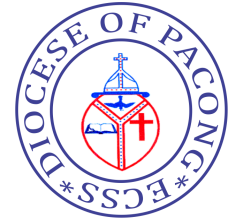


EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF SOUTH SUDAN-ANGLICAN COMMUNION

Eastern Bahr El Ghazel Internal Province



THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF PACONG

C/o CMS PO Box 40360-00100, Nairobi-Kenya

Tel: +254 724 396 190/+211 929 154 246 Email: ecs.pacongdiocese@yahoo.com

MOTHERS UNION - COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES

Introduction

The Episcopal Diocese of Pacong is one of the dioceses registered under the Episcopal Church of South Sudan – Anglican Communion and operates under the constitution of ECSS in South Sudan. The diocese was established as an area diocese in 2004 and was officially registered in 2009 to work with local parishes in South Sudan to provide a fresh energy and focus to its work across the Diocese in post conflict epoch. The diocese provides a means to give expression to the vision of the Anglican Communion Worldwide and is therefore a mechanism for "changing lives and transforming local communities in South Sudan" The diocese consists of 120 parishes, each headed by a priest. The current Bishop is the Rt. Rev. Joseph Maker Atot. The main programmes include; evangelism, church planting, training of pastors, food security, water and sanitation, healthcare, HIV/AIDs, education, women and youth empowerment, micro enterprise, environment, vocational training, energy, capacity building and Conflict mitigation. The following are the statistics of the Diocese. Majority of the women in the diocese are illiterate because most of them did not get a chance to attend school. The illiteracy levels among women is estimated to be 85%. The Mothers Union in the Diocese is very active in trying to address and find solutions the many challenges facing women in the Diocese. The Mothers Union has a membership of about 800 women in the Diocese. The following are the programmes that the Mothers Union is seeking support to implement.

1. Training of women Pastors and Laity

Many of the pastors and other staff serving in the diocese are untrained and have not had the opportunity to attend theological training. Training of pastors and other diocesan staff will enhance the Diocese capacity to undertake its ministry mandate. We are therefore seeking partners who will support us in funding the training program for Women pastors.

2. Food Security

The residents of the diocese still face starvation and food insecurity due to various reasons like flooding, drought and lack of farm inputs and tools. Towards alleviating food insecurity, the Mothers Union is seeking financial assistance to undertake food security projects that are aimed at supporting the women farmers to produce more food. This will be used to provide tools and seeds to women.

3. Education for the Girl

There are challenges of providing appropriate education and relevant skills to rural youths in South Sudan, especially in the Episcopal Diocese of Pacong. Some of the challenges necessitate a basic education that motivates them to study, creation of a training program that provides

them with skills for the labor market, and availability of opportunities for some of them to pursue higher education, vocational training schemes and so on. The Mothers Union wants to support the education of the girl child by building a primary school for girls. The will aid in improving the quality of basic education through; educational infrastructural development, training and capacity building for school teachers and provision of scholarship to poor and vulnerable girl child. This will also provide second chances for out -of- school youths to get back into school or into informal training courses, and/or illiterate youth into literacy programs.

4. Economic Empowerment for Women and Poverty Eradication

The Diocese economic empowerment and poverty alleviation program seeks to identify the causes of poverty and hunger and factors fueling the trend in target communities. The program then utilizes this information to design community/target population specific interventions that adequately address these issues with a view of promoting economic independence and improving household sustainability. The Mothers Union strategies include but not limited to;

- Vocational skills training that foster economic independence of women and poor vulnerable groups through small businesses
- Provision of starter packs and equipment to skilled individuals and groups and technical support/mentoring
- Provision of seed grant to women that promote small private businesses.

5. Peace Building and Trauma Healing for women

The Diocese is still faced with the challenge of insecurity and inter-ethnic conflicts which continue to occur. The Mothers Union continues to advocate for peaceful coexistence among the ethnic communities in the diocese through peace building and reconciliation interventions. Under this program, the Mothers Union is seeking partners to support it with finances to continue undertaking peace building, trauma healing and peace training programs in the Diocese.

6. Water Sanitation and Environment

Poor hygiene and sanitation is another problem facing many women in the Diocese. The Mothers Union wants to play a role in improving the quality of water used by households. Many households still do not have access to clean and safe drinking water and many of them still draw water from contaminated water sources. Many households have also not taken up the use of pit latrines for defecation and still defecate in the bushes. This has led to outbreak of diseases which can be prevented through proper hygiene and sanitation. The Mothers Union is also at the forefront in advocating for environmental protection through the use of environmentally friendly actions. Under this program the Mothers Union is seeking funding partners to support in drilling of water boreholes and building of pit latrines in various villages across the Diocese.

Rev. Helena Ding Maker

Patron – Mothers Union

The Episcopal Diocese of Pacong