



Impact Report / Fall 2019

You Make a Difference





With
Thanks
from
South
Sudan

Greetings from South Sudan to all the friends of CMMB,

We know you not by face, but by your heart. You have been so generous with us. God bless you.

Today, as I say these words, I am standing in front of a dream that is going to be realized—our new surgical ward at St. Therese Hospital. A place where mothers can come and deliver safely. We are going to reach the goal of the World Health Organization, zero deaths for women who give life. With your help and your collaboration, and of course the hard work of all our hospital staff, we will reach it.

You are here. You are our hands, you are our eyes, but most of all you are our hearts. It's because of you that we are able to share the good news you will find on the following pages. We share news about CMMB's **Safe Motherhood Project** and how it is saving the lives of moms and babies in a country with one of the highest maternal and neonatal mortality rates in the world. We also share news about the new surgical ward that will provide the most vulnerable with the health services they so desperately need.

Thank you for walking in solidarity with us. Together, we are serving the poor and most abandoned people. We really are implementing what Pope Francis says: *Go out, don't stay in the village church, go out to the periphery. There you will meet Jesus in the poor.*

God Bless,

Sister Laura Gemignani

Medical Director, St. Therese Hospital
Nzara, South Sudan

Your love and generosity have traveled a long way over the past six months. Because of you

11,000 children under five have been immunized.

Over 49,000 children received vitamin A to help stave off malnutrition.

Over 6,000 women gave birth at a health facility.

465 volunteers have given a total of 51,358 hours of compassionate care to those most in need.

36 shipments totalling **\$172,068,706** worth of donated medicines and supplies were sent to help those in need.

“Don't give up on us.”

—Bishop Eduardo Hiiboro Kussala,
bishop of Tombura-Yambio
diocese, South Sudan



Partnering for Peace and Change

Bishop Eduardo Hiiboro Kussala is the bishop of Tombura-Yambio diocese in South Sudan. His early years were fraught with violence and loss. His mother was killed during the Sudanese civil war, and he spent years in a refugee camp with his grandmother, and then in a Sudanese internally displaced persons camp after he and his grandmother returned to South Sudan. These early experiences are what shaped him into one of the most ardent advocates for peace in his war-torn country of South Sudan.

After years of war and instability in the region, CMMB recognized the great need and made a commitment to the people of South Sudan in 2009. We began providing support and improved access to healthcare for mothers and children living in extreme poverty in this most fragile country.

Bishop Eduardo has been one of our most trusted partners in this effort. Here he says:

“I want to thank CMMB and many of our partners. One thing that has given me a lot of consolation is that, when you are in

this type of suffering, you still get people who come to you to work with you in difficult situations. Witnessing this has been transforming to me.

A friend in need is truly a friend. CMMB never abandoned us in these problems. It was risky to go on those roads, but they stayed with us. And there are people out there who are raising money, sometimes they don't know why, sometimes they even have doubts, they wonder, “Will this money be useful?” If you could see what I see, you would know the answer is yes. I am grateful to all our partners who support us, but I ask them to get closer still, and do more, and give us the skills so that we can produce and provide a society that is peaceful and can take care of everybody.”

CMMB is committed to staying close. Our work in South Sudan serves the most vulnerable, including people with HIV; former child soldiers and other children affected by violence; internally displaced families; and those whose health is most impacted by a lack of access to safe water, sanitation, and healthcare. You'll find us wherever we are called and wherever we are needed most.

Our Approach

Our Children and Mothers Partnerships program (CHAMPS) tackles the root causes of poor health and extreme poverty, addressing many factors to ensure sustainable impact on communities. These initiatives include strengthening healthcare facilities, improving services for pregnant women and newborns, and ensuring access to medicine, safe water, and nutrition.



CMMB rated four stars,
eight years in a row



Meets Better Business Bureau's
20 standards for charity accountability





Making Motherhood Safe in South Sudan

Did you know that 99% of all maternal deaths occur in developing countries?

South Sudan has one of the highest maternal and neonatal mortality rates in the world. To put that in perspective, **women in this region are 25 times more likely to die giving birth** than women in the United States. Why? Because they are not able to access essential healthcare, including basic or emergency maternity care and the support of a skilled birth attendant during childbirth.

What makes this even more tragic is that the majority of these deaths are preventable. And too often, the mothers who survive complicated deliveries suffer painful injuries that have long-lasting effects. Their babies suffer, too. Newborns' health and well-being are directly impacted by the health and well-being of their mothers. When mothers suffer maternal complications in poverty-stricken areas, their babies often die. And for the babies who do survive the death of their mothers, few reach their first birthday. But there is reason to hope.

Safe Motherhood Project

CMMB is committed to reducing maternal and child mortality and morbidity. We collaborate with local health facilities and personnel to create consistent, integrated responses targeting women of childbearing age, pregnant women, and newborns.

In South Sudan, our **Safe Motherhood Project** offers these important integrated services under one roof, including



antenatal and postnatal care, prevention of mother-to-child transmission, safe deliveries with a skilled birth attendant at a well-equipped health facility, and inpatient services for the management of medical conditions in pregnancy.

It all starts by supporting traditional birth attendants in communities to monitor and track pregnant women and link them to these essential services, which include distribution of treated mosquito nets to prevent malaria, services to support women experiencing gender-based violence, and provision of safe drinking water to keep pregnant women and their families healthy.

We are grateful to our generous supporters who make this program possible, including the African Mission Health Foundation, Sudan Relief Fund, the Raskob Foundation for Catholic Activities, and you, our many loyal supporters.

Since 2016 at our primary healthcare clinic in Nzara, **1,834** babies were delivered. Not one of the mothers died while giving birth.

Safe Motherhood Project Goals

- Improve the quality of obstetric and neonatal services, including emergency services
- Increase demand for safe motherhood services, like antenatal care
- Strengthen the referral system between community and facility
- Increase the number of pregnant women referred for antenatal and postnatal care
- Prevent mother-to-child transmission of HIV

“It’s a sobering workload that the team have dealt with in the past two days: two ectopic pregnancies, two postnatal hemorrhages, an antenatal hemorrhage and C-section, and a molar pregnancy. All of these women would have likely died if they had remained in the community.”

— Dr. Matthew Jones,
CMMB South Sudan volunteer, 2018



First Breath

by Sarah Rubino,
CMMB South Sudan, volunteer nurse and midwife, 2018-19

Mary was exhausted. She had been in labor for hours with no progress. When complications arise during a delivery, every second is precious. Our team tried everything, and finally the baby was born. But then another challenge became evident: the baby was not breathing.

A midwife cut the cord quickly and began neonatal resuscitation. We started chest compressions. As one midwife breathed for him and another made sure his heart kept beating, I looked at the mother. She lay there still with a far-off look in her eyes. Any bystander who looked at her in that moment, who didn’t know what was really going on, would think she was detached and distant. But because of the heartbreaking reality that children die every single day in South Sudan, I knew that Mary’s was the look of a mother preparing to lose her baby.

And then, a little ray of light shone down on that birthing room. The boy moved slightly, gave a weak cry, coughed, and then started to wail—music to our ears.

Two weeks after Mary’s baby boy was born, she came with him to visit us, and it was there that we learned his name—Gbianami. It translates as “God is with me”.

“When a pregnant woman comes to the hospital in distress, when she and her baby are at risk of dying, and we are able to give them the care they need so that they leave healthy and happy...well nothing brings me more joy.”

— Dr. Andruma Mustapha
St. Therese Hospital



Help Make Motherhood Safer in South Sudan



\$200

can purchase a
neonatal resuscitation kit



\$500

can purchase a delivery bed
for the maternity ward.



\$5,000

can purchase
an incubator

cmm.org/donate



Healthcare
Providing access to
quality healthcare by
strengthening local
health facilities.

Building for Healthier Lives: Update from South Sudan

In July 2018, we shared the dream of the [Comboni Sisters in South Sudan](#):

“We dream about making St. Therese a better hospital. We dream of building an operating theater, and a room where people can recover from surgery. We want a better maternity ward and a blood bank. These people deserve a place where they can get the care they need.”



You Made This Dream a Reality

On April 7, 2018, we broke ground on a new surgical wing in South Sudan. Today, the construction of the wing is complete. It includes two operating rooms, a surgical ward with 24 beds, and a new maternity ward with beds for 16 women, and the [region's first blood bank](#), soon to be completed.

We are focusing our efforts on equipping all wings and wards with essential medical equipment and supplies, building skills of existing staff, and recruiting, hiring, and training new staff.



These new buildings will expand the hospital's capacity to provide essential health services to vulnerable people in the surrounding communities, especially pregnant women and children under five.

Our international volunteer and Aurora Fellow, engineer Martin Rubino, led the project from the ground up. He spoke of the challenges that come with building in an under resourced area, but also about the resilience and grace of the people he worked with: “Ups and downs are accepted in stride here. The people know how to continue moving forward, even when plans do not fall as neatly into place as we would like.”

Our commitment to this project is part of a broader context of sharing solidarity with the people of this region and creating a safe and healthy environment in which people can access essential care and, ultimately, thrive.

First Blood Bank

The year 2017 marked 80 years since the first blood bank opened in Chicago, Illinois; today they are an integral part of health systems around the world. Before blood banks existed in the United States, doctors called on a roster of volunteers when blood was needed. In South Sudan, medical professionals continue to rely entirely on people willing to give blood in the moment it is needed—often life

and death situations. A lack of adequate blood supply and the use of unsafe blood products leads to life-threatening consequences in adult and pediatric patients.

This blood bank will provide life-saving transfusions for children under five with malaria; for patients with

complications of trauma, injury, complications of pregnancy, and with high-risk sickle cell disease. It will require dedicated community outreach, educating people in communities about the critical need for a blood donation program and utilizing community leaders to encourage volunteer donations.

How You Can Help



\$7,500

can purchase an operating
room lamp.



\$12,500

can purchase a surgical
operating table.



\$25,000

can purchase a water tower.



“I thought about the generations of patients, doctors and nurses who would be using the facilities for many years to come. I owe it to all of them to ensure the hospital is as well constructed as possible.”

— Martin Rubino,
CMMB South Sudan volunteer engineer,
2018-19



Donor Spotlight

I am truly grateful for the opportunity to partner with CMMB as they strive to deliver healthcare to the people of South Sudan. Having travelled extensively through the country, I have seen firsthand the tremendous need families have for the most basic resources, healthcare high among them. As the country tries to rebuild after years of conflict, organizations like CMMB and Sudan Relief Fund play a critical role in providing capacity for local partners. We look forward to continuing this important work.

— Neil Corkery, president of Sudan Relief Fund.

[Sudan Relief Fund](#) has been a valued partner of CMMB in Sudan and South Sudan. It is dedicated to bringing food, safe drinking water, clothing, shelter, medical attention, and hope to the people of this fragile region.

Help Advance Our Shared Mission to Deliver Healthier Lives Worldwide

“The good work that CMMB does each and every day, especially for women and children in need inspired me to give.”
— Elizabeth B.

[Join the Legacy Society](#)

Name CMMB in your will or as a beneficiary of your life insurance policy or remaining IRA fund.

[Give](#)

Your tax-deductible gift, by check or online at cmmb.org/donate, is the easiest and most direct way to support CMMB's lifesaving work.

[IRA Distribution](#)

If you are 70½+ years old, consider making a distribution from your qualified IRA to CMMB for up to \$100,000.

[Gift of Stocks](#)

Donating appreciated stock is an effective way to continue our life-saving work while maximizing your charitable deduction and reducing your capital gains liability.

[Donor Advised Funds](#)

This is a popular way to support CMMB with funds you have already set aside for charitable purposes. Please consider making a grant to CMMB through our DAF Direct portal by going to cmmb.org/DAF.

[Matching Gifts](#)

You can double the impact of your gift if you or your spouse work for a company with a matching gift program

“Everyone can make a difference in the world, imagine what we can do together.”
— Kelly R.

For more information please contact our Partnerships Team at 212-609-2597 or info@cmmb.org.



100 Wall Street, Floor 9
New York, NY 10005

Connect with us!

[f](#) CMMBWorldwide

[t](#) cmmbtweets

[in](#) CMMB — Healthier Lives Worldwide

[ig](#) cmmbworldwide

cmmb.org

[800.678.5659](tel:800.678.5659)