



# Vincentian Solidarity Office

November 2022 Bulletin

## Lights and Clean Energy Shine Upon Island Communities in PNG

Since 2010 the cost of solar energy has fallen 85%. This reduction in cost has made renewable energy attainable for remote communities around the world who have never had access to electricity. One such community is Kiriwina Island of the Trobriand Group of Islands, part of the nation of Papua New Guinea. The Vincentian International Mission of Papua New Guinea applied for a micro-project grant to help fund community-managed solar-powered streetlights for the indigenous rural villages. These villages do not have any electricity or any infrastructure that would allow traditional grid-based street lighting.

Using the funds from the grant, each of the 6 communities in St. Mary's Parish received 7 solar powered lights. Community members themselves made the poles on which the lights were mounted using local trees.

So many improvements to village life are made possible by simply adding light. The local children can study for school later in the day. Community activities can be enjoyed after sunset. The villagers gather under the lights for meetings and even Mass. With light, illegal activities are curbed so safety is improved for those who must leave their households at night. Everyone living in the villages from young to old has benefitted in some way. Operating the lights has no cost because the sun is the energy source. Maintenance and repairs will be done by the villagers.



*Children gathered to study past sunset under the new streetlights*



*Children's choir performs at outdoor evening Mass*



*Mr. Nicholas, a local parishioner with help from other community members fastened the lights to poles and installed them, here with local children looking on.*

### A Bright Future for Chad's Children

Fr. Kenneth Eze, C.M., the principal at Saint Jean Baptiste De Bebalement Lycée of Moundou, Chad, recently shared some exciting news with us. The school was named one of the best schools in Chad. It was ranked number 13 out of all the public and private schools by the National Offices for Higher Education Examinations Competitions (ONECS), for the 2022 sessions. The VSO had in recent years been active in acquiring the funding for the expansion of this school. In our

February 2020 Bulletin we described the addition of a three classroom block. In 2021, we helped again with the completion of a multi-purpose room which is used for daily Mass among other activities.

The VSO would like to congratulate Fr. Eze and all the staff and students at St. Jean Baptiste de Babalem on this accomplishment. We are happy to have been able to play a small part in your success.



*Students at Saint Jean Baptiste De Bebalement Lycée with a message for the VSO*

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Our goal: To assist the Congregation of the Mission with obtaining funds for its evangelization and service of the poor.

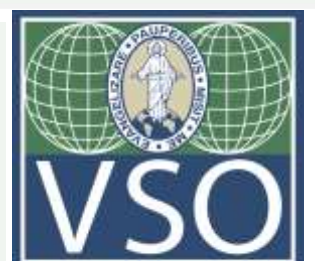
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# School Refurbishment Builds Up Mission-Government Relations in Mozambique

The Agriculture Institute of Magude of Mozambique was in a bad state when the government came to inspect it. The government had in fact threatened to close the school if repairs were not made soon. They faced a deadline to complete repairs by June of this year or be shut down. The country of Mozambique already has very few secondary schools. This school is in a rural area with little opportunity. Without it, the area residents will end their education after completing primary school. Most will have to leave the area to find any work. The school concentrates on agriculture as a vocational trade, teaching students to be self-sufficient.

Since this school is run by Vincentians, they asked the VSO for help with the repairs which included a new roof, ceiling, tiling and paint. Some of the classroom furniture was replaced as well. A contractor was hired, but the priests, teachers and students helped with the work too.

The repairs have made the school safer and a much more pleasant environment for both staff and students. The Ministry of Education in Mozambique issued a permit of operation so they can stay open and enroll new students. There are hopes to expand the school in the future to accommodate 1000 students.



Agriculture Institute of Magude, Mozambique after renovation



Students and staff of the Agriculture Institute of Magude

## Enhancing Child-Friendly Learning Environment for Girls in India

Remote northeastern India is also a place where there are not a lot of choices for schooling. The Vincentians built schools here. Many of the children live so far away though, that daily commuting is not possible. With the help of Manos Unidas, a hostel for girls ages 5 to 16 was built at the Klurdung mission in Assam, India. This hostel will allow girls to attend school who would not otherwise have access to an education.

Once finished, the building needed to be furnished. With a micro-project grant from the VSO, Fr. Benedict Hebrum, C.M. and the other missionaries of Klurdung furnished the sleeping quarters with new bunkbeds and cabinets; the dining area with

tables and chairs; and the study hall with desks and chairs. Sixty girls, mostly from the Karbi tribes of the interior villages of the Klurdung region, are now able to get an education.



Students of Klurdung Mission School at their new desks

### Fr. Joel's Solidarity Notes

What is the VSO way of Solidarity-Building? We capitalize on 'Solidarity' by harnessing the potentials of key social processes of reciprocity.

The Social Life of Solidarity

Social Inclusion → enabling the 'option for the poor' through VSO micro-projects

Social Capital → building subsidiarity and support network through the Vincentian Solidarity Fund (VSF)

Social Accountability → building up the 'patrimony of the poor' through leveraging resources and matching fund schemes

Social Development Impact → consolidating integral evangelization and social transformation with a 'systemic change' perspective

Operational Formula:

Social Inclusion + Social Capital + Social Accountability = Social Development Impact

The VSO is grateful to the donors and agencies that make our work possible, including:

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