



CHANGE STORY

Ms Susanne Anne John

BENEFICIARY OF THE EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

Susanne Anne John, a 26-year-old student at Solidarity Teacher Training College (STTC), recounts: "My father died when I was nine years old and my mother when I was in Senior 4 of High School. Life was not easy afterwards because nobody can take care of a child like a parent would. I had to live with my aunt. Before she died, my mother always encouraged me to go to school and study hard so that I could live a better life than she did. She used to tell me that she got married at only 15 years old and suffered a lot. She would not want the same for me. I understand what she meant because my older sister also married early. She dropped out of school, got pregnant, and has four children. Her husband is an alcoholic, does not support his family at all and constantly beats her. She cannot leave the marriage because of her children. I really feel bad for her."



"I studied and completed high school. I had to move out of my aunt's place and move to my brother's house. Jobs were difficult to find. I once worked with South Sudan Red Cross as a community mobiliser. One day, at church, I heard an announcement in church about Solidarity Teachers Training College, STTC, in Yambio. I did the entrance exam and passed. My brother was annoyed about my plan and

demanded that I should not go to the college. Since I didn't listen to him and went ahead with my plans, he refused to buy the admission requirements. I was lucky that STTC provided me with soap and other things that I needed. I also found other girls at the college from my home area of Torit who supported me as best as they could. After some time, my brother calmed down and started supporting me."

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"STTC has a good learning environment. I appreciate that there is a constant supply of electricity and water. There is always food, and we always get it on time. The dormitories and classes are nice. The administration of the college is always ready to hear us out. There is a clinic, and in case of serious illness, students are taken to the hospital. I have made a lot of friends, both boys and girls. We help each other. Talk to each other in case one



of us is having a problem, especially because of our experiences in the war."

"I am determined to complete my studies and when I do, I will develop my career, succeed and will not have to depend on anyone."

"I will only get married when I am ready to and after I find the right person whose character I will have observed. I have grown up as an orphan, and I know how tough it is, so in future, I will support my family so that they can live better."

THIS CHANGE STORY IS SIGNIFICANT the difficulties that many women and girls face in vulnerable contexts. The loss of her parents at a young age and the need to depend on relatives highlight the fragility of support structures. Furthermore, the story of her older sister, forced into an early marriage with a violent man, highlights the cycle of poverty and abuse that often traps women without education or economic autonomy. Susanne's determination not to follow in her sister's footsteps is a powerful message of female empowerment and self-determination. Her perseverance in overcoming obstacles to gain admission to the Solidarity Teacher Training College (STTC) is an inspiring example of how a thirst for knowledge can overcome adversity. Her experience at STTC, with its positive learning environment and support, reinforces the idea that education is not only a right, but a fundamental tool for social change.