Samson Bruzii, 15-year-old student, Tambua Nursery and Primary School, Yambio, South Sudan

“When the teachers from Solidarity Teachers Training College come to teach us, I am so happy because I know that I will get a good chance to learn a lot of things. They are always in class and on time. They really know how to teach well.”

Samson’s school, Tambua Nursery and Primary School in Yambio, South Sudan, has more than 600 students. Some of them, who are hardly two years old and not yet registered at the school, follow their brother or sister to school - eager to be in class where they can sing nursery rhymes and chant so as to learn ABCD.

Samson stands out in his class as he is quite outspoken and is only mildly shy. He is in Primary 8, the final class in which he will have to do a final national exam that will allow him to go to secondary school. “I am not sure how I will perform in the national exam because the teachers in the school are not enough so not much learning is going on.” There are not enough primary school teachers and a majority of the ones teaching are untrained high school graduates, some of who do not have a good understanding of the subjects that they teach; others find it difficult to manage the classrooms and a majority are highly demotivated. “Right now, we don’t have a teacher and even yesterday, we only had only one lesson in a whole day because there is only
one teacher who could teach us.” Samson and his classmates end up having to just sit in class and read their books. For some, their minds seem to have wandered far away while others are irritated by the stream of young ones constantly peeping in the classroom windows and make a lot of noise as they constantly hassle each other.

During the teacher-training course, the teacher trainees are given the chance to practice their teaching skills at local primary schools while being monitored by their tutors.

“When the teachers from Solidarity Teachers Training College come to teach us, I am so happy because I know that I will get a good chance to learn a lot of things. They are always in class and on time. They really know how to teach well. They teach in a way that I can easily understand and remember what I have been taught. When they left, I cried. I cried real tears. I felt very bad because I had been enjoying classes when they were here.”

All of Samson’s classmates agreed in unison that they really enjoyed being taught by the teachers from Solidarity Teachers Training College and look forward to being taught by them again. In the meantime, when the teacher-trainees graduate, they go back to their communities all over South Sudan and are tasked with the challenge of bringing new and much needed changes to their communities. It is a step-by-step process towards re-educating the children of South Sudan.

**THIS STORY IS SIGNIFICANT BECAUSE** the trained teachers are going out into their respective communities, that either lack teachers or have untrained teachers - a situation which has been made worse due to the many years of civil war, to competently and professionally give knowledge to their students and therefore raising the level of education in South Sudan, which is crucial for South Sudan’s future.