


The background image shows a group of people, including women and children, gathered around a public water tap. Several large yellow and blue plastic jerrycans are lined up to collect water. A woman in a black polo shirt is smiling and interacting with the children. The setting is outdoors in a rural area with trees and a thatched hut in the background.

AQUA AFRICA

2024 ANNUAL REPORT

OMAHA

WE DON'T COAST®

A photograph showing several construction workers in a large, deep excavation site. They are working on the foundation for a water tower. In the foreground, there are several rectangular concrete forms with rebar reinforcement. One worker is pouring concrete from a blue bucket into a form. Other workers are standing around the site, some holding tools. The background shows a wooden fence and trees.

“Organizations and water towers both require foundations that are rock solid...

THAT’S WHAT WE’RE STRIVING FOR!”

- Mabior Acouth

Workers lay the concrete for the Nadari Village Supplier water tower built by Aqua-Africa during 2024.



2024 ANNUAL REPORT

Executive Director's Letter

Hello and welcome! Thanks for your continued support and interest in Aqua-Africa.

2024 was a very challenging year for the country of South Sudan and the organizations operating there. South Sudan's currency experienced 280 percent inflation during 2024. The reasons for the inflation were varied. War in Sudan and seasonal flooding affected 38 of the country's 78 counties. The flooding ruined crops and displaced thousands of people from their homes. Food insecurity is a growing concern for the country.

Despite economic and logistical challenges, Aqua-Africa's South Sudan team remained steadfast in pursuit of its strategic goals and clean water mission. During 2024, Aqua-Africa trained 8 new water management committees on water utility governance as a subcontractor to USAID and DT Global. Additionally, 28 other water management committees previously trained using Aqua-Africa's MicroDemocracy approach, were revisited to assess their performance and to provide supplemental training and assistance.

During 4th Quarter, Aqua-Africa subcontracted CRN Drilling company to implement a new solar-powered Village Supplier Utility System (VSUS) for the impoverished farm community of Nadari, South Sudan. The system, designed by Lamp, Rynearson engineering of Omaha, consists of a 5,000-gallon elevated water storage tank. The system now serves nearly 6,000 people from 3 distribution points in Nadari, and tap stands located at Good Samaritan Maternity Hospital and St. Timothy elementary school.

Between August and November, it was my honor to attend a professional development program for senior nonprofit executives that was hosted by several Nebraska Foundations at the Lied Lodge and Conference Center in Nebraska City. It was a wonderful opportunity to network and learn from others experiencing similar challenges, and I am thankful for it. I walked away with deeper self-awareness and understanding, and a desire to build an organization-wide culture of excellence at Aqua-Africa.

Please know that Aqua-Africa sincerely appreciate your prayers, encouragement and support!

I hope you enjoy the 2024 report!



Mabior Acouth
Executive Director



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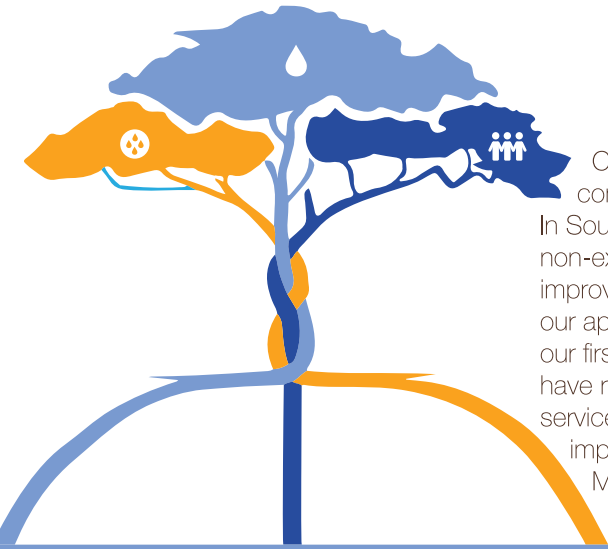




A Nadari family watches installers splice pipes that will soon deliver clean drinking water to their village.



OUR MISSION IN AFRICA



Clean, accessible water is essential for the development of healthy, thriving communities. The same can be said for access to adequate sanitation and energy. In South Sudan, one of the poorest countries in the world, these basic resources are non-existent in most communities. For over a decade, Aqua-Africa has worked to improve clean water access in South Sudanese communities. For the first several years our approach was responsive and geographically scattered. Since the introduction of our first solar-powered Village Supplier Utility System (VSUS) water towers in 2015, we have refined our development approach, recognizing the urgent need for other related services such as hygiene, sanitation, and energy to ensure maximum, sustainable impact. Our MicroDemocracy training program and processes for election of Water Management Committees continues to differentiate our approach to resource governance, and to empower women within these roles.

WITHOUT WATER NOTHING CAN GROW

CLEAN WATER

Aqua-Africa believes that providing reliable access to clean water, sanitation, hygiene, and energy to South Sudanese communities over a five-to-ten-year “adoption” period will lead residents to view them as a necessary part of their lives. We refer to these services as “WASH+E”. Improved community health and increased economic activity will, in turn, create demand for the services and a willingness to contribute financially towards their sustainability. Reliable access to clean water is the foundational service.

ENERGY

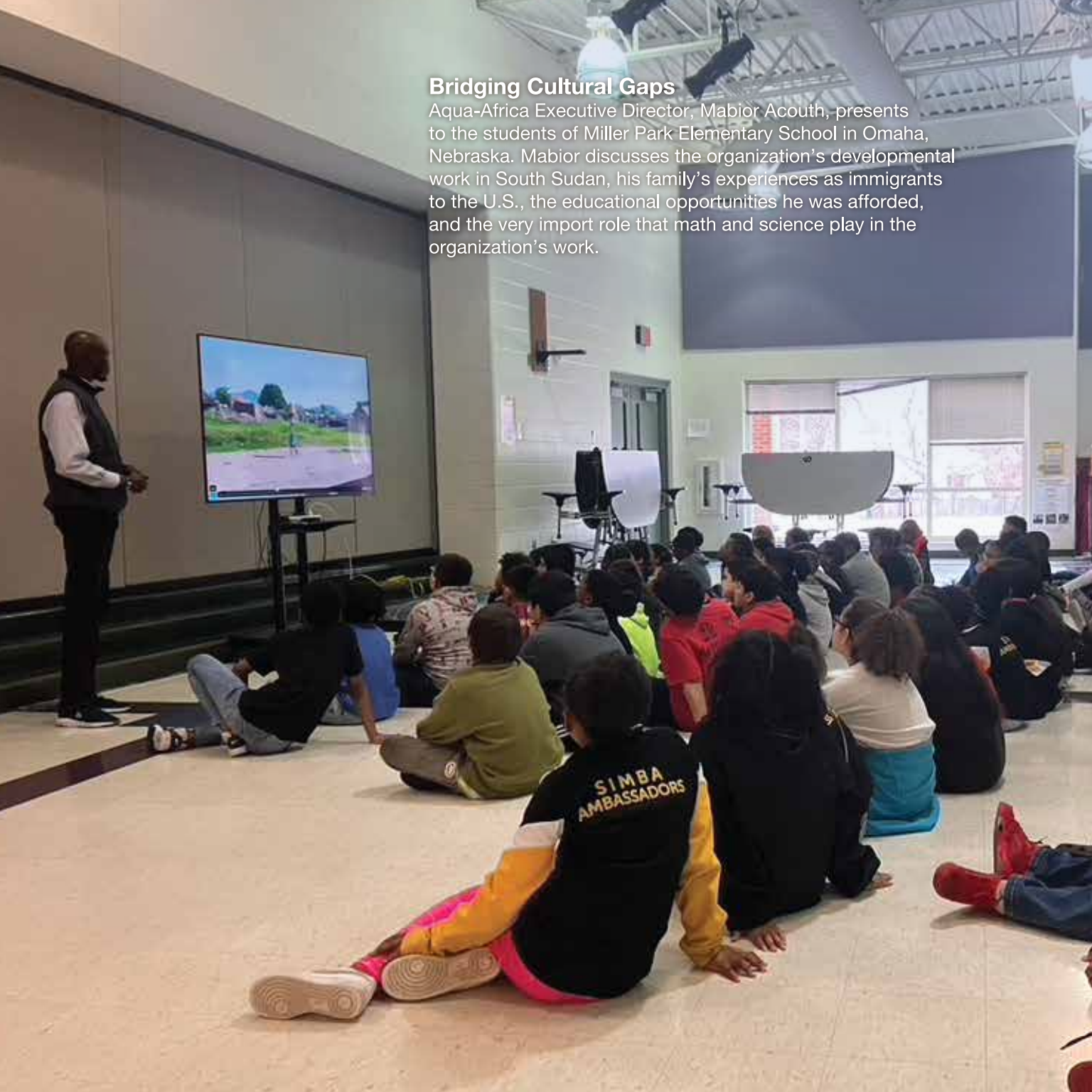
Nearly 600 million people in Sub-Saharan Africa do not have electric power for lighting after sundown. Only 1 percent of South Sudan's population has access to an electrical grid. Aqua-Africa seeks to provide affordable lighting and power to the communities it serves by using excess solar energy and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

SANITATION & HYGIENE

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

Aqua-Africa Executive Director, Mabiur Acouth, presents to the students of Miller Park Elementary School in Omaha, Nebraska. Mabiur discusses the organization's developmental work in South Sudan, his family's experiences as immigrants to the U.S., the educational opportunities he was afforded, and the very important role that math and science play in the organization's work.



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 Mabior's story as a young black entrepreneur to schools (elementary, middle, high), youth organizations and service clubs. It is believed that Mabior'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.
- Encourage middle schoolers to continue math and science academic studies in high school.

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.



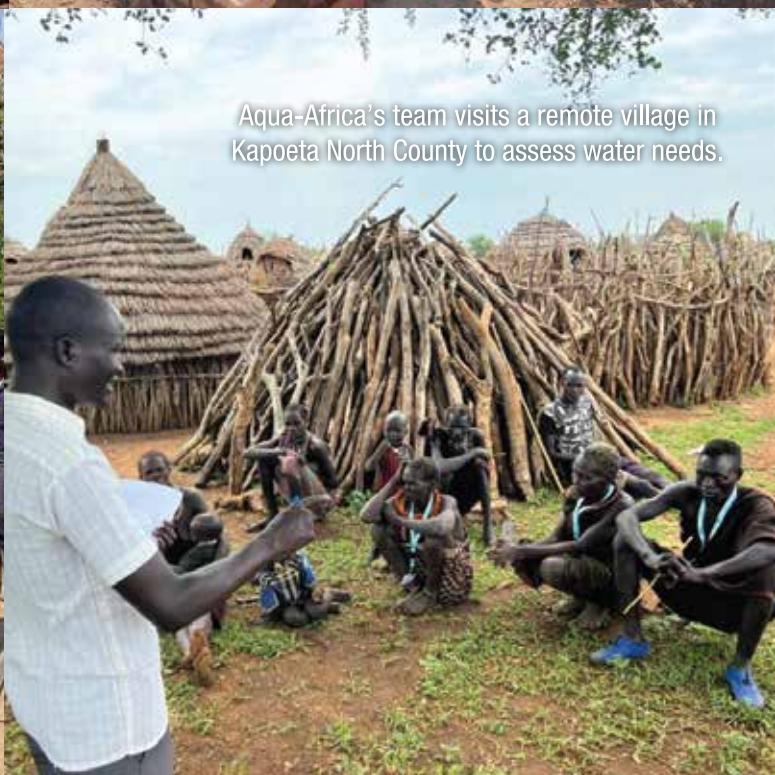
Construction of an elevated tap stand at Good Samaritan Maternity Hospital in Nadari, South Sudan.



Aqua-Africa's team lays bricks to construct a Nadari community tap stand.



Workers begin erecting the steel structure that will support a 40-foot elevated tank (Nadari, South Sudan).



Aqua-Africa's team visits a remote village in Kapoeta North County to assess water needs.

Much of Aqua-Africa's 2024 work was devoted to performing contracted services for USAID and DT Global. Aqua-Africa trained election commissioners and Water Management Committees (WMCs) in 8 communities across three counties to govern their water systems infrastructure. During the year, Aqua-Africa also revisited 28 communities' WMCs previously established using Aqua-Africa's MicroDemocracy approach. Below, Executive Director Acouth provides training and instruction to Nadari's election commissioners.





SECTION COMMISSIONER
Ministry of Health, Botswana

AQUA-AFRICA SPOTLIGHT MICRODEMOCRACY

Teaching grass roots democracy to communities is in Aqua-Africa's DNA and has been the element that distinguishes it from other organizations whose mission is similar. Photo at left: Nadari community holds a secret ballot election. Photo below: Nadari candidates for Water Management Committee positions discuss and present their qualifications for office.



OUR 8TH VILLAGE SUPPLIER WATER TOWER INSTALLATION

In early February 2025, Aqua-Africa completed the installation of its 8th Village Supplier Utility System (VSUS) in the community of Nadari, South Sudan. This system is comprised of the primary (left photo) and secondary (right photo) elevated water storage tanks shown and will serve the clean drinking water needs for up to 6,000 people. Over 30 water management committee members, elected by the community, were trained to set water usage policy, troubleshoot, and maintain the new system.



BRINGING THE NADARI PROJECT TO COMPLETION



Elevated Water Storage Tanks

A solar-powered Village Supplier Utility Systems was constructed at Aqua-Africa's Nzara compound that will serve the Nadari community. This primary tank is 40-foot in elevation, made of galvanized steel, and will hold 5,000 gallons. A secondary, 3,000-liter tank was also installed at St. Timothy school and will be fed by the primary tank. Together, these systems will be able to provide clean, accessible drinking water for up to 6,000 residents.



Underground Water Lines

Almost 1/2 mile of PVC piping was placed as a part of the Nadari Project. Because there is no automated trenching equipment, local laborers completed the digging of the water line trenches using pickaxes and shovels. It was a remarkable accomplishment.



Strategically Placed Tap Stands

Three tap stands were constructed in Nadari, one at Good Samaritan Maternity Hospital, and one at St. Timothy elementary school. Each tap stand has two spigots from which water can be drawn. However, the St. Timothy installation consisted of a secondary storage tank, a booster pump, and a three-spigot tap stand. Student hand washing stations were also established for St. Timothy school at the community's request. The tap stand locations were selected by community leadership based upon proximity to residences and important institutions, with the overall goal of reducing water transport time. The community will save thousands of hours each year through reduced water collection times.

“BUILD-A-HUT” STEM SUMMER CAMP & COMPETITION

In partnership with Imagine Science and the Douglas-Sarpy County 4-H/UNL Extension Office, Aqua-Africa hosted a science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) youth summer camp for middle school youth. This was our third year for the summer camp and competition. The competition was hosted by Aqua-Africa on UNO's campus on July 18th. Eight teams competed from the following organizations: Girls Inc., Completely Kids, Partnership 4 Kids, ROSS Leaders, Boys and Girls Club, as well as 4-H clubs from Washington, Dodge, and Madison Counties. A \$1,000 prize was awarded to the winning team from Partnership 4 Kids to advance their math and science programming. A photograph of the competitors, their corporate coaches, and leaders is shown below. All competitors got to keep their hard hats! The pages that follow highlight the program.



STEM INSTRUCTION & FIELD TRIPS



4-H Students from Dodge County learn about The Engineering Process.



Field Trips are taken to Metro Community College and The Peter Kiewit Institute. This camper enjoys the PKI Lab facilities.

Prior to Build-A-Hut Competition, all competitor teams of 5 are paired with an engineer, architect, or construction professional who will help prepare and “coach” them during competition. Instruction in hand tool safety and tool usage is provided by professionals from Brester Construction. The youth learn to properly use electric screwdrivers, staple guns, and many other hand tools.





STAFF & SUPPORTERS

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Tom and Barbara McCusker



A Solid Year-End Financial Position

The February 2025 completion of Aqua-Africa's 8th Village Supplier Water Tower Project was a great achievement for our organization and for the people of Nadari, South Sudan who will now benefit from clean, accessible drinking water.

2024 annual expenses of \$394,969 were in line with 2024 annual revenues of \$382,716 as shown in the table below. At year-end, Aqua-Africa's total assets stood at \$288, 299. This figure includes \$240,145 in current accounts.

Although the organization's service revenue through USAID has ceased, we are actively seeking other sources of international funding and have taken aggressive action to reduce our operating expenses wherever possible. Significant foundation pledges in early 2025 will position Aqua-Africa very well to accomplish new water systems in the communities of Nazaragbe and Wenepei, South Sudan during 2025 and early 2026. We are thankful for these gifts.

As stated in Executive Director Acouth's cover letter, Aqua-Africa's team is excited for 2025 and that our finances will allow us to continue to share the organization's humanitarian work and immigrant story with youth across the state of Nebraska.

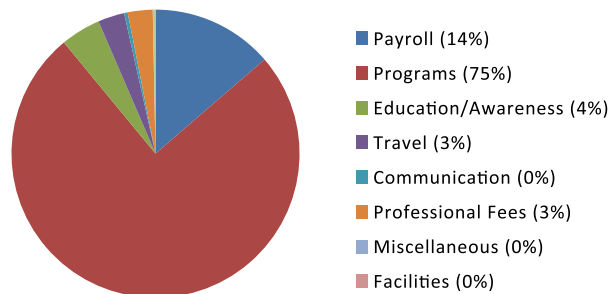
2024 Expenses

Programs	\$321,255
Overhead	\$52,649
Fundraising	\$21,066
Total Expenses	\$394,969

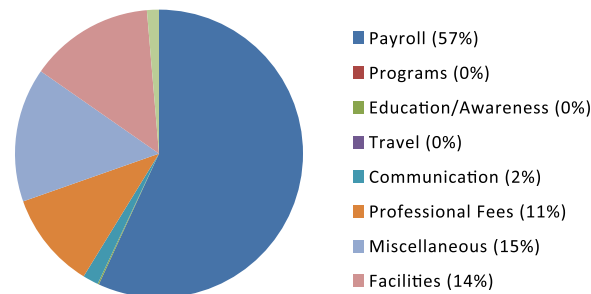
2024 Revenue

Cash Gifts	\$313,494
Service Revenue	\$61,222
In-Kind Prof Svcs	\$8,000
Total Income	\$382,716

Programs



Overhead



Omaha Build-A-Hut Program Award Winners



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