



SOUTH SUDAN

Independent since 2011, South Sudan is one of the poorest countries in Sub-Saharan Africa, ranking 181th out of 188 according to the 2016 Human Development Index.¹

The recent independence did not bring long-term peace in the country. Indeed, in 2012, disagreements with Sudan over the oil-rich region of Abyei erupted into fighting. Since 2013, a civil war is on-going and it has displaced over 2.2 million people (over a total population of 12 millions) who are suffering poor health and nutrition status and are exposed to increasing level of violence.

Displaced people move to nearby communities, overloading already limited resources and weak services, increasing the fragility of the overall system.



Lui Health Training Institute

LUI MIDWIFERY SCHOOL

Since 2009, Doctors with Africa CUAMM is supporting Lui Hospital in Amadi State, in partnership with the Diocese of Lui, Hospital owner, and the State Ministry of Health (SMoH). The hospital is the only referral center in the state, for catchment population of about **174.000 inhabitants**.

A FRUITFUL JOURNEY

2012 CUAMM proposes Ministry of Health to activate a school near Lui Hospital and include it in the list of Health Training Institutes belonging to South Sudan Health System and run as per MoH Human Resources for Health program. In line with MoH priorities, it is decided to start with the **Registered Midwifery** course.

2012-2013 Work in progress:

- existing buildings renovation;
- dormitories and teaching staff accommodation building;
- power and plumbing systems enhancement;
- internet connection installation;
- new books, didactic materials, medical and IT equipment procurement;
- consumables and minor equipment stock refill for clinical placement.

2014 The first cohort of 20 students starts the 3 years Midwifery course.

2017 The First **graduation ceremony** is held at the presence of the Ministry of Health.

SERVICES OFFERED TO MIDWIFERY STUDENTS

- Full board accommodation within School compound;
- Constant tutoring and mentorship during lessons, clinical placement and individual study by the principal and two tutors;
- Special training sessions by teachers coming from other schools, Lui Hospital staff and CUAMM's medical and nursing team;
- Clinical placement at Lui Hospital and in PHC facilities;
- Recreational activities.

¹ UNDP, 2017. *Human Development Report 2016. Human Development for Everyone*. [Pdf] Available at http://hdr.undp.org/sites/default/files/2016_human_development_report.pdf [Accessed 23 May 2018].



Theory session

WHAT MAKES IT SPECIAL

Lui School has demonstrated to be an enabling environment for learning: its location facilitates concentration and being annexed to a fully functional hospital, students are **supervised by highly qualified medical and nursing staff** all along their clinical placement, a very peculiar situation in South Sudan. Further, in Lui, students can experience the reality of **rural health services**, developing the motivation needed to serve as health personnel also out of urban setting, where at present very few are accepting to work.

Finally, managing to make studying and living together 20 people coming from all over the Country and belonging to rival groups was a successful attempt of transmitting a concrete **peace and reconciliation message**.

Project relevance goes beyond its valuable contribution to the creation of new qualified health staff, as Lui Health Training Institute offers to students and its staff

an **alternative to the involvement into the conflict**, an alternative way to participate in their Country future.

THE WAY FORWARD

Building on the great achieved results, the MoH has requested CUAMM to continue supporting Lui School with a second intake for the midwifery course and, eventually, the activation of other courses (nurses, clinical officers).

While the MoH is trying to establish internal mechanism aimed to ensure constant public funds flow to all institutes for running costs coverage, CUAMM intends to support **a new intake of 20 students for Registered Midwifery Course**. The intervention will consist in students living costs support, teaching and support staff salaries payment, school infrastructures maintenance and didactic materials purchase, for a total cost of about 200,000 euro.



Graduation 2017, attended by CUAMM's Director