

# AQUA AFRICA

2020 ANNUAL REPORT





*“Durable, solar-powered  
Village Supplier water systems are  
**THE PERFECT WATER SOLUTION  
FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES**  
in South Sudan.”*  
- Buey Ray Tut



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# Executive Director's Letter

Welcome to our 2020 Annual Report. What a difference a year makes!

In the midst of a global pandemic, and with your support, Aqua-Africa upgraded the Nimule Village Supplier water system, adding running water to the wards of Nimule Hospital and furthering its Covid-19 preparedness. Three more water distribution points were also added to the Village Supplier system providing increased clean drinking water to local community residents. The system now supports more than 6,500 people! On November 7th, the Director General for the Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation and other dignitaries inaugurated the completed project (see report cover photo).

We continue to believe that durable, solar-powered Village Supplier water systems are the perfect water solution for rural communities in South Sudan. They are highly reliable and long-lasting.

In December, Aqua-Africa opened an office in South Sudan's capitol city, Juba. Mabior Acouth, our associate and Program Director, will be moving to South Sudan and will be guiding project efforts from the new office.

As you read the report, you will see that minor changes have been made to our South Sudan mission statement. It clarifies that the focus will continue to be on underserved "rural" communities. The mission scope was also expanded from water and power to include "sanitation" as a primary development service. In keeping with this revised mission, Aqua-Africa installed its first septic system at Nimule Hospital in late October; achieving major improvements in the hospital's sanitation and wastewater disposal.

You make our work possible. Thanks again for your friendship, trust and confidence.

Enjoy the report!



**Buey Ray Tut**  
Executive Director



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**Buey Tut meets with Dr. David at Nimule Hospital to discuss Aqua-Africa and Empower Kids South Sudan's plans for upgrading the hospital's water system. A solar array, an improved water pumping system, a septic system, and running water was installed to the hospital's wards during 4th quarter.**





Aqua-Africa believes that providing reliable access to clean water, sanitation and power to rural South Sudanese communities over a five-to-ten-year “adoption period” will lead residents to attach significant value to these services. Improved community health and increased economic activity will, in turn, create demand for the services and a willingness to contribute financially towards their sustainability. Once a critical mass of likeminded rural communities has been developed throughout South Sudan, Aqua-Africa expects to see a strengthened government commitment to the delivery of these vital services. Clean water is the foundational service.

## WITHOUT WATER NOTHING CAN GROW

### CLEAN WATER

Without water, nothing can grow. Yet 345 million people in Africa live without access to clean water. We are committed to changing this. We will continue to use hand-pump wells to deliver clean water in small communities of 250 – 500 people. However, increasingly, we will use solar-powered pumps and Village Supplier water towers capable of serving 5,000 to 10,000 people. We plan to serve 1% of South Sudan's population by 2025.

### POWER

Nearly 600 million people in Sub-Saharan Africa do not have electric power for lighting after sundown. Only 1 percent of South Sudan's population has access to an electrical grid. Aqua-Africa seeks to provide affordable lighting and power to the communities it serves by using excess solar energy and state-of-the-art battery technology.

### SANITATION

Just 10% of South Sudan's people have access to improved sanitation, such as a latrine. Open defecation is common practice. Aqua-Africa envisions a country where latrines or septic systems are available and maintained, and communities sensitized to the importance of a sanitation plan. Hygiene promotion across the country will prevent the transmission of diseases and provide a healthy future for all.



### **Bridging Cultural Gaps**

The Covid-19 Pandemic changed the way we engaged students, to bridge cultural gaps, and fulfill our Omaha Mission. Like many others we relied heavily on Zoom to interact. Here, Buey engages attentive students of the Omaha Street School (OSS). Aqua-Africa was pleased to donate some computers and printers to OSS to support their remote learning environment during 2020.

Using their immigrant story, Aqua-Africa's founders visit local schools and youth organizations to provide a program called "African American". The goal of this program is to introduce youth to what it means to be an immigrant, black and a black immigrant. There are cultural challenges that immigrants face when settling in America, and again when returning to their country of origin. The talks highlight how compassion, understanding and humanity can transform the immigrant experience. Students gain increased appreciation of immigrant contributions to society and to the cultural fabric of the community. Using the mission in South Sudan as a foundation, the founders challenge youth to look beyond their front door to understand peoples' differences and embrace similarities of people in their classroom, neighborhood, nation and world. The program inspires hope for many youths who struggle with self-doubt, acceptance and the definition of a future role for themselves in society.



# BRIDGE CULTURAL GAPS THAT EXIST IN THE COMMUNITY

## HELPING YOUTH WITH SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL GROWTH

### OBJECTIVE

Aqua-Africa seeks to present Buey's story as a young black entrepreneur to schools (elementary, middle, high), youth organizations and service clubs. It is believed that Buey's story as an immigrant and Aqua-Africa's mission can:

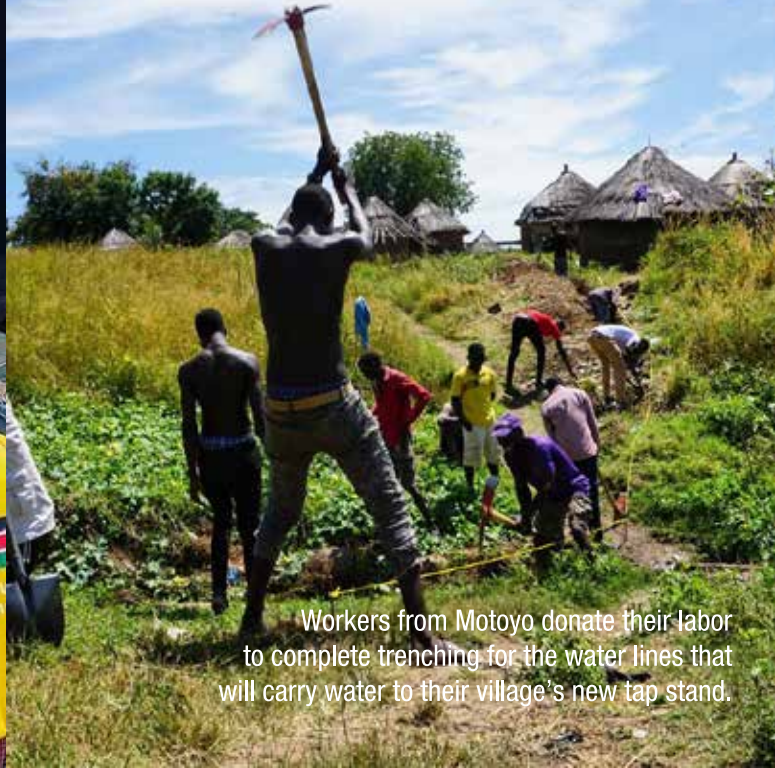
- Encourage disadvantaged youth to be hopeful about their future prospects and contributions.
- Expose youth to immigrants and immigrant contributions.
- Educate people about the needs of people outside America's borders.

### DESIRED RESULTS

- Help youth think about what they can do to make an impact.
- Help youth to better understand immigrants.
- Help youth understand the collective impact we can have on the rest of the world.
- Presentation to 1,000 students each year.



New water lines arrive in Nimule for the planned hospital upgrade.



Workers from Motoyo donate their labor to complete trenching for the water lines that will carry water to their village's new tap stand.



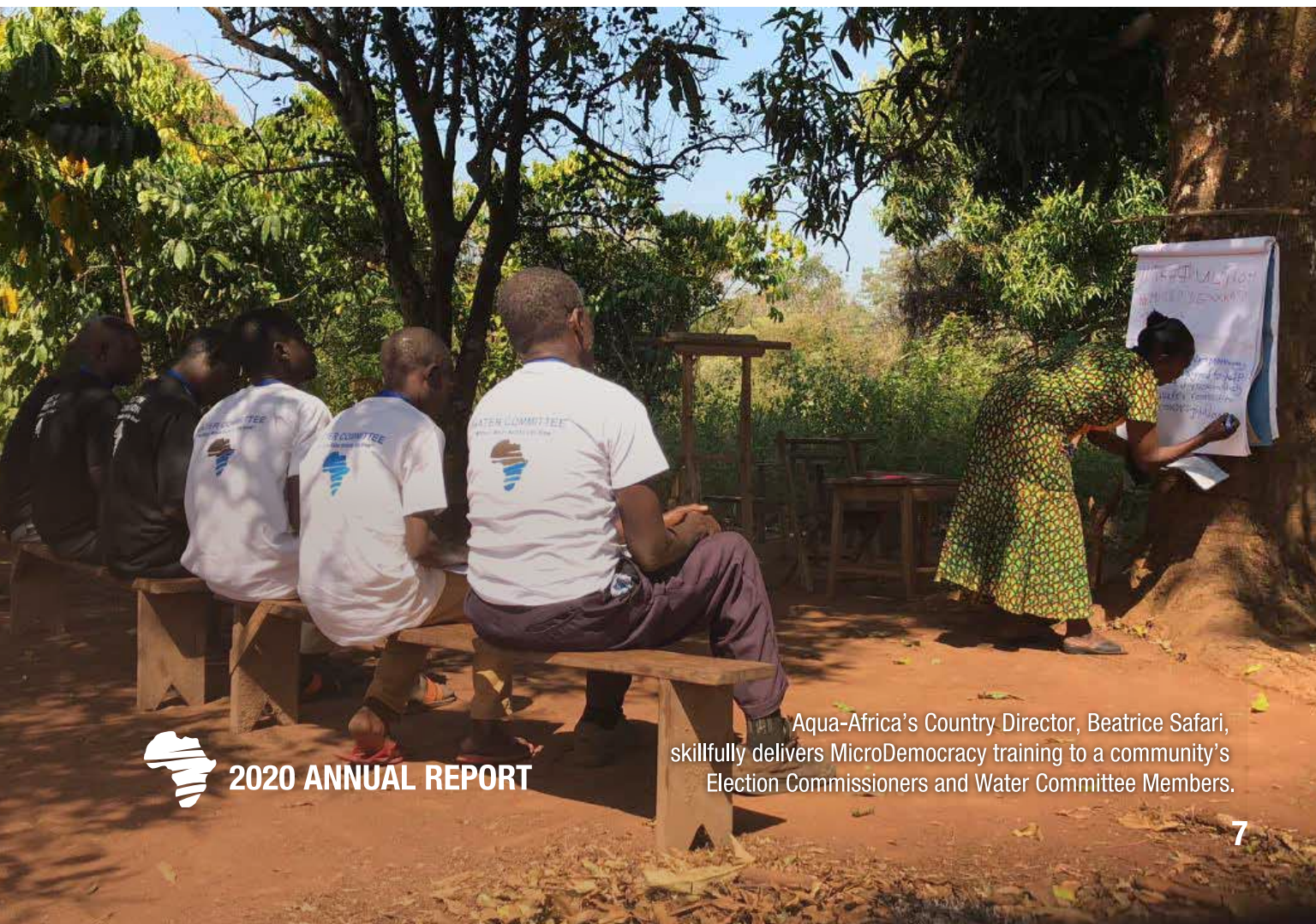
The construction of Nimule Hospital's new septic system nears completion.



Habits are formed early in life. A very small laborer mimics his father, filling in a completed water line trench with dirt.



We view our water well projects as just one piece of the plan to help improve life in the communities we touch. Every time we construct a new hand-pump well or Village Supplier we also facilitate the election of one or more water committees tasked with governing the water distribution points. We then train these autonomously elected committee members to draft and enforce their own policies. Aqua-Africa's MicroDemocracy differentiates its implementation process from other similar organizations. We start with governing water usage, but we expect this grass roots effort to lead to more political participation and better governance overall.





**PARTNER SPOTLIGHT**  
**PAUL TIMM, SCIENCE TEACHER**  
**2021 NEBRASKA TEACHER OF THE YEAR**

For the past 2 years, Aqua-Africa has been pleased to engage students at Lyons-Decatur Northeast Secondary School on the “Nebraska Water Project” collaboration, a learning project guided by science teacher, Paul Timm. Mr. Timm was recently named 2021 Nebraska Teacher of the Year. Together with Aqua-Africa, his students explore social and scientific perspectives on water, its importance to human health, and its contribution to global economic health.

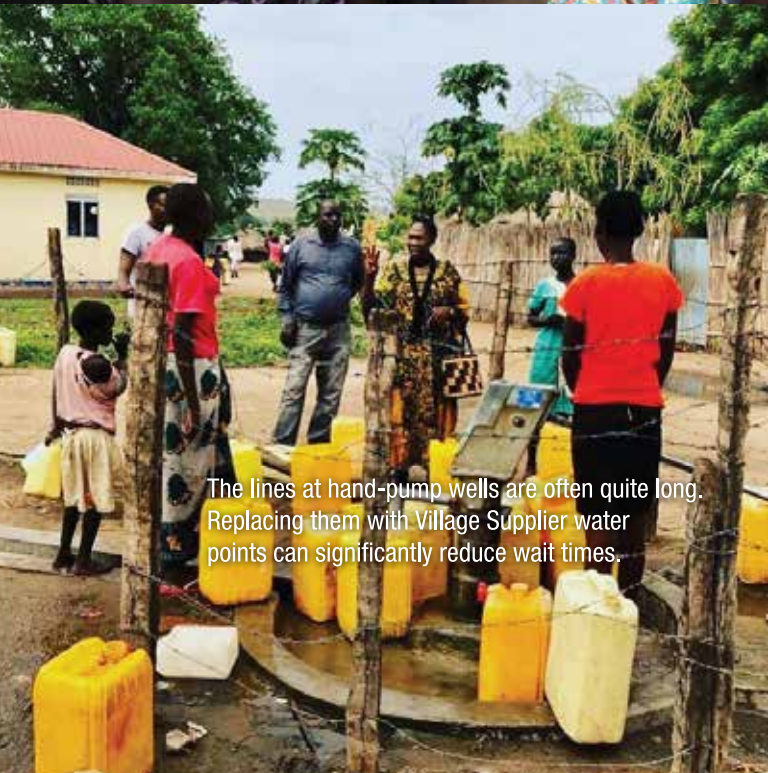




South Sudan Country Director, Beatrice Safari, visits a mother and newborn in Nimule Hospital's maternity ward.



Aqua-Africa Program Director, Mabor Acouth, meets Hakim Monykuer, Country Director of Empower Kids South Sudan to discuss travel plans to Nimule to accomplish water system upgrade.



The lines at hand-pump wells are often quite long. Replacing them with Village Supplier water points can significantly reduce wait times.



Buey celebrates the successful Just Us Walk with event supporters, Ingra and Bret Anderson.

# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT IN AFRICA AND OMAHA



## Nimule Hospital Upgrade

In March 2020, South Sudan's government began restricting its citizen's movements and closing its borders in response to the Covid-19 pandemic. As one of the poorest nations in the world, South Sudan looked especially vulnerable to the impact of the pandemic. In response, Empowerkids South Sudan and Aqua-Africa requested and received permission from South Sudan's government to operate as "essential workers" to support the country's pandemic preparedness. The two organizations proposed a plan to upgrade Nimule Hospital, a regional hospital, with indoor plumbing and to expand water access to surrounding communities. Over several months, the team engaged the hospital staff and local community residents to complete implementation planning and to gain their support for the project. Construction was completed during 4th quarter, 2020.



## 2020 JUST US Walk

In lieu of the annual Aqua-Run event, on September 5th, Aqua-Africa held a community-building "unity walk" around Elmwood Park. During the 1-mile walk, participants participated in a game activity and visited 6 stations that represented segments of our Omaha culture (Education, Justice System, Employment, Health Care, Home Ownership, Economic Opportunity). Race and gender gaps were revealed using actual and recent statistical data from the Omaha Metropolitan area. The reasons that socio-economic gaps exist between races and genders are complex. And closing them will be a great challenge for our city and nation. It was a beautiful and enjoyable day.



Reliable power is an important service that Aqua-Africa provides. During 2020, Aqua-Africa installed a solar array at Nimule Hospital containing 32 solar panels and producing 10 KW of power. The electricity drives a powerful pump that lifts the groundwater to a 50-thousand-liter capacity elevated water tower.



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# CLEAN WATER IS JUST THE BEGINNING

In the next two years, Aqua-Africa plans to pilot a Village Supplier Utility System (VSUS) in the village of Maiwut, South Sudan that can serve 10,000 people with clean drinking water, as well as limited electric power and lighting capabilities.

Aqua-Africa will grow its operations in South Sudan, forming new vendor relationships in the country and the capacity to deliver increased levels of reliable water, power and sanitation services.

Similarly, Aqua-Africa will align its work with the local Omaha community to bridge cultural gaps that exist in the community. We plan to engage at least 1,000 metropolitan area residents each year, with an emphasis on youth engagement through schools and youth organizations.

## STRATEGIES

- Partner with the Omaha Chamber of Commerce and other regional stakeholders to further Omaha's reputation as a community that is welcoming to immigrants, minority-owned and led businesses, and an incubator for innovation.
- Position South Sudan country operations to compete for international and South Sudan government grant funding.
- Continue to develop and strengthen relationships with Republic of South Sudan government ministers, local leaders, and NGOs. Understand their development objectives and seek to understand how Aqua-Africa can help in furtherance of those.
- Maximize the productive use of Aqua-Africa's compound and facilities in Nzara, South Sudan as a base for development teams, local women's groups, and short-term medical mission. Invite American visitors who have interest in our development work.
- Invest in additional technical training for Aqua-Africa staff, to include solar systems design and project management.
- Strengthen the organization's MicroDemocracy Program, and increasingly use it as a differentiating characteristic.

Aqua-Africa seeks to honor its monthly “bedrock” donors through the placement of decorative bricks at the base of its Village Supplier installations. This small collection of bricks adorns the base of the Nzara Village Supplier. WE APPRECIATE YOU!





# OUTREACH EVENTS



## **2020 Amy Stroh Memorial Golf Outing**

Jacob Stroh of Farm Bureau Financial Services hosted a fundraiser in memory of his deceased mother, Amy Stroh. Nearly 70 golfers gathered at Ashland Country Club on Friday, August 28th. The weather was perfect and the competition great. Buey Tut presented Aqua-Africa's story over dinner, following the event. Proceeds from the event benefited Aqua-Africa. \$3,000 in donations were raised for the organization. Aqua-Africa is extremely thankful for Jacob and his team's leadership, and for the support of Center Sphere Chapter 05 for the support and volunteers they provided for the event. The tournament was a great success and incredibly fun!

## **Nebraska Water Project**

For the second year, Aqua-Africa and Lyons-Decatur Northeast High School partnered on a learning partnership focused on ecology. The objectives of this partnership included discovery of water testing methods that can be used in remote areas, as well as the comparison and contrasting of the ecology of South Sudan and Nebraska as a learning tool. Aqua-Africa's team traveled to Lyons, Nebraska to participate in a BioBlitz and Water Testing Day with Lyons-Decatur Northeast instructor, Paul Timm, and his students. Students also participated in an Aqua-Run activity, which allowed them to experience the difficulties South Sudanese families face while gathering and transporting water.



## **Bedrock Campaign**

Aqua-Africa's work depends on the financial support we receive from small "bedrock" donors who have committed to monthly giving. A gift of \$10, \$15 or \$25 a month; the cost of one night out, helps us bring reliable drinking water, power and sanitation to some of the world's most poor. Become a bedrock donor by visiting our website: [www.aqua-africa.org](http://www.aqua-africa.org) and clicking the donate button.

# STAFF & SUPPORTERS

## Staff

Executive Director: Buey Ray Tut  
Program Director: Mabior Acouth  
Operations Director: Dana Bradfield  
In-Country Director: Beatrice Safari Karlo  
Project Officer: Ukuch Gabriel  
SS Groundskeeper Taban Beneya Roba  
SS Security Guard Henry Juma Sawahit  
SS Security Guard Gibson Absai Agrap

## Board of Directors

President: Dr. Lyn Graves  
Vice President : Lindsey Rai Kortan  
Treasurer: Dana Bradfield  
Secretary: Don Royer  
Advisor: Mike McMeekin  
Executive Director: Buey Ray Tut

## Committee Leaders

Public Relations Committee: Dave Campbell  
Finance Committee: Craig Hoekstra  
Operations Committee: Mike McMeekin  
Events Committee: Mabior Acouth  
Legal Committee: Dan Reeker  
Strategic Committee: Lance Graves

## In Kind Donors

Craig Hoekstra  
Lamp, Rynearson & Associates

## Organizations

Amazon Smile Foundation  
American Endowment Foundation  
Anonymous  
Azria Health Montclair  
Bridges Trust - Anonymous  
Dunning Family Trust  
FaceBook Donations  
Faith Charitable Trust  
Lamp, Rynearson & Associates, Inc.  
Mutual of Omaha Foundation  
Rotary Club of Juba, South Sudan  
Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth  
State of Nebraska  
Stroh Financial Group  
The Community Foundation For Greater Atlanta  
Tompkins Land & Cattle Co.  
Valmont Foundation

## Individuals

Aaron Duncan  
Aaron Hoekstra  
Abigail Dawdy  
Achok Akuar  
Allison Seyler  
Alvin and Suzanne Townley  
Barbara and Bill Engebretsen  
Berna Mamet  
Bret and Ingra Anderson  
Brittnay Therese Dawson  
Brooks Lumpkin  
Charles and Joan Shapiro  
Charles Cordova  
Christian Griffin  
Christina Ferrigno  
Claudia and Tony Deeb  
Cline Williams  
Craig and Katherine Hoekstra  
Dale and Joy Ausdemore  
Dan and Kyle Rose  
Dana and Jodeen Bradfield  
Daniela Weitmann  
David Dobbertien  
Deena Candler  
Donald and Brenda Royer  
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Elizabeth Muon  
Ellen McGurk  
Erica Heiden  
Francios Tossberg  
Gary Dalmasso  
Gerald Kubiak  
Holly West  
Irene Fletcher  
Ivana Masimoree  
Jacob and Amber Stroh  
Janet McCrae  
Jason Jackson  
Jeremiah Rosenfels  
Jessica Jarosh  
Jody Neathery-Castro  
John and Anita Fuelberth  
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John and Stephanie Koraleski  
John and Wende Kotouc  
John Levy  
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Joseph Tirpak  
Julie Cornell

Karen L McPartland  
Katie Grant  
Leah and Shane Waters  
Lewis and Winifred Pinch  
Linda and Terry Gadwood  
Lindsey Rai Kortan  
Lisa Hukill  
Mari Ann Keith  
Markiyan Krasivskyy  
Marom Acouth  
Matt Dwyer  
Matt Oberst  
Matthew Petty  
Mitiku and Brigid Mamo  
Mogens and Cindy Bay  
Molly and John Campbell  
Nancy Thompson  
Nathan Hoekstra  
Paul and Cheri Cronen  
Paul Doeschot  
Priscilla Peter  
Rachelle Kamrath  
Robert and Debbie Ens  
Ryan and Jenny Wilkins  
Sara Larkins  
Sean Stoughton  
Steven Jerina  
Steven Lloyd and Ann Macdougall  
Todd and Jessica West  
Wilma Moore  
Yohanes Tot



## A Challenging Year

As described in the Executive Director's Letter, the global Covid-19 pandemic had a significant impact on Aqua-Africa both locally, and in South Sudan. Economic uncertainty reduced donor financial support and it was necessary for the organization to reduce its budget and to seek Paycheck Protection Program and CARES Act grant funding. Aqua-Africa was pleased to help South Sudan with its Covid-19 response, implementing running water to the hospital wards in Nimule, and by adding 3 additional water points in the surrounding community that will provide drinking water for up to 6,500 people per day. 2020 Expenditures were \$390K vs. \$387K in 2019: an increase of 1%. Program costs associated with well-drilling, project travel, water system installation and South Sudanese community education, accounted for nearly 77% of all organization expenditures. Aqua-Africa had \$288K in its financial accounts at year-end, in part, due to a \$50K December gift for 2021 planned activity. As we enter 2021, we're incredibly excited by the opportunities that our work provides to bring unity and healing to South Sudan, and we ask that you join us in this mission.

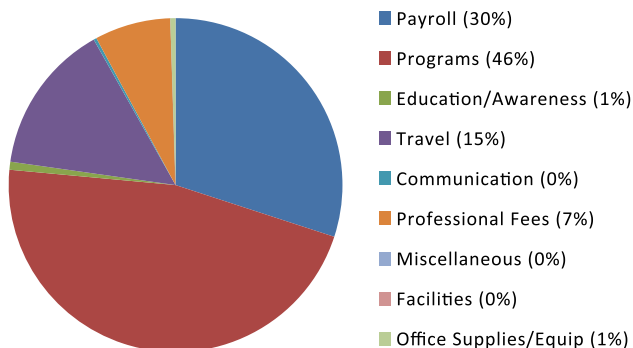
## 2020 Expenses

Programs	\$298,729
Overhead	\$55,440
Fundraising	\$35,637
Total Expenses	\$389,806

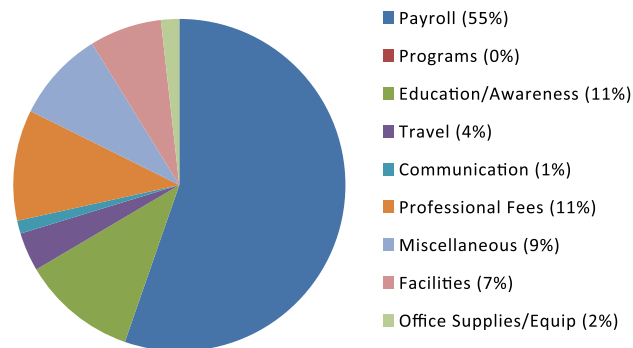
## 2020 Revenue

Cash Gifts	\$253,883
PPP Loan/Grant	\$28,000
CARES Act	\$50,330
Other Revenue	\$4,125
Total Income	\$336,338

### Programs



### Overhead





# AQUA AFRICA

AQUA-AFRICA.org

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