

Annual Report 2024

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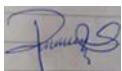
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LETTER FROM THE BOARD

On behalf of the Board of Directors and my own, I would like to express our gratitude and sincere appreciation to our valued partners, particularly Save the Children International, Microsoft Corporation, and UNDP, for their generous support in terms of financial assistance, software provisions, and training opportunities that have significantly contributed to the successful operations of CEF.

We are truly thankful for the strong partnership we have forged with each of these organizations, which has played a pivotal role in enabling CEF to achieve its objectives effectively. Over the past eight years, CEF has experienced remarkable growth in its project portfolio, operational capabilities, funding sources, and workforce. These accomplishments are a testament to the unwavering commitment, dedication, collaborative efforts, and determination of our staff members who have worked tirelessly to facilitate the mobilization of **\$2,577,614** and provide assistance to **532,511** beneficiaries in South Sudan.

Congratulations to all the dedicated individuals at CEF for their outstanding contributions. Let us continue to uphold the high standards of work and maintain this positive momentum moving forward.



Malual Jacob Runrach,
Secretary/ED.

MISSION STATEMENT

To empower communities to improve their healthy living conditions, fight poverty, eradicate illiteracy and discrimination against women.

CEF VISION

CEF envisions a free, empowered, and healthy society where all people are equal.

HISTORY OF CEF

Charity and Empowerment Foundation (CEF) is a non-profit organization established in 2017 by Dr. Gai Chol Paul, during his pursuit of a doctorate degree at Walden University. Inspired by the concept of positive social change instilled in him by Walden University, Dr. Paul took the initiative to create CEF with the primary objective of empowering communities and improving their overall living conditions. With a focus on combating poverty, eliminating illiteracy, and addressing gender discrimination, CEF is working tirelessly to create a more equitable and just society.

CEF initiatives span across various areas, including health enhancement, education advancement, and livelihood improvement. These efforts are primarily targeted towards remote and underserved regions, where accessing adequate resources and support is a significant challenge. Through its comprehensive approach, CEF aims to create a world where all individuals are equal, free, and empowered.

By working closely with rural communities, CEF strives to make a lasting impact and contribute to a healthier and more prosperous world for all. Since 2017, CEF has been mobilizing resources from International Organizations, UN agencies, International Corporations, and the board membership contribution.

ORGANIZATIONAL GOALS.

CEF has five systematic goals to achieve by 2030. The figure below corresponds to programs CEF is implementing.



CEF PHILOSOPHY AND BELIEFS

CEF places great importance on the value of **advocacy**. By engaging in advocacy efforts, CEF works to influence decision-makers in the development, modification, and implementation of policies. The focus of CEF's advocacy work is on addressing issues impacting children, their primary caregivers, and relatives. Through advocacy initiatives, CEF aims to enhance the capacity of duty bearers to fulfill their responsibilities in terms of policies, practices, and legislation, while also empowering children, caregivers, and local civil society members to assert their rights and hold others accountable.

Additionally, CEF recognizes the significance of **behavioral change communication** (BCC) as a powerful tool for fostering positive social change within the communities where

its projects are implemented. By selecting appropriate communication channels and crafting tailored messages and strategies, CEF utilizes BCC to promote shifts in knowledge, attitudes, norms, beliefs, and behaviors, ultimately facilitating greater awareness and understanding of the change process.

Moreover, CEF acknowledges the impact of **peer education** in disseminating information within target communities through individuals' peers. Through training peer educators, CEF facilitates the spread of positive social change perceptions in project communities, encouraging the adoption of favorable behaviors and supporting the sustainability of desired transformations.

Furthermore, CEF places emphasis on **enhancing the capacities of local communities and their institutions** as a means of driving significant positive changes in project areas. By empowering women to recognize their potential and assert their rights in regions where CEF operates, and by strengthening the capabilities of local institutions, CEF has successfully fostered enduring positive outcomes even after the conclusion of its projects.

Lastly, CEF values **innovation** as a key driver of project success. By implementing innovative approaches to project execution, CEF upholds the highest quality standards, reduces costs, meets deadlines, garners support from donors, partners, and communities, and establishes and maintains its reputation and credibility.

STATISTICS AND PROFILES OF BENEFICIARIES PROTECTION

With the funds from Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs and in partnership with Save the Children International (SCI), the Charity and Empowerment Foundation (CEF) executed phase I of a three-year Protection Project in the Abyei Special Administrative Area, targeting Allal County and its payams, Mading Achueng and Awolnhom. This project addresses critical protection issues, including child neglect, forced marriages, maltreatment, and exploitation.

As part of this initiative, CEF established and trained a Community-Based Child Protection Network (CBCPN) comprising 12 individuals from the two payams. This network plays a crucial role in implementing the project and serves as ambassadors for children's rights, assisting CEF staff in awareness-raising and identifying vulnerable children. Additionally, CEF identified and trained six child-friendly space (CFS) facilitators to manage cases and provide essential services within newly constructed spaces designed for children.

To enhance stakeholder engagement and foster community participation, CEF conducted capacity-building workshops for 11 staff members (9 males and 3 females) from the Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare (MOGCSW), focusing on crucial topics such as mental health identification and care for separated children. The foundation also educated 10 individuals (7 males and 3 females) on family tracing and care replacement, along with training 12 male champions in advocacy against harmful cultural practices, including GBV and child marriage.

CEF organized community dialogues aimed at reducing teenage pregnancies and empowering community members to challenge harmful cultural practices, engaging over 150 individuals

and fostering a strong commitment to prioritizing education over early marriage. Furthermore, CEF reached another 150 community members in Mading Achueng and Awolnhom, significantly enhancing their knowledge regarding child protection and GBV.

In alignment with its commitment to staff development, CEF conducted a four-day workshop focused on GBV, case management, and psychosocial support, successfully training 11 staff members (6 males and 5 females) in essential skills related to SGBV and child protection. Additionally, to commemorate World Mental Health Day and the 16 Days of Activism Against GBV, CEF engaged in awareness-raising activities that reached a total of 10,500 individuals, including children and adults, with 700 participants in the campaign against violence towards women. CEF also celebrated World Children's Day on November 20, 2024, successfully engaging over 500 participants in events dedicated to children's rights.

The organization provided comprehensive case management services, addressing 60 cases of vulnerable children identified in Awolnhom and Mading Achueng through basic counseling, cash incentives, and provision of non-food items. In total, 40 cases were referred to other humanitarian agencies for additional support, while CEF supported 30 GBV-related cases with tailored counseling and necessary resources to help survivors cope.

To address mental health issues, CEF offered psychosocial support and made referrals for medical assistance for 20 individuals. In its ongoing family tracing and reunification efforts, the organization identified 160 unaccompanied children, providing them with essential items and mental health and psychosocial support sessions.

To further strengthen its staff capabilities, CEF organized a three-day training for 10 team

members focused on project planning, monitoring, and gender integration. Additionally, to promote the well-being of children and provide a safe environment for vulnerable populations, CEF established a Child-Friendly Space (CFS) in Awolnhom Payam of Allal County.

In response to the humanitarian crisis resulting from the influx of returnees from Sudan, CEF implemented the Crisis Modifier project in Aweil East County, addressing the psychosocial needs of vulnerable returnees and providing peer-to-peer support to 348 children, tailored to individual experiences. Furthermore, CEF trained 60 community members to effectively respond to child protection issues, enhancing overall child safety in emergencies. The organization also reached over 4,890 individuals through emergency food distributions, reinforcing its commitment to community support during times of crisis.



Figure 1: children performing during commemoration of world children day in Abyei, 2024



Figure 2: Training of CBCPN members in Abyei, 2024



Figure 3: Newly constructed child friendly space in Abyei, 2024

FOOD SECURITY AND LIVELIHOOD

The UNDP Small Grants for Micro and Small Enterprises (MSEs) project, implemented in the Abyei Special Administrative Area from May to July 2024, aims to address the challenges faced by local youth through comprehensive support mechanisms. The initiative focused on empowering young individuals by providing essential training, mentorship, and access to

start-up funds to foster entrepreneurship and sustainable business practices. The project equips youths with the necessary skills and knowledge to manage their own enterprises while facilitating connections with local financial institutions.

In the project's initial phase, the CEF identified and enlisted 150 youth participants, meeting the outlined target. To promote collaboration and community-building, CEF organized these participants into five groups of 30 members each, encouraging teamwork and peer support as they navigate their entrepreneurial journeys.

The training curriculum was comprehensive and multifaceted, providing participants with insights into micro-enterprising skills essential for starting and operating small businesses. The program included business development services covering crucial topics such as financial management, business administration, and market linkages. Additionally, participants were introduced to entrepreneurship principles and the agricultural value chain, vital for those interested in agriculture-related businesses.

Coaching and mentorship played a significant role throughout the training period, with experienced professionals guiding the youth as they applied their newly acquired skills. The mentorship component provided personalized support, helping individuals refine their business ideas and strategies. CEF emphasized building resilience and adaptability, equipping participants to navigate the challenges of entrepreneurship effectively.

Upon completing the training sessions, CEF conducted a selection process to identify standout individuals who demonstrated significant potential. From each group, five exemplary youth were chosen based on their engagement, business acumen, and readiness

to launch their ventures. As a result, 25 young entrepreneurs received start-up funding of USD 2,000 each, facilitating the initial steps in launching their businesses. This financial support is integral to translating their training into tangible outcomes, allowing them to acquire essential resources, equipment, and inventory to kickstart their operations.



Figure 4: Training of youths on Entrepreneurship in Abyei, 2024

HIGHLIGHTS OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR THE YEAR

CEF has achieved tremendous achievements for 2024 in all areas of program, operation, finance, supply chain, and human resource. Under the programmatic improvement, CEF generated \$360,026 from SCI, UNDP, and membership contributions. CEF reached **6,557** beneficiaries with FSL and Child Protection. Under finance, there was great improvement in reporting and compliance, finance team were trained, and they are now experts in their field. Supply chain department received training from SCI to improve their operation. CEF reestablished its office in Abyei since it left the area in 2018.

FINANCE STATEMENTS

(Only show infographic statements here because the detailed finance statements may not be relevant to many audiences)

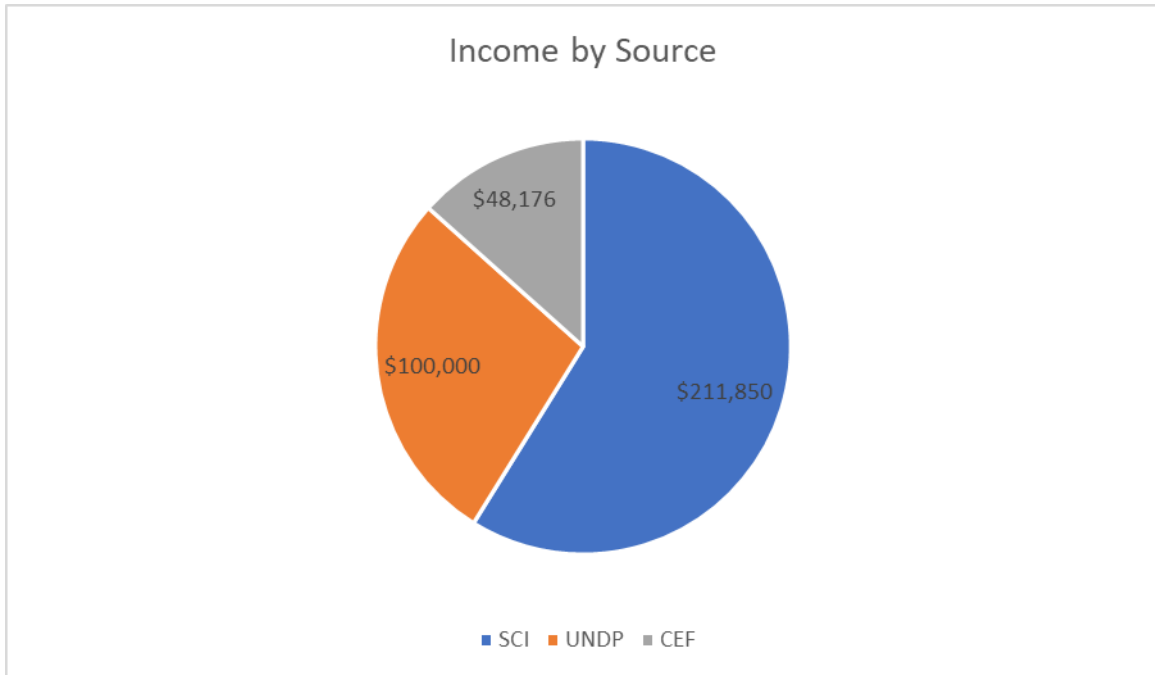


Figure 5: Income by Source, 2024

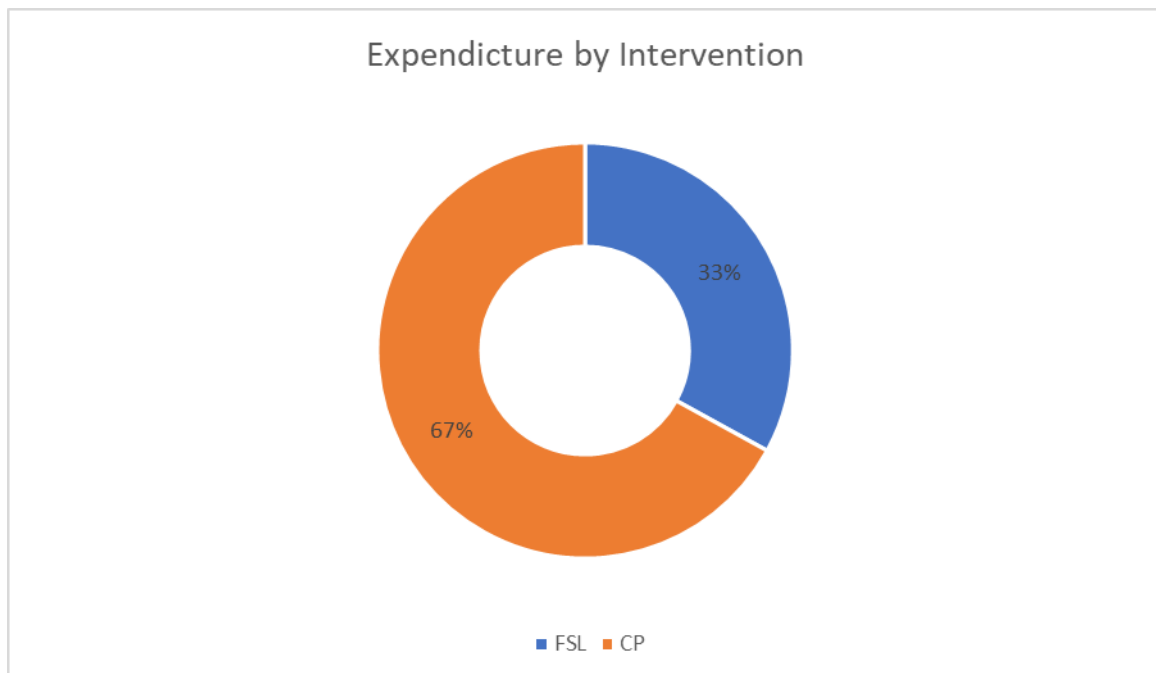


Figure 6: Expenditure by Intervention, 2024

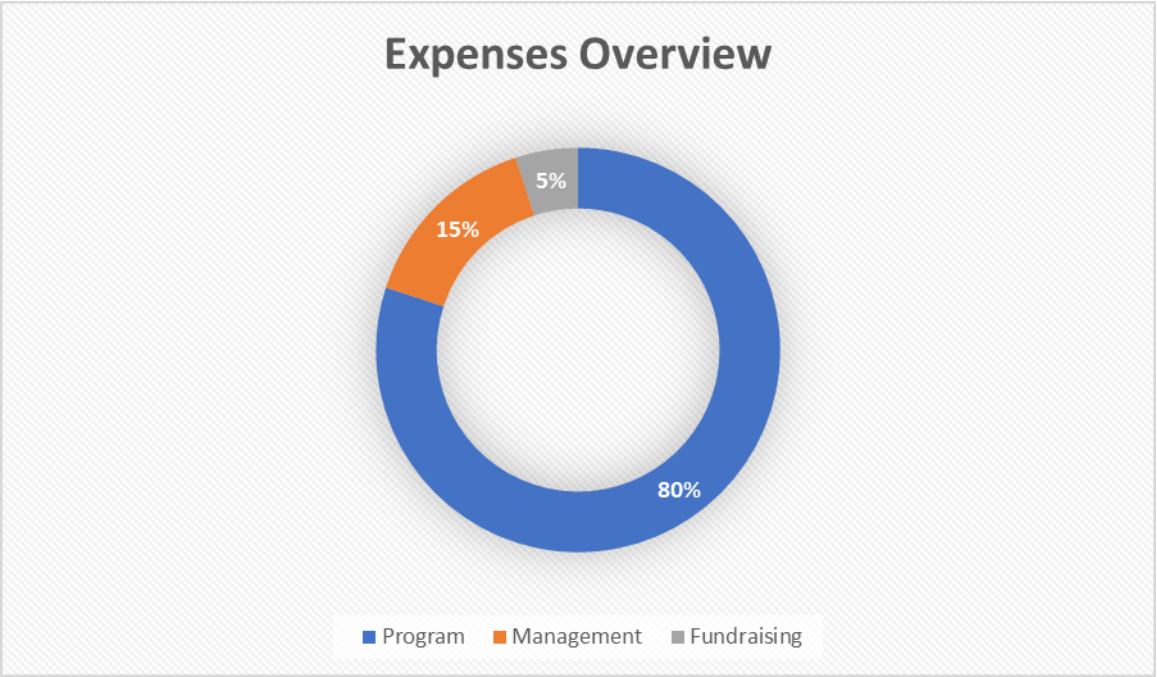


Figure 7: Expenses Overview, 2024

AWARDS, GRANTS, LOANS, AND DONATIONS

S#	Project	Amount	Source
1.	Small Grants to Provide Income Generating Activities (Micro and Small Enterprises” in Abyei Administrative Area, South Sudan	\$100,000	UNDP
2.	SSJR 2024-2026	\$211,850	SCI
3	Board Contribution	\$48,176	CEF
Total		\$360,026	

ROSTER

S#	Name in Full	Position
1.	Abiar Ajith Lual	Chair
2.	Malual Jacob Runrach	Secretary/ED
3.	Leek Gai Kurwal	Member
4.	Anai Mary Gai	Member