduct future repairs/replacement of any worn-out parts.

**Challenges:** Heavy rainfall affected the schedule of materials delivery, which delayed completion of construction. We suspect the contractor (Walter Komakech of Weather Shore SMC Ltd.) was trying to complete other projects simultaneously, as work was slow.

**Budget Summary:** 10% retention is being held by African Revival – due for payment to the contractor around 16<sup>th</sup> November 2023 (six months after project completion), following a building inspection to determine any damage. The project was delivered within the agreed contracted amount of USD 69,333 for the contractor and within the overall project budget of **£66,319** (which included in-country admin and overheads).

**Going Forward:** We will monitor the condition of the structure for the next six months, with support from the Diocese of Maridi. We understand the school has decided to allocate the new classroom block as a secondary school. African Revival is currently assessing best way forward for in-classroom teacher training. Our construction partners in Koboko District, Uganda - HYT – have confirmed they are unable to work in South Sudan, as their management structure would require staffing for local operations. For our next construction project in South Sudan, we propose to try another contractor – Ben Justin of Infinity Consults Ltd.

### **Project Progress in Pictures:**

#### Groundbreaking and foundations



#### Moulding ISSB bricks and floor slab



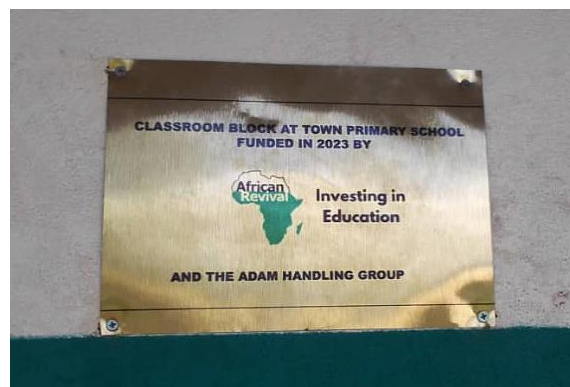
### Superstructure walls and roof stage



### Fittings and finishes



### Handover and furniture installed in classrooms



**Thank you for your generous support!**