

**2018**



## MAZZOLARI TEACHERS COLLEGE (MTC)

Cueibet, South Sudan

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## **Mazzolari Teachers College (MTC)**

Mazzolari Teachers College (MTC) is a collaborative effort between the Jesuits in Eastern Africa Province and the Diocese of Rumbek (DOR). The College opened its doors for the first batch of 20 in July 2016. MTC offers 2-year full-time in-service Certificate courses for unqualified teachers who have completed High School or are teaching Primary Schools with no qualifications. The College is in the process of establishing a 3-year full-time diploma course in education.

MTC currently has 30 students (16 in year 1 and 14 in year 2). The college is served by 4 full-time Jesuits (lecturers and administrators) and 1 lay lecturer. In addition, there are 7 support staffs (grounds-man, watchmen and cooks/cleaners).

### **Activities/Projects Implemented**

- **New Course:** a one month course on counseling psychology was introduced with the aim of equipping students with various counseling techniques. Given the long history of the civil war in South Sudan, this course will equip students in supporting traumatized families, including their own. At the end of the course, students attested that they were better equipped to deal with their own challenges and that the skills would be useful in their profession as teachers.
- **Women's Dormitory:** construction of the dormitory was completed in September 2017. The dormitory has an occupancy capacity of 20 students and is inclusive of showers, toilets and laundry. Previously, the female students were living in a temporary refurbished facility.

### **Challenges**

- **Conflicts:** The recurring civil clashes among various clans in Cueibet make continuous learning a challenge. Some students and teaching staff are sometimes targeted by these conflicts. The conflicts cause delays in the implementation of some development projects such as construction work. Also, as a result of the conflicts, many families fleeing the violence, mostly women and children, come to the college as internally displaced persons. This often disrupts the normal flow of the college program. For instance, in 2017, approximately 700 internally displaced persons lived in the college compound for 2 months.
- **Cultural practices:** The education of the girl child in South Sudan is challenging; most families are not willing to release their girls to enroll at the college because of the culture of early marriage and fear of girls getting pregnant before marriage as they will be out parental control. -As a result, the college has fewer female students.