

Concept Note: Water Drilling Machine for Ayod and Waat

Addressee : Fr. Jim Greene
Executive Director
Solidarity with South Sudan
Juba – SOUTH SUDAN

Information about Applicant :

Sr. Elena Balatti, Comboni Sisters, South Sudan Province

Title of the project: WATER DRILLING MACHINE for AYOD and WAAT, JONGLEI STATE

Place, region and country: Ayod and Waat, Jonglei State, South Sudan

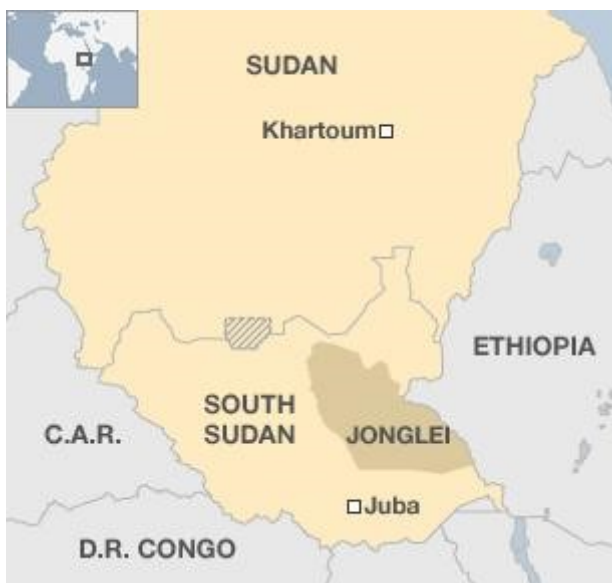
Planned project period: January – April, 2024

Planned Budget: 30,000 Euro (Co-Funding)

1. Detailed project information :

1.1 Description of the current situation of the target group and the consequences with regard to the core problem:

The region of Jonglei State inhabited by the Lou Nuer people, particularly in Waat, Nyirol County, and Ayod, Ayod County, suffers of scarcity of water during the dry season, from December to May every year. Water for human consumption, for the animals and for cultivation is available in sufficient quantity only during favourable rainy seasons, in the months from June to November.



Jonglei State in South Sudan

During the dry season people make use of the water in the swamps for human consumption and for their animals. Cultivation is suspended. As the swamps gradually dry up, people, especially women, have to walk longer and longer distances to find even small amounts of water necessary for the daily domestic use. Moreover, the water of the swamps is often polluted and causes a number of water-borne diseases. The situation of Jonglei State is part of a generalized problem in South Sudan to access clean and safe water.

Around 60% of House Holds in South Sudan continue to use unimproved water sources, such as surface water and unprotected wells. To survive, families are often forced to drink dirty water, putting them at risk of waterborne diseases such as cholera and diarrhoea, which remain the leading cause of death among children. While communities have access to surface water, especially from the swamps, it is not safe for human consumption, as it is shared with livestock and thus contaminated. During



the dry season, when the swamps dry up, in the target locations women and girls have to walk long distances to fetch water.

In recent years, humanitarian organizations such as OXFAM and MSF have drilled boreholes in the main villages of Jonglei State, thus offering precious and clean water to the local population. However, the number of boreholes is still largely insufficient with regard to the number of people needing it. Women and girls queue daily for hours to be able to reach the tap and fill their jerrycans. In some villages there are not yet boreholes.

1.2 Causes of the core problem:

In the areas of Waat, Nyirol County, and Ayod, in Ayod County, there are no infrastructures or projects to build water reservoirs for human and animal needs during

the long dry season. Since the independence of South Sudan in 2011, the region has not experienced prolonged stability and peace that would have favored development and the implementation of large water and sanitation projects. After the signing of the Revitalized Peace Agreement in 2018, the general situation of the region has improved and the implementation of the provisions of the agreement, though slow, has offered new windows of opportunity.

In 2023-24, because of the return of South Sudanese refugees from Ethiopia and Sudan, the population of Waat and Ayod has seen a considerable increase in their numbers, not coupled with an adequate increase in the general services for the citizens. The local authorities have not yet been able to take the lead in addressing the problem of the scarcity of water. There are **a few boreholes** drilled by NGOs at health centres or in the main villages, but **insufficient to satisfy the need of clean and safe drinking water**.

1.3 Proposed intervention:

After hearing the stories and complaints of the people of Waat and Ayod, as Comboni Sisters engaged in humanitarian activities, **we appeal to the Administration of Solidarity with South Sudan**, a body of which we are members, for a financial support that can help the people of Jonglei State to access clean and safe water.

The areas that we are considering, and where there are a number of Catholic chapels that are our reference points, need No. 10 boreholes. The experience of the past years has shown that drilling one borehole in Jonglei State costs between 15 to 18.000 US Dollars.

The preferable option is therefore to procure and purchase **a water drilling machine (rig)** and its accessories, costing about 92.000 US Dollars, that can be used to drill the needed boreholes in Ayod and Waat and then continue with the same work in other areas of South Sudan.



1.4 Project goal:

Clean and safe water for the citizens of Ayod and Waat, Jonglei State

1.5 Project objective:

Purchase and procurement of No. 1 water drilling machine (rig) and its accessories

1.6 Description of the activities to be implemented in the frame of the project:

- Fundraising for the purchase of No. 1 water drilling machine (rig) and its accessories
- Procurement and transport to Juba of No. 1 water drilling machine (rig) and its accessories

1.7 Description of the activities to be implemented in Phase II of the project:

- Fundraising to cover drilling costs for No. 10 boreholes
- Hiring of operators for the water drilling machine
- Supervising the execution of the drilling operations
- Setting of rules and guidelines for the use of the new borehole by the local communities under the supervision of the representative of the Catholic Church.

1.8 Cooperation with other actors in fundraising

In view of the successful implementation of this costly humanitarian intervention, the Comboni Sisters South Sudan Province have asked the cooperation of other groups. Fundraising has so far gathered 15.000 US Dollars, with additional 5,000 USD pledged.

There is the intention to apply to Caritas Italiana for a contribution to complete the amount needed.

1.9 Targeted beneficiaries

Direct Beneficiaries: No. 2,000 people in each of the ten locations where the drilling of a borehole is planned.

1.10 Initiatives already in place to solve the problem described initially



Borehole drilled by Caritas Malakal in Jonglei State in 2023

In Waat, Nyirol County, and Ayod town, Ayod County, there are a few operational boreholes drilled by NGOs but this is not sufficient in comparison with the population size. Caritas Malakal drilled one borehole in the nearby Uror County in 2023.

1.11 Risks

The slow implementation of the peace agreement and/or local clashes in the targeted areas could lead to renewed insecurity in the region. The Comboni Sisters are closely monitoring the political developments in the region in order to minimize risks for personnel and assets.


1.12 Budget and Financial Plan

2024	Contributions received	15,000 USD
	Contributions pledged	5,000 USD
	Planned Application to Caritas Italy	45,000 USD
	Appeal to Solidarity with South Sudan	30,000 USD

*Detailed budget in Annex 3.
No. 2 Quotations in Annexes 1 and 2.*

1.13 Appeal

Through Sr. Elena Balatti, working mainly in a humanitarian ministry, the Comboni Sisters of South Sudan Province are hereby appealing for the support of Solidarity with South Sudan towards the implementation of the above described humanitarian project intended to purchase and procure No. 1 water drilling machine with the first task to drill No. 10 boreholes in the areas of Ayod and Waat, Nyirol and Ayod Counties respectively, Jonglei State. Hoping in a positive consideration of this humble request, we greet you cordially and we ask for the Lord’s blessing, remembering what Jesus said : *"If anyone gives you a cup of water to drink just because you belong to Christ, then I tell you solemnly, he will most certainly not lose his reward."*



Sr. Elena Balatti
Comboni Sisters
South Sudan Province

Malakal, 19.10.24

Cc : Sr. Margaret Wanja Wamaru, Provincial Superior, Comboni Sisters South Sudan