The Foundation: Al'Asas

2022 Annual Report



MA' MARA SAKIT VILLAGE

TABLE OF CONTENTS



1 **About us**

2 **2022 In Summary**

3 **Traditional, Multimedia, and Digital Feminist Advocacy: Radio, Writing,Photography, and Visual Art**

Gender Talk 211 Online Community and Engagement

#ThisIsUs (Part One)

#TheResistance

#Twitter Spaces

Articles and Poems Published

Gender Talk 211 Online Community and Engagement

8 **Raising Feminist Consciousness And Building A Feminist Community In South Sudan**

Feminists' Talking Circles

Establishment of the First Feminist Library in Juba, South Sudan

11 **Contributing To The Preservation Of The Cultural Knowledge And Skills Of Beading**

12 **Resources**

Feminist Leadership

Financial Resourcing

O

VISION

A South Sudan where every person feels valued and dignified with the utmost autonomy and control over their lives.

MISSION

U

To establish multi-purpose, viable, and self-sustainable women's spaces, enhance the knowledge and skills of individuals, feminist groups, networks, and organisations to raise feminist consciousness and organise to build a feminist movement in South Sudan.

OBJECTIVES

R

1. Social Justice
2. Economic Liberty and Sustainability
3. Research, Education, and Learning.
4. Organizing and Movement Building

VALUES

Commitment, Community, Accountability, Reflective, Integrity, and Rest.

2022 IN SUMMARY

1. Produced 14 Gender Talk 211 Radio Talk shows and hosted 30 guests.
2. Published 24 poems and articles (18 Poems and 6 Articles) by 14 South Sudanese women and girls.
3. #ThisIsUs (Part One) Digital Curation
4. #TheResistance Digital Curation
5. One Twitter Space
6. Launched the Feminists' Talking Circles
7. Established the First Feminist Library in Juba, South Sudan
8. Trained ten women and girls in making beaded South Sudanese (Otuho and Jieng) corsets.
9. Produced 30 beaded South Sudanese (Otuho and Jieng) corsets.
10. Leadership: Established the board of directors and board of advisors.





TRADITIONAL, MULTIMEDIA, AND DIGITAL FEMINIST ADVOCACY: RADIO, WRITING,PHOTOGRAPHY, AND VISUAL ART

GENDER TALK 211 RADIO SHOW

Produced 14 Gender Talk 211 Radio Talk shows and hosted 30 guests. In 2022 the radio show provided a platform for women and girls of different ages and sectors in the formal and informal economy. This included midwives, Storytellers, Authors, Activists, lawyers, Businesswomen within the market, Basketball players, students, and business-women.

The show increased the participation and inclusion of young women and girls. 11 out of the 30 guests in 2022 were under 25, a significant rise in appearances by young women and girls in sports, the informal sector, and young feminists compared to our previous year.

The discussions focused on sexual autonomy, health education for adolescents, the intersection between gender norms and gender-based violence through storytelling, experiences of businesswomen in the informal economy, experiences of young women and girls in sports, fostering national identities, preservation of traditional knowledge and cultural heritage, policing of women's bodies and choices of dressing, use of art as a form of resistance and sharing various stories of individual and collective resistance by South Sudanese women and girls. These conversations can be accessed on the Gender Talk 211 YouTube Channel via this link.

#THISISUS (PART ONE)

Produced 14 Gender Talk 211 Radio Talk shows and hosted 30 guests. In 2022 the radio show provided a platform for women and girls of different ages and sectors in the formal and informal economy.

This included midwives, Storytellers, Authors, Activists, lawyers, Business-women within the market, Basketball players, students, and business-women.

The show increased the participation and inclusion of young women and girls. 11 out of the 30 guests in 2022 were under 25, a significant rise in appearances by young women and girls in sports, the informal sector, and young feminists compared to our previous year.

For this round of curation, the series featured 16 women and girls' cultural attires from 15 ethnic groups in South Sudan to remind us that there is beauty and strength in diversity.

Ethnic groups featured included Otuho, Azande, Luo, Toposa, Bari, Nuer, Collo, Mundari, Acholi, Twic Mayardit, Jieng Aweil, Jieng Bor, Jieng Yirol, the cross-cutting cultural Milaya, and bonus Toob/Thoub.

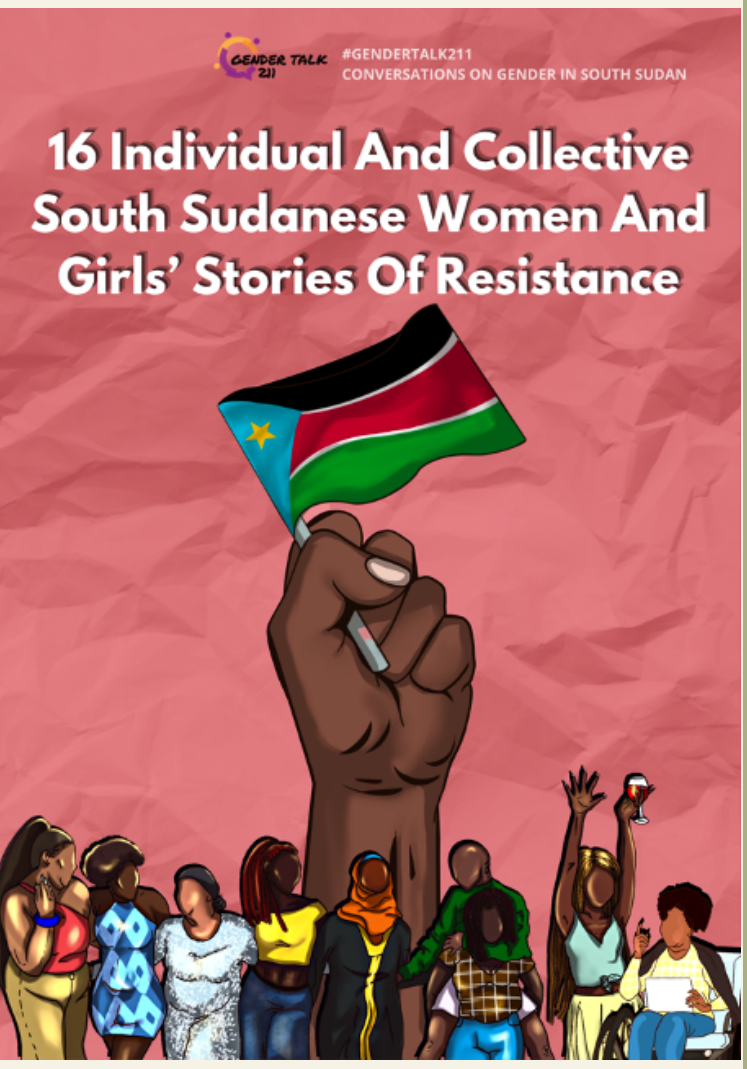
Ma' Mara Sakit Village partnered with Ashes64, a women-led Fashion Design Company that creates a fusion of contemporary fashion inspired by the rich and diverse traditions and cultures of South Sudan. While some cultural attires were rented from cultural dance groups, most were designed by Ashes64.



This curation generated so much engagement on all our social media platforms; the content was shared widely by many young people who expressed deep appreciation for the curation.

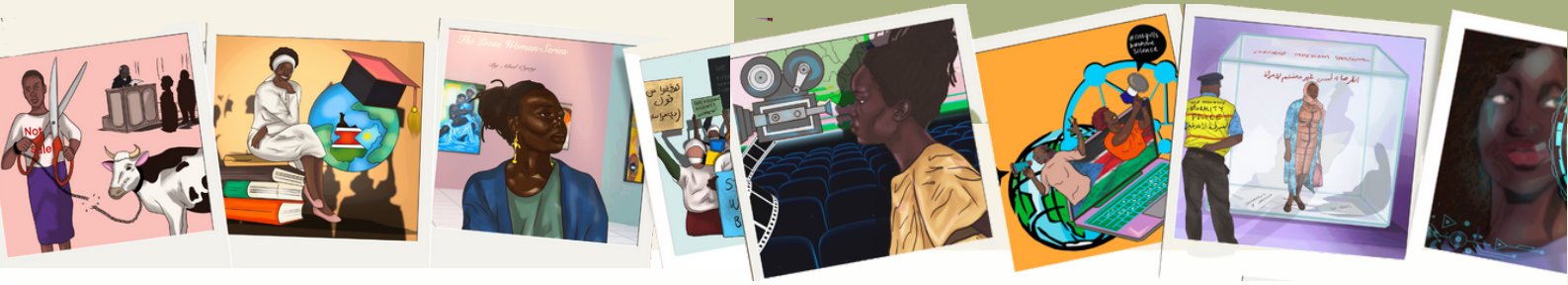
This proved that young people are interested in and care about upholding their cultural heritage. Some comments included, "Documentation, especially digitization, sets a platform for the next generation to view the past, analyze the present, and work harder to protect what has been achieved. It's human history." Another person said, "We need to cherish and revive our cultural heritages. Let us allow our indigenous African cultures to be overshadowed by the Western culture". The curation can be found on the Gender Talk 211 website via this Link.

#THERESISTANCE



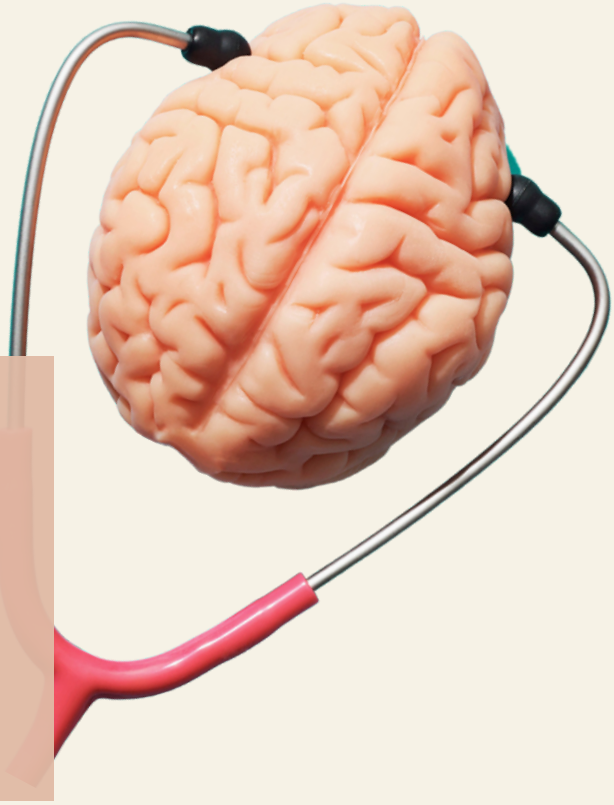
This was a written and digital art curation to commemorate 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence (GBV). The curation highlighted 16 individual and collective South Sudanese women and girls' stories of resistance to 16 forms of GBV, featuring a story each day throughout the 16 days. The stories shared highlighted the historical use of radio as an effective tool for resistance, resisting child and forced marriage, South Sudan women's silent march, fighting for the most basic right to education for girls, bodily autonomy and career choices, digital feminism (#SouthSudanSurvivor), changing the narrative; telling South Sudanese women's stories globally.

The use of art to unchain silenced-powerful voices, feminist cybersecurity, the Katiba banat (women's historical armed resistance), resisting the policing of women and girls bodies in Bor, fruits of my womb and labor that I have no rights to (child custody battles), marriage is not a death sentence for women, women and girls (rights to divorce) preserving cultural heritage, economic independence, and defying the gender binary.



This written and digital art curation generated a lot of engagement online, as many South Sudanese women and girls related to the stories shared and that there is strength and power in documenting and telling our stories of overcoming situations of vulnerability. Digital art curation showed that people receive information differently when presented creatively or attached to a visual explaining the story or experience before the details are consumed. Much thinking goes into the illustrations to visualize the stories. The full stories can be accessed on the Gender Talk 211 website via this link.

TWITTER SPACES



In 2022, Gender Talk 211 hosted one Twitter space on mental health featuring Nyibol Rachael, a young South Sudanese blogger, YouTuber, and mental and reproductive health advocate. The "Make Mental Health For All A Global Priority-South Sudan" Twitter space was attended by 103 people who joined the live conversation or played the recording after the conversation ended.



ARTICLES AND POEMS PUBLISHED

Published 24 poems and articles (18 Poems and 6 Articles) by 14 South Sudanese women and girls on the Gender Talk 211 Website. The poems and articles explored the analysis of how colonialism codified homophobia in Africa, the adultification of South Sudanese girls, gendered forms of violence and abuse young girls are subjected to in South Sudan, marital rape, women's strength, and power, healing, sisterhood, resistance, joy and celebrations of milestones, courage, among other themes the poets and writers explored.

GENDER TALK 211 ONLINE COMMUNITY AND ENGAGEMENT

397,338 Impressions
3,997 Likes
1,704 retweets
346 comments
769 New Followers.

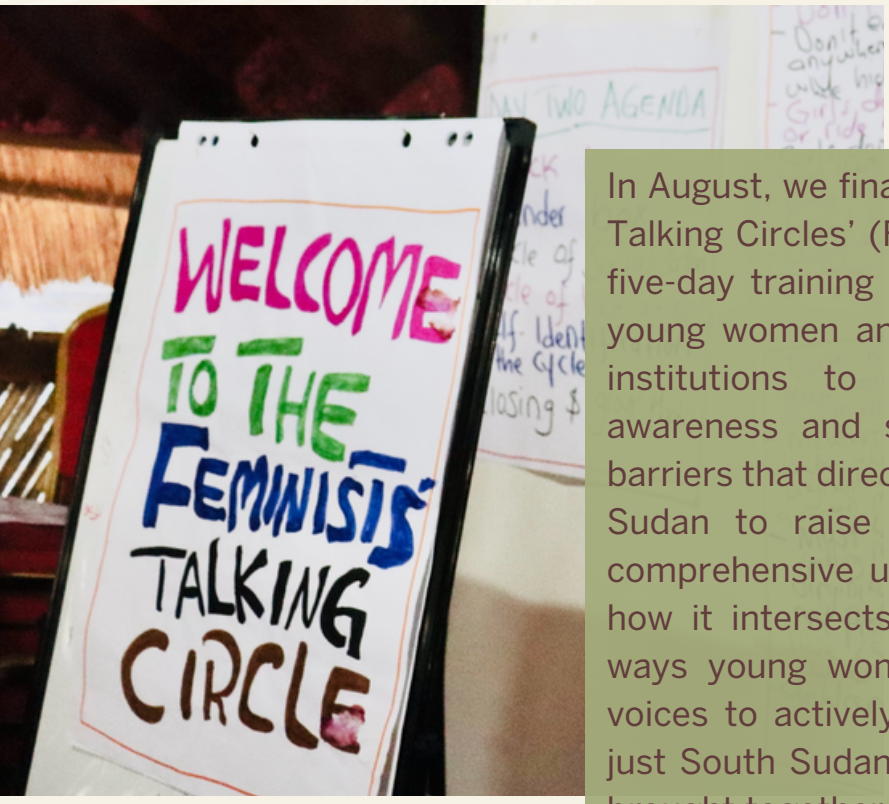
4,190 views
88 new subscribers.

198,050 Total Reach
2,495 Likes
406 Shares
623 comments
2,503 Page Visits.

7,800 event counts
3,166 visits
932 new users

RAISING FEMINIST CONSCIOUSNESS AND BUILDING A FEMINIST COMMUNITY IN SOUTH SUDAN

FEMINISTS' TALKING CIRCLES



In August, we finally launched our long-awaited 'Feminists' Talking Circles' (FTCs). The Feminists' Talking Circles is a five-day training program designed for various groups of young women and girls within communities and learning institutions to hold facilitated discussions on self-awareness and social, cultural, political, and economic barriers that directly affect young women and girls in South Sudan to raise consciousness, agency/autonomy, and comprehensive understanding of patriarchy as a system, how it intersects with other systems of oppression and ways young women and girls can collectively use their voices to actively contribute to building an inclusive and just South Sudan (a feminist South Sudan). The first FTC brought together 28 young women and girls in two phases, in August and December.



There is so much appreciation of the fact that our Feminists' Talking Circles is a space created and discussions facilitated by young South Sudanese women for young South Sudanese women and girls. The relatability and strength to be vulnerable in our shared experiences are one of the most powerful things about this space. Said another participant.

This program provides young women and girls the opportunity and space to self-reflect, build relationships and community, identify their feminist needs, and enhance their knowledge of gender, sexuality, and African Feminism.

"This training has been very impactful, and I count myself the luckiest person among you people since I come from Nuba Mountain; one day, I might be able to take this initiative to Nuba Mountain."

"The training made me realize the hidden potential in me; it made me know that there is more to know about me than just calling myself a woman. It has opened my mind wider and enriched my understanding of my role in society. The training made me accept myself as a woman and do more than expected the way I am."

"Sometimes I feel like I have no one to share my vision with; the training gave me the courage to further advocate for girl child education."

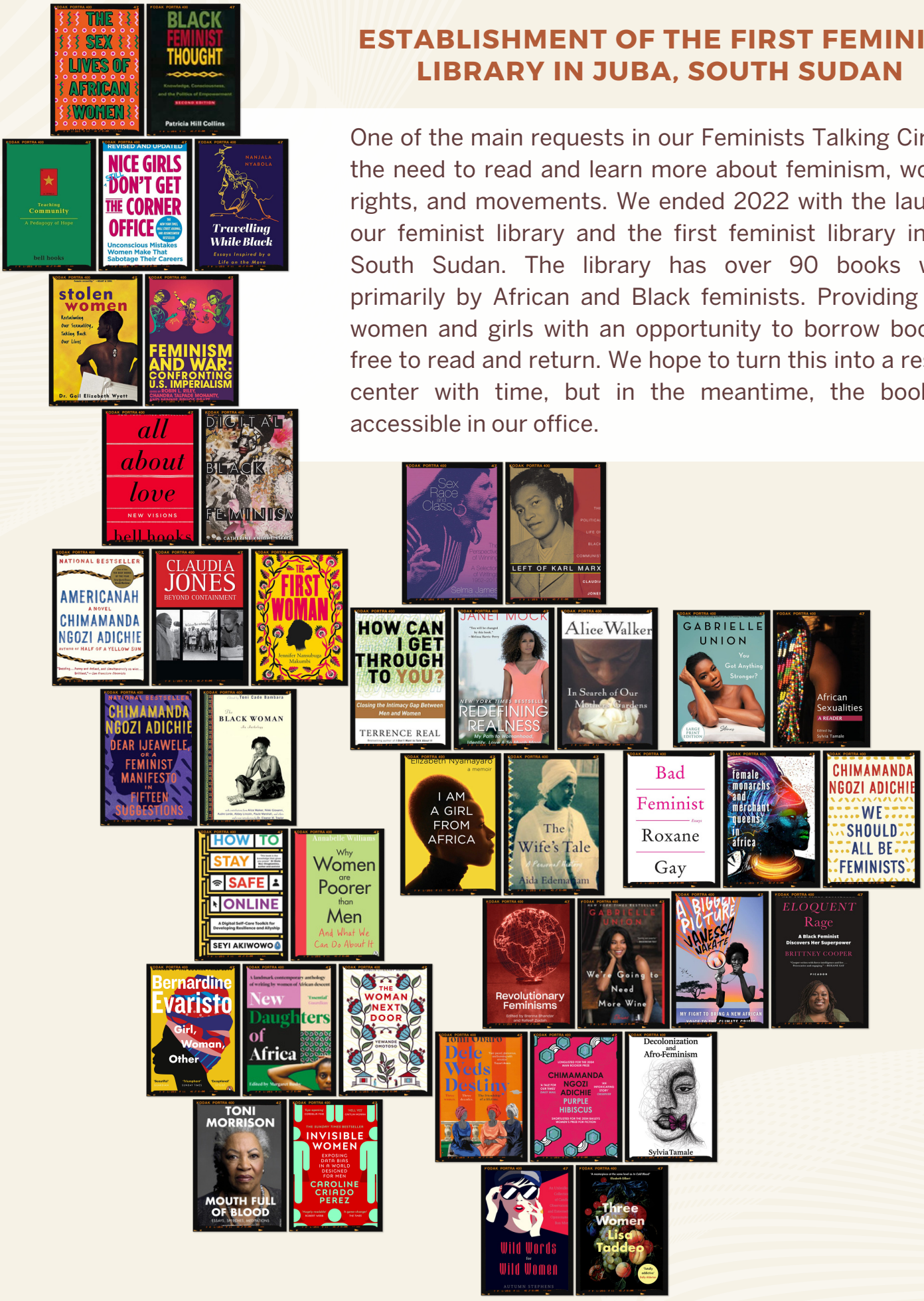
"The authenticity of this training proves that South Sudanese women are indeed capable. I am motivated to see my own sisters being this impactful and lifting others; this has motivated me to do better as a woman."





ESTABLISHMENT OF THE FIRST FEMINIST LIBRARY IN JUBA, SOUTH SUDAN

One of the main requests in our Feminists Talking Circles is the need to read and learn more about feminism, women's rights, and movements. We ended 2022 with the launch of our feminist library and the first feminist library in Juba, South Sudan. The library has over 90 books written primarily by African and Black feminists. Providing young women and girls with an opportunity to borrow books for free to read and return. We hope to turn this into a resource center with time, but in the meantime, the books are accessible in our office.





CONTRIBUTING TO THE PRESERVATION OF THE CULTURAL KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS OF BEADING

PASSING THE BATON

Ma' Mara Sakit Village conducted a four-month training for ten women and girls on the Otuho and the Jieng Bor and Yirol beaded corsets to contribute to the preservation of the dying knowledge and skill of corsets beadwork and create sustainable job opportunities by enhancing the skills and girls in designing and recreating South Sudanese traditional bead corsets to promote unique, beautiful, and creative South Sudanese and Pan-African cultures.

Six (6) women and four (4) girls were trained on how to make the Otuho and the Jieng Bor and Yirol beaded corsets by three trainers with a specialty in the Otuho and Jieng Bor and Yirol corsets making, respectively. While training the rest of the trainees, the three trainers also exchanged skills and taught each other (the Otuho corset trainer learned how to make the Jieng Bor and Yirol corset and vice versa). This four months of intensive training was overseen by an expert on beadmaking who provided intensive mentorship and coaching to the trainers and trainees.



DOCUMENTATION AND DIGITIZATION

For learning purposes, Ma' Mara Sakit Village documented the beadmaking journey, life histories, and experiences of the Suk-Sukna women and girls bead makers and the beadmaking process. A short documentary of this journey and process giving; historical background of the traditional Otuho and Dinka women and girls' beaded corsets, challenges the Suk-Sukna women and girls' breadmakers' experiences, benefits of beadmaking, their dreams, and aspirations will be produced.

RESOURCES

FEMINIST LEADERSHIP

THE CORE TEAM

Knowledge, passion, skills, expertise, creativity, and immeasurable and voluntary time dedicated by Ma' Mara Sakit Village core team members remain our primary resources that enabled everything we accomplished in 2022. Our Core Team of eight (8) young women are responsible for the day-to-day digital, traditional, and multi-media feminist advocacy and activism, movement building, and the preservation of South Sudanese beadmaking knowledge and skills. Link to the Core Team.

BOARD OF ADVISORS

In 2022, Ma' Mara Sakit Village took a step further to establish a board of advisors. Our advisory board is made up of Seven (7) experienced women and gender nonconforming persons from diverse backgrounds and gender specialties that provide technical expertise to Ma' Mara Sakit Village programming at various levels and stages, outreach, and networking with public agencies, civil society, the commercial sector, and academia. Link to the Board of Advisors.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

This year, we also formalized the establishment of our board of directors. This board comprises five (5) women who contribute to the mission by ensuring Ma' Mara Sakit Village remains a viable and self-sustainable entity. They oversee the ongoing programs' mission, goals, and objectives and ensure financial integrity and accountability. Link to the Board of Directors.



FINANCIAL RESOURCING

2022 FUNDS AND SOURCES



Contributors	Amounts (USD)
Canada Fund for Local Initiatives (CFLI)	31,291
Autonomous Resourcing	17,624
UNFPA-South Sudan	12, 400
Feminist Humanitarian Network	9,993
VOICE-Amplified	6,440
Total	**77,748**

2022 OUTFLOW

Program	Amount (USD)
Suk-Sukna Project	13,986
Gender Talk 211	26,146
Feminist Community Building	15,778
Administrative and Operating expenses	12, 009
Total	**68,009**





OUR 2022 ALLIES

Activity supported by the
Canada Fund for Local Initiatives

Activité réalisée avec l'appui du
Fonds canadien d'initiatives locales

Canada

Advance Youth Radio
99.9 FM
" POSITIVE & INSPIRING"

FHN

AMPLIFYING WOMEN AND GIRLS IN CRISES
voice

UNFPA
Ensuring rights and choices for all

© 2022 MA MARA SAKIT VILLAGE