

AQUA AFRICA

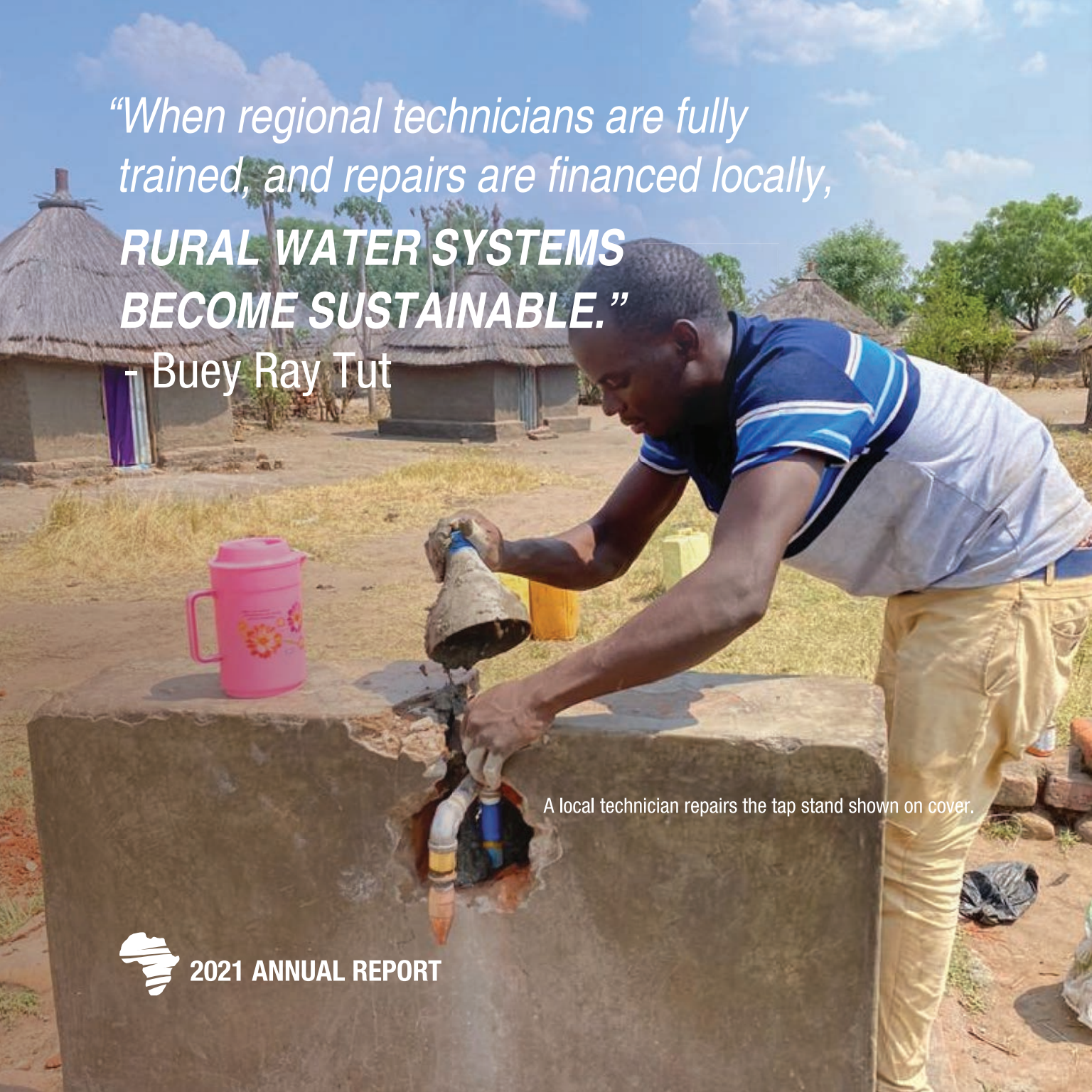
2021 ANNUAL REPORT



“When regional technicians are fully trained, and repairs are financed locally,

***RURAL WATER SYSTEMS
BECOME SUSTAINABLE.”***

- Buey Ray Tut



A local technician repairs the tap stand shown on cover.



2021 ANNUAL REPORT

Executive Director's Letter

Greetings! What an exciting and breathtaking year Aqua-Africa enjoyed in 2021!!

In Omaha, Aqua-Africa is partnering with the Nebraska 4-H and the University of Nebraska Extension Office educators to develop a science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) youth summer camp program that will target 8 to 10 Omaha youth organizations and 6th to 9th graders, beginning in June of 2022. The six-week day camp will conclude with a “Build an African Hut” competition hosted by Aqua-Africa in early August. Prizes will be awarded to the winning team's youth, and a scholarship awarded to the winning organization's science and math program. Through this summer camp, Omaha area youth will be presented STEM topics using a “hands on” approach, while also exposing them to economics, African culture, global issues, and many of the city's premier technology companies.

In South Sudan, we have fully settled into our new satellite office space in Juba, and we are getting significantly increased visibility for our staff and business operations through this local presence.

Mid-year, Program Director Mabior Acouth, transferred to Juba to lead the South Sudan team as it undertakes multi-year water, sanitation, and health (WASH) implementation projects with funding partners, Rotary International and DT Global. Mabior traveled to Maiwut, Upper Nile State, for nearly a month. He met with community leaders, public officials, and gathered additional data about all of the community's current water systems and their future needs. Mabior was pleased to find that other NGO's had previously been working in the community with USAID funding, and that there were several trained well mechanics serving in the community. Repeatedly, we find when regional technicians are fully trained, and repairs are financed locally, rural water systems become sustainable.

Water system rehabilitation and building organizational capacity have been our international focus for the past year. Extensive project planning was completed during 2021 as Aqua-Africa prepared for major construction efforts in Maiwut county and 13 other South Sudan counties over the next 5 years.

I sincerely hope you enjoy the report!



Buey Ray Tut
Executive Director



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Aqua-Africa Program Officer Ukuch Gabriel prepares to install a new solar-powered submersible water pump in Nimule, South Sudan.





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

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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

Executive Director Buey Tut provides a video-taped explanation of how African huts are constructed. Educational videos being shot in South Sudan will be used in a “Build an African Hut” youth day camp and STEM competition beginning the summer of 2022. Approximately three hundred 6th to 9th graders from eight to ten Omaha youth organizations will participate in this fun, “hands on” 6-week camp. The curriculum is being developed in partnership with the Nebraska 4-H and the University of Nebraska education extension office. We’re excited about its potential impact on area youth. Participants will receive instruction in solar energy, water transportation, engineering, and construction sciences while being exposed to economics, global issues, and African culture.

Using their immigrant story, Aqua-Africa's founders visit local schools and youth organizations to provide a program that exposes youth to African culture, global issues, and international development. 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 Outh 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.
- Use the organization's water, energy, and sanitation development work to inform youth how science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) techniques are being applied.



During upgrade and replacement of the Nimule, South Sudan well-pump, a portion of the well collapsed and had to be re-drilled. The Great Ruaha Drilling Company dispatched a drilling rig.



Ruaha's drilling team reamed the existing borehole, clearing debris from the well.



Ruaha's team lays new pipe to complete the Nimule well repairs.



Nimule community members construct a small bridge to cover PVC water pipe lines so they will not be damaged by foot traffic or by erosion in the ravine.

Aqua-Africa's 2021 efforts were largely directed at rehabilitation and maintenance of existing water systems, and preparations for major development in the coming years. Budgets and plans were prepared, grant applications submitted, and contracts negotiated. It was a busy year. During 4th quarter, 2021 four galvanized steel water tanks were ordered from Steel Structures LTD, a fabricator located in Nairobi, Kenya. These tanks will support the Maiwut project funded by Rotary International, Samaritan's Purse, and others. The photograph below shows our water tanks on the loading dock, awaiting transport to Maiwut.





AQUA-AFRICA SPOTLIGHT NZARA, SOUTH SUDAN COMPOUND OVERSIGHT TEAM

In January, a dinner celebration was held for the staff that oversees the care and management of Aqua-Africa's compound in Nzara, Western Equatoria State, South Sudan, and their families. Since 2018 the Compound Supervisor, Taban Ruba, and Guards Henry Sawhy and Gibson Agrab, have maintained security while producing crops of pineapple, corn, bananas, and oranges on the property. They have served our organization well, and we were pleased to serve and recognize their efforts in this small way.





Aqua-Africa's South Sudan team has settled into their Juba office headquarters.
Pictured: Left to Right: Mabior Acouth, Beatrice Safari Karlo, James Thuch Madhier (guest), Ukuch Gabriel

GROWING CAPACITY AND INCREASED VISIBILITY IN AFRICA



NGO Forum Membership

During 1st Quarter, Aqua-Africa joined the Non-Government Organization (NGO) Forum, a business collaborative in South Sudan that has allowed Aqua-Africa to network with other service organizations in the country. The NGO is comprised of both international and national aid and development organizations. The NGO Forum has been an extremely valuable source of regional physical security information, government compliance obligation details, and other business intelligence.



UNDP Accelerator Lab

In early July, Aqua-Africa's Juba team visited the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) South Sudan's office for a one-day conference. The South Sudan Accelerator Lab is focused on alleviating poverty through youth employment and empowerment. The team was able to network other local development organizations to discuss creative approaches that are being taken to increase scale and speed implementation efforts.



UNPFA World Population Day

On July 11th, Aqua-Africa's Juba team attended in a UNPFA hosted conference on sexual and reproductive health. The conference brought attention to how the global pandemic had exacerbated gender-based inequities: gender-based violence increased under lockdown, as did the risk of child marriage and female genital mutilation, as programs to abolish these harmful practices were disrupted.



MicroDemocracy Training:

Through USAID grant funding, Aqua-Africa will be teaching water infrastructure governance techniques to communities in 13 South Sudan counties over the next 5 years.



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



Maiwut Water Systems Installation:

With Rotary International grant funding and support from other large donors, Aqua-Africa will be installing 4 Village Supplier Utility Systems (VSUS) in Maiwut, Upper Nile State, South Sudan over the next 3 years.



Rotary

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CLEAN WATER IS JUST THE BEGINNING

Over the next two years, Aqua-Africa will implement 4 Village Supplier Utility System s(VSUS) in the village of Maiwut, South Sudan. The systems can provide clean drinking water to up to 10,000 people.

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.
- Partner with the Nebraska 4-H, the University of Nebraska education extension office, and local businesses to develop a youth summer day camp, with a STEM curriculum and fun competition to follow.
- 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.

The August 14 Aqua-Run Event in Elmwood Park attracted nearly 150 participants. As usual, the weather was perfect!



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AQUA-RUN AWARENESS EVENT



Greater Omaha Packing Company Sponsorship

The 5th annual Aqua-Run event in Elmwood Park was held August 14, 2021 and was attended by nearly 150 people. Greater Omaha Packing Company provided overall corporate sponsorship funding for the event, and they set up a hydration booth that provided bottled water to the thirsty runners. Participants got to experience the challenges that women and girls (predominantly) face in developing countries face while collecting and transporting water for long distances. A brief presentation was held after the run to inform the participants of the organization's international work, and efforts locally to bridge cultural gaps through events like the Aqua-Run.



Youngest Participating Team Ever!

During the Aqua-Run event, Aqua-Africa hosted its youngest team of participants since the event began. Four sons of the Ross Brenneman family of Omaha, all under age 6, and 7-year-old Dashed (Dash) Dusek of Millard all walked the 1.2-mile route. The team was awarded medals for their participation at a podium ceremony following the run/walk. Celebrating healthy habits is important!

STAFF & SUPPORTERS

Staff

Executive Director: Buey Ray Tut
Operations Director: Dana Bradfield
Program Director: Mabior Acouth
Chief Financial Officer: Wel Akau
Comm. Relations & Advocacy Officer: Beatrice Safari Karlo
Project Officer: Ukuch Gabriel
Nzara Compound Supervisor: Taban Beneai Ruba
Nzara Guard: Henry Juma Sawhy
Nzara Guard: Gibson Absai Agrab

Board of Directors

President: Dr. Lyn Graves
Vice President : Lindsey Rai Kortan
Treasurer: Dana Bradfield
Secretary: Don Royer
Advisor: Mike McMeekin
Advisor: Eric Gautschi
Advisor: Cynthia Schroeder
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
Bridges Trust - Anonymous
Benevity Community Impact Fund
DGR Engineering
DT Global
FaceBook Donations
Florence Presbyterian Church
Global Water Challenge
Greater Omaha Packing Co.
Lamp, Rynearson & Associates, Inc.
Mutual of Omaha Foundation
Sherwood Foundation
Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth
Stroh Financial Group
The Jewish Federation of Omaha
Thrivent Financial
Tompkins Land & Cattle Co.
Union Pacific
Valmont Industries, Inc.
Wayne Rotary
William and Ruth Scott Family Foundation

Individuals

Aaron Duncan
Aaron Hoekstra
Abigail Dawdy
Achok Akuar
Adam and Sarah Yale
Allison Seyler
Alvin and Suzanne Townley
Barbara and Bill Engebretsen
Berna Mamet
Bengt-Erik Norum
Brooks Lumpkin
Burton Finch
CaSandra Johnson
Charles Cordova
Chris Ballard Justice

Claudia and Tony Deeb
Clay and Missy Courts
Craig and Katherine Hoekstra
Dale and Joy Ausdemore
Dan Rose
Dave Dobbertien
David Campbell
Donald and Brenda Royer
Doug Friedman
Ellen McGurk
Erica Heiden
Gary Dalmasso
Ginny Ostransky
Ivana Masimoree
Janet McCrae
Jason Jackson
Jessica Jarosh
John and Stephanie Koraleski
John Elster
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Joseph Tirpak
Leah and Shane Waters
Lewis and Winifred Pinch
Linda and Terry Gadwood
Linette Nelson
Mandy Kubicek
Margaret and Michael McMeekin
Mari Ann Keith
Marshall Faith
Matt Dwyer
Matthew Petty
Maureen Nemetz
Mirvat Al-Haj
Mogens and Cindy Bay
Molly and John Campbell
Nathan Hoekstra
Pam Monsky
Paul and Cherri Cronen
Priscilla Peter
Rachelle Kamrath
Rawda E Keir
Sara Larkins
Steve Lloyd
Steven Jerina
Terry Mulder
Yohanes Tot
Zak Ruei



Establishing a Firm Foundation

As described in the Executive Director's Letter, most of 2021 was devoted to formalizing internal processes and procedures in South Sudan, while also competing for Government and Rotary grant funding; funding that will support the organization's strategy for growth and increasing impact. Aqua-Africa obtained excellent professional services from a consultant experienced in Government contracting, who was instrumental in Aqua-Africa's subcontracting success for \$1.1 million in funding over the next 5 years. The rehabilitation of the well and well points in Nimule continues to assure running water to the hospital and to thousands of residents. As mentioned in the report, a Chief Financial Officer was also hired in South Sudan. In Omaha, the new partnership with the 4-H has tremendous potential for youth impact. 2021 Expenditures were \$378K vs. \$390K in 2020: a decrease of 3%. Program costs associated with well-drilling, project travel, water system installation and South Sudanese community education, accounted for over 73% of all organization expenditures. Aqua-Africa had \$151K in its financial accounts at year-end. In addition, there was \$55K in outstanding receivables for Aqua-Africa work performed but not yet reimbursed. As we enter 2022, we're confident in the foundation for success that has been established.

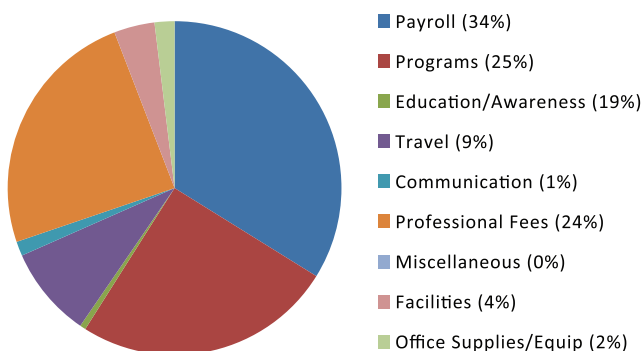
2021 Expenses

Programs	\$276,446
Overhead	\$69,642
Fundraising	\$32,042
Total Expenses	\$378,130

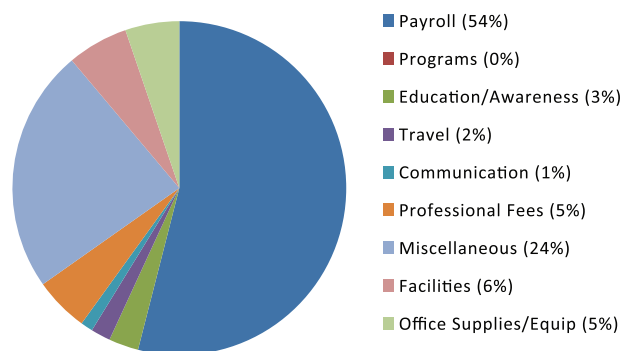
2021 Revenue

Cash Gifts	\$274,045
PPP Loan/Grant	\$30,636
Service Revenue	\$5,000
Total Income	\$309,681

Programs



Overhead





USAID Trained Pump Mechanics
Maiwut, South Sudan



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