

SOUTH SUDANESE
HEALTH MATTERS INC.

Annual Report



2022-2023

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Who are we?

Established in 2018, South Sudanese Health Matters Incorporated (SSHMI) is a non-government, non-political, not-for-profit organisation headquartered in Melbourne Australia, that aims to improve access to healthcare services and related education for people in the Lou Ariik area and surrounding villages in South Sudan.



Our mission

is to improve the health & life-chances of people living in the Lou Ariik Village and surrounding communities through the implementation of sustainable healthcare initiatives and health education programmes, promoting local workforce training and building capacity to deliver these services.

About our founder Mawien Ariik

Mawien Ariik (also known as Ariik Mawien) is the Founder of SSHMI and was born and raised in the village of Lou Ariik, named after his grandfather. He was only 8 years old when his father was killed in the Second Sudanese Civil War (1983 to 2005), leaving his widowed mother to raise 5 children.

Like many young South Sudanese boys caught up in the turmoil of civil war, Ariik became separated from his family when he was only 9 yrs. old; he then spent many years in refugee camps in Uganda and Kenya before arriving in Melbourne, Australia as a teenager in 2005 via a humanitarian visa.

He lived alone in a government high-rise complex in Fitzroy, winning a scholarship to complete his Secondary education and going on to accomplish a Bachelor of Business and Management and Masters in Banking and Finance. He now works as a Finance Manager at a major bank and is married with two young children.



The impact of his father's death, fighting for the freedom of his people, and concern for the poor quality of life his family and other villagers in his homeland still experience, deeply affects Ariik. His visits to South Sudan in 2014, 2016 and 2017 revealed an obvious and desperate need for a health initiative in the village; determined to give back and make a difference, he established the charity South Sudanese Health Matters.

About our region



The Republic of South Sudan is a country known for wars. During the Sudan war of 1983 – 2005, more than 2 million people were killed, and 4 million people were displaced. Villages, farms, animals, and property were burned and destroyed.

In a 2011 referendum, the people of South Sudan overwhelmingly voted for independence, leading to the birth of the world's newest nation on 9 July 2011.

Lou Ariik Village is a very poor, remote area in Tonj North County, Warrap State, South Sudan with a population of approximately 350,000 people, 75% of whom are under the age of 30.

The population are semi-nomadic Dinka people who rely on cattle for their livelihood, with some farmers to the north also growing crops. In the village of Lou-Ariik, there are 64 clans, each ruled by a sub-chief, with one overall ruler being the Chief of Chiefs.

"The closest town with a small hospital is Warrap Town, about 4 hours by car or 10 hours by foot"

There are no central services provided to the community i.e. no roads, no power, no sewerage connections, and no telephone connections or networks. Water is sourced via wells, boreholes, rivers, streams, and open pools.

The closest town with a small hospital is Warrap Town, about 4 hours by car or 10 hours by foot. Wau is the nearest city with an airstrip and a teaching hospital, but a further three-hour drive from Warrap Town, and nearly a week of walking from Lou Ariik Village. In Lou-Ariik itself there are two primary schools, one in Longkap and the other in Mading. The nearest secondary school is in Warrap Town.

Chairman's Report Mawien Ariik

The 2022/23 financial year has been a magical year for SSHMI.

We have been blessed with successful and impactful connections with organisations and individuals both here in Australia and within South Sudan. We have recruited a wonderful team of volunteers and formed an effective board who are diverse in skill and expertise.

Establishing relationships with organisations of impact has been a great benefit for all involved. The collaborative work between the Rotary Club of Central Melbourne, and our project partner The Chagai Foundation, has been a great success resulting in the delivery of our first Menstrual Hygiene Project across Tonj North and Gogrial Counties in Warrap State, South Sudan in early March 2023.

2023 has highlighted some great achievements and milestones which include:

- Implementing a sustainable 3-year strategic plan.
- Establishing a functioning website and back-end systems able to be managed in-house.



- Officially recruiting and operating a functioning Board.
- Implementing the necessary compliance requirements within the organisation.
- Establishing a suite of governing documents e.g., Constitution & Policies.
- The development and approval of new Rules for SSHMI approved by Consumer Affairs Victoria; and
- Delivering a successful Menstrual Hygiene Project in Lou Ariik, Tonj North in South Sudan will empower over 1,000 women and girls and lead to a reduction in the rate of school absenteeism and dropouts, restoration of their dignity and self-esteem and educating a whole community regarding menstrual hygiene.

I am very confident that within the upcoming year we will achieve much more given the level of dedication and commitment of our Board members, volunteers, and project partners. I look forward to the future with a sense of hope and optimism that we will achieve the following goals over the next 3-5 years:



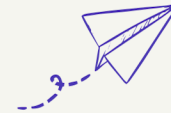
Become registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC) and receive DGR endorsement.



Establish a vocational training centre



Build, equip and establish a fully functioning medical centre in Lou Ariik to cater for the communities of the greater Akop region.



Build a primary school In Lou Ariik.



Establish an ongoing, sustainable enterprise for Menstrual Hygiene education for schoolgirls.

I want to personally thank the SSHMI Board and members, our volunteers, supporters, and project partners, for their contribution so far, and I look forward to continuing working with you all in the coming years.

Kind regards,


Mawien Ariik



Current & future projects

PROJECTS	OBJECTIVE	STAGE
Menstrual Hygiene Project	Distribute 800 menstrual hygiene kits to 800 preadolescent and adolescent girls attending 3 primary schools in Lou Ariik region	CURRENT
Establishment of the Chief Dhor Ariik Memorial Primary Health Care Clinic in Lou Ariik Area	Establish, equip, and operate a sustainable multi-disciplinary primary healthcare clinic in the Lou Ariik Village	FUTURE




Current project

Menstrual Hygiene Project

Menstrual hygiene management has emerged as one of the major challenges confronting all schools in developing countries and has been attributed to low retention of girls in schools. Ezra et al (2014) indicated that a lack of soap, hand washing facilities, sanitary pads and privacy are important determinants for proper practice of menstrual hygiene and school attendance; inadequate access to these things impacts significantly on girls' learning opportunities.



3.5  million

learning days
per month globally
that adolescent
young girls miss due
to menstruation.

This situation is worsened by the lack of information on menstrual matters as well as a deep culture of taboos, myths and misconceptions surrounding menstruation and menstrual blood. With the added effect of poor menstrual hygiene management, many girls skip school due to stigmatization and fear. This is even more true for South Sudan, with an existing low overall adult literacy rate at 27% and 16% for women- only 33 per cent of girls attend schools.



The objective of this project was to distribute 800 menstrual hygiene kits to 800 preadolescent and adolescent girls attending 3 primary schools in Lou Ariik region to help them gain basic knowledge on Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM), Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) and address the stigma and taboos surrounding those topics in their community.

11

Number of days SSHM spent at target sites

915

Menstrual Hygiene Kits successfully distributed

>1k

Participants took part in the program delivery

The Chagai Foundation (TCF) in partnership with SSHMI implemented the project with funding from SSHMI and Rotary Central Melbourne (RCM). The project procured Days for Girls (DfGs) kits from Uganda and Modi Bodi underwear products donated via Rotary Central Melbourne from Australia.

SSHMI organised transportation of the kits, along with training materials to Wau and Western Bahr El Gazal State team members. TCF and SSHMI visited the target sites and undertook project implementation with activities that went on for 11 days.

Several focus groups were held with women, adolescent girls, women and girls living with disabilities, and men, to get an in-depth understanding of menstrual hygiene and its impacts on a girl's everyday life.

Following the training on menstrual hygiene management, at each school/location, approximately 915 Menstrual Hygiene Kits were successfully distributed to schoolgirls and 1,028 participants took part in the program delivery.



Future project

Establishment of the Chief Dhor Ariik Memorial Primary Health Care Clinic in Lou Ariik Area

Key, current World Health Organisation (WHO) and United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) health and wellbeing benchmarks for South Sudan show:

- Children have a greater chance of dying in childbirth than finishing school.
- Only 23% of expectant mothers receive antenatal care from a skilled health professional and fewer than 14% deliver in a health institution.
- The infant mortality ratio in South Sudan stands at 789 deaths per 100,000 live births – one of the highest rates in the world. In Australia, the ratio is 6 deaths per 100,000 live births.
- For every 50 babies born alive, one mother dies during childbirth.
- Neonatal and under-five mortality rates in South Sudan are 39.3 and 99.2 per 1,000 live births respectively; this is also one of the highest in the world.
- One in five children do not live to the age of five; 2% of children under five are severely underweight.
- Preventable, communicable diseases are still one of the leading causes of death in South Sudan.

SSHMI plans to establish, equip, and operate a sustainable multi-disciplinary primary healthcare clinic in the Lou Ariik Village which will service the needs of approximately 350,000 people in the Lou Ariik community and several surrounding villages of similar population. An area of land has been gifted to SSHMI for this purpose and the local elders and community are very supportive of the initiative.



1 in 5
children



do not live to the
age of 5 years



In the geographical location of this initiative, the above benchmarks are likely to be worse due to its remoteness. This region also has under-developed infrastructure, with no made roads, limited electricity, insecure fresh water supply (people source water from contaminated rivers/streams) and telecommunications typically only via satellite- and is subject to isolation due to annual monsoonal flooding from May to October every year.

The first step in planning a health clinic in the area is to initiate a front-end scoping project is to ensure that the health service development is viable and relevant. Comprehensive interrogation of the needs and capacity to service the population, solutions to infrastructure constraints, and understanding of costs and staged development will maximise future relevance, success, and sustainability of a health service in the region.



The Scoping project will investigate the full range of areas requiring consideration, and the outcomes will be a set of specifications that define the guidelines, requirements, and budget for the establishment of the health clinic.

The Lou Ariik community, through the village chiefs, have provided the land for the health service rent-free. It is available in perpetuity; the health service will enjoy security of tenure, and unencumbered decision-making covering buildings and use of the land (subject to existing legal requirements).

The Community is also happy to provide pro-bono support in clearing the land allocated in readiness for construction to commence.



Our Board

The SSHMI board, established in late 2022, has overseen the establishment of governance and compliance frameworks to ensure that SSHMI meets its obligations. Additionally, the Board has set SSHMI's strategic direction, overseen financial management of the organisation and ensured the establishment of policies and procedures.



Mawien Ariik

Founder & CEO

Mawien (known as Ariik) is a retail and commercial banking professional with over 10 years' experience in the finance and banking sectors. Ariik graduated in Melbourne with a Bachelor of Business and a Masters in Banking and Finance, and currently works as a Finance Manager for one of Australia's big four banks.

He is an Australian citizen and a dedicated Rotarian who has a wealth of experience in leadership roles within the community, with particular interests in mentorship and community engagement.

Since arriving in Australia in 2005 as a refugee, Ariik has been determined to find ways to help the people within his hometown of the Lou Ariik village and surrounding communities. As the founder and Chairman of SSHMI, Ariik is securing project funding and partnerships for two very special projects close to his heart in Lou Ariik village: sponsoring girls' health hygiene programs and building a medical clinic in memory of Sultan Dhor Ariik Ariik. Ariik provides strategic direction to the organisation and the people involved both in South Sudan and Australia.



Luke Allen

Co-Founder & Treasurer

Luke Allen is a Chartered Accountant with experience within the insolvency industry. Having grown up in Melbourne, he currently works at TEQSA as Senior Financial Analyst. Luke has been Treasurer of SSHMI since its inception, he is also a Rotarian with a strong desire to help others.

Luke shares SSHMI's vision and is bringing it to life through his accounting skills, studies, and work experience as an insolvency accountant.

He holds a Bachelor of Commerce and a Chartered Accountant (CA) qualification. SSHMI's finances and projects are in good hands thanks to Luke's wealth of knowledge and experience in the finance sector.

Our Board



Glenda Frazer

SSHMI Member / Secretary

Glenda has over 30 years' experience in the public sector in both management and executive management roles. Glenda has a Diploma in Project Management and specialises in the delivery of large-scale operational programs.

Prior to her retirement she was the Director of Elections in Victoria where she was responsible for the delivery of State and local government elections. With a strong background in the development, implementation, and maintenance of strategic and operational plans and of risk management frameworks Glenda brings a compliance focus to SSHMI and looks forward to supporting SSHMI in achieving its goals within South Sudan.

Currently appointed as Secretary to SSHMI Glenda is responsible for executive support to the CEO and other members as well as the administration and management of SSHMI's infrastructure and website.



Neville John

SSHMI Member / Advisor

Neville is a Chartered Accountant. He enjoyed a 27-year career with a Melbourne Chartered Accounting firm with roles that included Managing Partner, adviser to a range of Australian SME's and International corporate clients, and team leader for projects in the South-East Asia region.

Neville has been a member of Central Melbourne Rotary since 1995 and has served Rotary in many capacities, including Club President and District Governor. Being a member of Rotary has provided Neville with a broad understanding of the humanitarian service work being carried out through the Rotary network, both locally and around the world. He believes that Rotary's unique network allows the organisation to take on projects that could not otherwise be achieved as a single entity.

Neville's community service work has also extended over a long period to being a Board Member of several for-purpose NGO's, predominantly in the finance and treasury area.

Our Board



Deirdre Lewis

SSHMI Member / Advisor

Deirdre Lewis is a medical practitioner with experience in primary health care, medical education, and surgery. She currently works clinically as a surgical assistant, mainly in the areas of orthopaedic and plastic surgery.

She is keen to use her medical knowledge and networks, to help SSHMI develop a strategy that targets the main primary health issues in the region and delivers sustainable medical services, implemented by trained local providers, to meet the essential health care needs of the community in Lou Ariik Village.

Deirdre also has familiarity with grant writing in the not-for-profit sector, having volunteered in this capacity with WomenCAN Australia over the past two years. She is also enrolled in a Community Board Members course with The Institute of Community Directors Australia.



Rhys Williams

SSHMI Member / Advisor

Rhys is excited by the SSHMI mission to transform lives through practical healthcare initiatives in South Sudan, one of the world's newest countries, and trusts his experiences will assist SSHMI's governance efforts.

Rhys has 30 years' experience in transnational education managing the delivery of Australian University courses (RMIT and Victoria Universities) with partners in many countries and witnessing the transformation of many lives through this process.

Rhys also has diverse experiences in vocational education and training, including running a group employment scheme in sport and recreation, and delivering a large international insurance and finance distance education program.

Rhys has also been active in the not-for-profit sectors through his active Rotary International membership, Board roles for the KOTO International Limited, which supports disadvantaged youth in Vietnam, and the Spina Bifida Foundation of Victoria, the self-help group for this common disability. His qualifications are in social science and education.

Our South Sudan Team



Benedicto Tong Bol

**Country Director
South Sudan**

Benedicto is a native of Lou Ariik who wants to help his people. Through his volunteer work in South Sudan, Tong has a wealth of experience in women's issues, child protection and empowering vulnerable people. Tong is head of the SSHMI organisation in South Sudan.

A graduate of the University of Juba's School of Law, Benedicto's thesis was on child protection, and he has been a volunteer UNICEF trainer on gender-based violence and child protection.

He is currently working as a volunteer Advocate trainee, representing clients on various criminal, civil and constitutional cases, and his career aspiration is to become a human rights lawyer specialising in women's protection.



Kuol Ariik Dhor

**Internal Control Director,
South Sudan**

Kuol is a native of Lou-Ariik with a strong understanding of the needs of Lou Ariik citizens.

He graduated from the University of Juba with a degree in communications and public relations in journalism, as well as completing several courses in youth leadership, trauma resiliency, and general leadership.

Kuol is very engaged with the Lou-Ariik community and is currently working as a volunteer at the Department of Immigration in South Sudan, helping people needing assistance to obtain a nationality/citizenship and passport.

He joined SSHM in 2020 to assist with the internal coordination needed to drive our projects into reality.



Mario Maker Majok

**Programs Director
South Sudan**

Mario is a student at both the University of Juba School of Law, and the Catholic University of South Sudan's Institute of Justice and Peace Studies.

He is Co-Founder and Director of Programs of Young Leaders Society (YLS) and has extensive experience in running youth and women programs.

Mario is an executive member of the Peace Club at the Catholic University where he collaborates with his colleagues in the school to support peace activities in the country.

After he completes his studies, Mario's long-term goal is to be a Peace and Human Rights advocate.

Governance & Compliance

SSHMI is committed to governance excellence by ensuring it has processes and procedures in place to ensure it works effectively. SSHMI's governing rules define how the association is run and are supported by the relevant policies. SSHMI's policies are regularly reviewed to ensure they always remain current.

The SSHMI board meets regularly and has set the strategic plan for the organisation to 2025. Below are the strategic goals set by the board.

STRATEGIC GOALS 2023–2025

Become quickly well-known and trusted, based on excellent outcomes and good governance.

Raise sufficient funds from a variety of sources to provide the resources to achieve its mission.

Implement the Menstrual Hygiene Project for schoolgirls with The Chagai Foundation, to improve their health and confidence, reduce school absenteeism, and address unhelpful taboos (delivered by May 2023).

Establish, equip, and operate a sustainable primary healthcare clinic which services the needs of Lou Ariik Village and surrounding areas, including firstly to:

- identify and prioritise the healthcare needs; and
- implement the clean water, power, sanitary and other infrastructure required for sustainability.

Design and implement culturally appropriate, needs-based health education projects, services, and improvements in partnership with local organisations

Recruit and train healthcare personnel service providers as part of all projects.

Financial Statements

The financial statements below were certified by members as required by Regulation 15 of the Associations Incorporation Reform Regulations 2012 and Sections 94 (2)(b), 97 (2)(b) and 100 (2)(b) of the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012 at the committee meeting held on 7 September. These statements give a true and fair view of the financial performance and position of SSHMI during and at the end of the financial year of the association ending 30 June 2023.

Part A: Balance sheet

Balance sheet for the year ended 30 June 2023

	Note	2023	2022
		\$	\$
Asset			
Current assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	3	26,297.14	32,731.42
Total current assets		26,297.14	32,731.42
Non-current assets			
N/A	N/A	Nil	Nil
Total non-current assets		Nil	Nil
assets Total assets		26,297.14	32,731.42
Liabilities			
Current liabilities			
N/A	N/A	Nil	Nil
Total current liabilities		Nil	Nil
Non-current liabilities			
N/A	N/A	Nil	Nil
Total non-current liabilities		Nil	Nil
Total liabilities		Nil	Nil
Net assets		26,297.14	32,731.42
Equity			
Retained surplus		26,297.14	32,731.42
Net worth		26,297.14	32,731.42

Part B: Income statement

Income statement for the year ended 30 June 2023

	Note	2023 \$	2022 \$
Income			
Donations		5,153.43	-
Grants		3,000.00	-
Incorrectly deposited funds Refund – bank trace fee Interest Income		800.00 25.00 5.42	- - 67.03
Total Income		8,983.85	67.03
Expense			
Domain transfer and web hosting		119.00	-
Shipping costs		922.86	-
Legal registration fee in South Sudan		767.13	-
Bank fees		31.00	-
Womens Sanitary Pads Project progress payments		11,852.68	-
Refunds for incorrectly deposited funds		800.00	-
Consumer Affairs fees		312.40	-
Police Checks		60.68	-
Office requirements in South Sudan		236.06	-
Pull up banner		156.32	-
Reconditioned laptops		160.00	-
Total expenditure		15,418.13	Nil
Surplus/(deficit) for the year		(6,434.28)	67.03

Part C: Statement of changes in equity

	Retained surplus	Total
	\$	\$
Balance at 1st July 2021	32,664.39	32,664.39
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	67.03	67.03
Balance at 30 June 2022	32,731.14	32,731.14
Balance at 1st July 2022	32,731.42	32,731.42
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	(6,434.28)	(6,434.28)
Balance at 30th June 2023	26,297.14	26,297.14

Part D: Statement of cash flows

		2023	2022
	Note	\$	\$
Cash from operating activities			
Receipts from operating activities		8,978.43	Nil
Payments made from operating activities		(15,418.13)	Nil
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	4(b)	(6,439.70)	Nil
Cash flows from investing activities			
Interest received		5.42	67.03
Net cash provided by/(used in) investing activities		5.42	67.03
Cash flows from financing activities			
N/A		Nil	Nil
Net cash provided by (used in) financing activities		Nil	Nil
Net increase/(decrease) in cash held			
Cash at beginning of financial year		32,731.42	32,664.39
Cash at end of financial year	4(a)	26,297.14	32,731.42

Part E: Notes to the financial statements

1. Statement of significant accounting policies

a) Statement of compliance

The committee has determined that the incorporated association is not a reporting entity because there are no users dependent on general purpose financial statements. The financial report is a special purpose financial report which has been prepared in order to satisfy the financial reporting requirements of the *Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012*.

b) Basis of measurement

The financial statements have been prepared on a cash basis and are based on historical cost and do not take into account changing money values except where specifically stated.

2. Statement of significant accounting policies

The accounting policies set out below have been applied consistently to all periods presented in these financial statements.

c) Income tax

The association is a not-for-profit organisation and is exempt from income tax under division 50 of the *Income Tax Assessment Act 1997*.

d) Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand, deposits, held at call with banks, other short-term highly liquid investments with original maturities cash within three months.

e) Revenue

Revenue is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable. DonaBon income is recognised when the entity obtains control over the funds, which is generally at the time of receipt.

	2023	2022
	\$	\$
3. Cash and cash equivalents		
Cash on hand	Nil	Nil
Cash at bank	26,297.14	32,731.42
	<hr/> 26,297.14	<hr/> 32,731.42

4. Cash flow information

Reconciliation of cash

Cash at the end of financial year as shown in cash flow statement is reconciled to items in the statement of financial position:

Cash & cash equivalents

	2023	2022
	\$	\$
	26,297.14	32,731.42
a)	<u>26,297.14</u>	<u>32,731.42</u>

Reconciliation of net cash provided by operating activities to surplus

Surplus (Deficit) from ordinary activities

	2023	2022
	\$	\$
	(6,434.28)	67.03

Changes in assets and liabilities:

Interest received

Net cash provided by operating activities

(5.42)	(67.03)
<u>(6,439.70)</u>	<u>Nil</u>

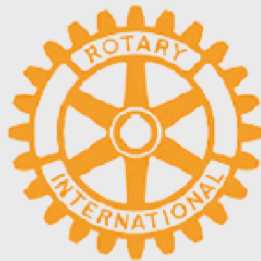
5. Related parties

There were no related party transactions conducted during the year.

Partners & Sponsors

SSHMI thanks its partners and sponsors without whom their work over the last 12 months would not have been possible.

Rotary



**ROTARY AUSTRALIA
WORLD COMMUNITY
SERVICE**



Modibodi

We thank you for your ongoing support of our mission



Acknowledgements

The **writers** behind this report:
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