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PROGRESS UPDATE ON THE SCHOOL NUTRITION PROJECT

St. Joseph Nursery and Primary School, Narus, South Sudan

This is a progress update on the School Nutrition Project at St. Joseph Nursery and Primary School. The project received USD 25,000 in July 2026 through the support of Fidinam International Charity Foundation, after the proposal had been shared with Emanuela De Mattia of Solidarity with South Sudan. The funds were received by the parish on 27 July 2026. Fr Daniel Adiele, SPS, is the main person following the work on the ground, with the support of the school staff and the parish. This update covers the work seen from the third week of August up to 12 September 2026. It is an early update, not the final project report.

What the project was funded to do

The project was prepared because many children come to school without enough food. St. Joseph Nursery and Primary School currently has about 400 active pupils: 196 boys and 204 girls. This includes 150 nursery pupils and 250 primary pupils. The main purpose of the grant is to help the school provide breakfast and lunch for these children so that hunger does not stop them from learning, attending school or taking part well in class.

The grant is not only for the school garden. The largest part is for the feeding of the children: staple foods, beans and other pulses, vegetables, cooking oil, salt, sugar, cooking fuel, food transport and storage, and support for the people who prepare the meals. The school garden is one important part of the plan because it can slowly add fresh vegetables to the meals and reduce some pressure on food purchases in the future. The original proposal is a three-year plan, so this work is expected to grow step by step rather than all at once.

What has happened so far

Since the funds were received, Fr Daniel has been putting the first practical parts of the project in place. During the period covered by this update, he followed the purchase and collection of materials needed for the farming and food-handling side of the project. Irrigation items, containers, baskets, protective work clothing and other basic supplies were collected and transported to Narus. The photographs attached to this update show some of these materials during collection, transport and delivery to the school.

This early preparation is important because feeding a large number of children every school day needs good organisation. Food and project materials must be moved safely, stored well and handled properly. The school is therefore arranging the supplies carefully and putting simple systems in place before the project grows further. The work is being done in stages so that the feeding programme and the garden can develop together.

School garden and irrigation

The school already had a small garden before this grant, but water was one of the main problems. This was also shown in the original application. For this reason, one of the first areas of work has been irrigation. Fr Daniel has collected irrigation fittings and other materials that will help the school use water better and make cultivation more reliable, especially during periods when rainfall is poor.

At the same time, land preparation and cultivation have started. The aim is to gradually grow vegetables that can support the school meals, including crops such as kale, tomatoes, onions, amaranth and pumpkin, depending on the season and what grows well in Narus. The garden will not replace purchased food, but it can add fresh vegetables and help the school make better use of the land that is already available.

Staff involvement

A very good part of the progress so far is the involvement of the school staff. Fr Daniel has been working directly with them during land preparation and cultivation. The staff are helping with the practical work instead of leaving everything to one person. This makes the project part of the normal life of the school and gives it a better chance of continuing well.

The staff involvement is also important for accountability. The project needs people who understand what is being bought, what is being used, what is planted and what is harvested. As the work continues, the school will keep simple records for food purchases, meal distribution, attendance, garden work and the use of project materials. Receipts and photographs will also be kept for the formal report.

How this work supports the feeding programme

The main goal remains very clear: the children should have reliable food at school. The garden work shown in these photographs is one part of that bigger goal. The grant is meant to support regular breakfast and lunch for about 400 pupils, while the garden adds vegetables and gives the school a small local source of food. We are therefore trying to balance the immediate need for meals with the longer-term need to make the school more able to support itself.

It is still too early to claim the full results of the project. The funds were only received at the end of July, and this update is being prepared in September. At this stage, the clearest progress is that the materials have been obtained and moved to the school, the garden work has started, the staff are involved, and the irrigation side is being prepared. The effect on attendance, pupil wellbeing and the amount of food produced from the garden will be clearer after the project has run for a longer period.

Next steps

The next work will be to continue cultivation, put the irrigation materials into regular use, follow the crops, and strengthen the organisation of food purchase, storage and meal preparation in line with the approved project. Fr Daniel will continue the day-to-day follow-up with the school staff. The team will also keep the needed records so that the donor can clearly see how the grant is being used and what difference it is making for the children.

Overall, the project has started well and is moving from planning into practical work. The first weeks have mainly been about putting the foundation in place: getting the right materials, bringing them to the school, preparing the land, involving the staff and improving the water side of the garden. The main purpose of the project has not changed. It is to help the children of St. Joseph Nursery and Primary School receive regular meals, stay in school and learn with better energy and dignity. We are grateful for the support received and will continue to share the progress as the work develops.

PHOTO UPDATE

1. Irrigation and project materials



Fr Daniel during the collection of irrigation equipment for the school nutrition project.



Irrigation materials being collected and prepared for transport to Narus.



Protective work clothing prepared for project activities.



Fr Daniel selecting baskets and containers needed for handling and storage during the project.

2. Delivery of materials to St. Joseph School



Project materials and containers loaded for transport to the school.



Some of the materials after arrival at St. Joseph Nursery and Primary School.



Additional containers, storage items and project supplies arranged at the school.



Project supplies being transported as the nutrition work continues.

3. Agriculture cultivation with the school staff



Fr Daniel with Sr Schol during land preparation and cultivation work.



Fr Daniel with staff of St. Joseph Nursery and Primary School during agriculture cultivation.

These photographs show the early practical stage of the project. They show the collection and delivery of materials, the preparation of irrigation and storage items, and Fr Daniel working with members of the school staff on the land. This is the foundation work that will support both the school garden and the wider feeding programme.

The project is still in its first months. We will continue to follow the meals, food supplies, garden work, attendance and the wellbeing of the children, and we will provide a fuller narrative and financial report when the proper reporting period is due.