



**OPERATION**


**BROKEN SILENCE**



**2022**

**ANNUAL REPORT**





Operation Broken Silence is building a global movement to empower the Sudanese people through innovative programs as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

# OUR MISSION

## 2022: SEARCHING FOR OUR NEW NORMAL

If there is a single word that could sum up 2022 here at Operation Broken Silence, it was “strange.” Like many small international nonprofits that are critical to the communities we serve, our mission faced strong headwinds outside of our control.

Inflation, the war in Ukraine, overblown fears of a recession, and cultural sorting in the United States posed significant challenges to our movement-building work. Many of our creative approaches that bore fruit in 2021 gained less ground in 2022. Doors that were once open to us are closed, even as new ones opened. The usually quiet summer months were very productive. The usually busy end of year season was quieter than usual.

As I was recently telling one of our monthly donors, not much really made sense this year. But we managed to keep doing what we do best: finding people to help our Sudanese partners in impactful ways. Reflecting on conversations with some of you during events and fundraising, I believe this is a testament to your dedication. Behind numbers are real people just like you.

Not only did we see some new faces join our movement, but our core supporters stuck with us. Membership in [The Renewal](#) monthly giving program was impressively stable. Our [online fundraisers](#) nearly doubled their impact, making up for lost support from shrinking faith institutions and family foundations that redirected support to Ukraine. And while bad weather plagued our return to in-person events, dedicated supporters turned out.

You helped make everything in this report possible, and then some. Thank you.

Onward,  
Mark C. Hackett  
Executive Director

# THE CRISIS IN SUDAN

Sudan's pro-democracy revolution remained at a standstill throughout 2022. By the end of the year, the military junta fully reversed fragile economic recovery, made no real progress on peace negotiations, and only offered token statements and "agreements" to return the country back to the path toward democracy, peace, and security.

Most all Sudanese now find themselves living in pre-revolution conditions. Hard-won rights are gone, the economy is a disaster, and regime-backed violence against historically oppressed people groups accelerated, especially in Darfur. The regime failed to hand over indicted war criminals to the International Criminal Court and ended in-country efforts to bring criminal justice to the worst parts of the overthrown Bashir regime.

Despite these painful realities, millions of Sudanese continued to protest and demand change. The international community largely failed to support them though. By the end of 2022, it was clear that this had been another impossibly frustrating year. You can learn more about the crisis in Sudan [at our website](#).





# THE NUBA MOUNTAINS

Operation Broken Silence works mostly in the Nuba Mountains region in southern Sudan and nearby Yida Refugee Camp.

The area is home to roughly 100 African tribal groups who have inhabited the region for over 2,000 years. The approximately 1.3 million Christian, Muslim, and traditionalist Nuba people live mostly in harmony together.

The ceasefire between the Sudanese military and Nuba self-defense forces largely held throughout 2022. There was neither large-scale fighting nor aerial bombing of civilian areas.

Regime paramilitary attacks and banditry on and near frontline Nuba communities persisted throughout the year. Humanitarian conditions remained relatively stable due to continued freedom of movement and a lack of widespread armed conflict. The international humanitarian presence in Nuba remained relatively small despite some of the safest and easiest operating conditions in years. Yida Refugee Camp continued to shrink slowly in size as more people felt safe enough to return to their homes in Nuba Mountains proper.

Learn more about the Nuba Mountains [at our website](#).



# OUR PROGRAMS

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# STORYTELLING & MOVEMENT BUILDING

We share Sudanese stories and craft campaigns and events to mobilize people for Sudanese-led programs.



## VIDEOS

We released 12 videos that inspired you to action. You watched and shared them with nearly 12,000 of your friends.



## YIDA PHOTO EXHIBIT

Our flagship photography exhibit didn't have a showing this year. We will likely retire it in 2023.



## 10TH ANNUAL GALA

You raised over \$1,841 at Soirée For Sudan.

[SEE RESULTS →](#)



## 13TH ANNUAL 5K

You raised nearly \$1,998 through Eden's Run 5K.

[SEE RESULTS →](#)



## BRAND PARTNERSHIPS

11 companies and brands [came together](#) to help make our events possible.



## VOLUNTEERING

We relaunched our in-person volunteering opportunities.

[LEARN MORE →](#)

# EDUCATION & HEALTHCARE

Operation Broken Silence invests funds raised in Sudanese heroes and institutions to empower their work. And they make the big program decisions, not us. Here's what you helped our Sudanese partners accomplish in 2022.



## EDUCATION IN YIDA REFUGEE CAMP

We sponsor the Endure Primary and Renewal Secondary Schools in Yida. Both are staffed entirely by Nuba teachers. In 2022, you helped us empower 24 teachers, 6 support team members, and over 900 students.

Endure Primary continued to be one of the top-performing schools in the region. Renewal Secondary remained the only fully functioning secondary school in Yida, with the teachers we support also providing their services to another school that is struggling to stay open.

[LEARN MORE →](#)



## TESTING SUPPORT IN YIDA REFUGEE CAMP

Yida is home to several other schools that are not officially connected to Endure Primary and Renewal Secondary. They receive zero outside support.

Because our schools make up the backbone of the education system in Yida, our teachers supported roughly 1,400 other Primary 8 and Secondary 4 students from these other schools as they prepared for national exams. We also provided basic supplies like chalk, pencils, and notebooks to each school.





### **HEALTHCARE IN THE NUBA MOUNTAINS**

Mother of Mercy Hospital had another busy year. The ceasefire in the Nuba Mountains continued allowing for better freedom of movement. People even came from other parts of Sudan to seek help, a testament to the quality of care and high reputation of the hospital's staff.

It was a big year of capacity-building at the hospital, with the clinical school finally opening and several construction projects paving the way for a new operating theatre and labour and delivery ward. The hospital remains the only referral medical facility in the Nuba Mountains.

[\*\*LEARN MORE →\*\*](#)



### **NEW: TEAM ZAMZAM IN NORTH DARFUR**

Team Zamzam consists of 20 female counselors serving victims of sexual violence and the most impoverished in Zamzam displaced persons camp, one of the first camps during the Darfur genocide that began in 2003. An estimated 400,000 people live in the camp.

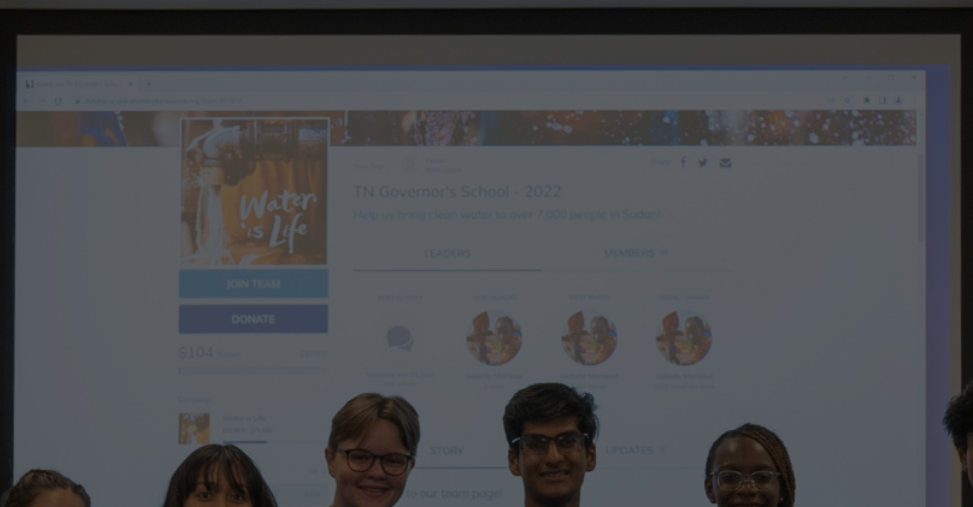
In the last quarter of 2022, Operation Broken Silence became the official nonprofit partner for Team Zamzam's private fundraising base, paving the way for more and larger financial gifts to their critical work.

[\*\*LEARN MORE →\*\*](#)



# OUR MOVEMENT

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# THE RENEWAL

Our passionate family of monthly givers are on a mission to empower Sudanese teachers and healthcare professionals. In 2022, they accomplished:

- 74 members, families, and institutions
- \$51,000+ given to empower the Sudanese people

[LEARN MORE & JOIN THE RENEWAL →](#)



# OUR FUNDRAISERS

Our campaigners did amazing things to raise money for our Sudanese partners. After starting their online fundraising pages, they asked friends and family to give.

- 39 fundraisers
- \$48,000+ raised to empower the Sudanese people

[LEARN MORE & BECOME A FUNDRAISER →](#)

## OUR DONORS

Our generous givers brought the magic in 2022. 1,345 donors participated by giving and buying event tickets.

[BECOME A DONOR →](#)



## OUR VOLUNTEERS

41 volunteers came together and served 262 hours. You were generous with your time, helping to move our annual events and fundraising forward. Your efforts saved the organization an estimated \$3,720 by the end of the year.

[LEARN MORE →](#)





## LEADERSHIP TEAM

Our Board of Directors and staff supported our movement and Sudanese partners throughout the year:

Sarah Roberts, President

Ryan Strain, Secretary

Stephen Hackett, Treasurer

Anastasia Schwartz, Events Lead

Sara James, Donor Support

Mark Hackett, Executive Director

[MEET THE TEAM →](#)

# FINANCIALS

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# YOUR GENEROSITY, RAISED & GIVEN



DOLLARS RAISED

**\$136,978**



INVESTMENT INCOME

**\$787**



## ESTIMATED VALUE OF GOODS & SERVICES DONATED



ADVERTISING

**\$120,000**



VOLUNTEER HOURS

**\$3,720**

# YOUR GENEROSITY, IN ACTION



STORYTELLING &  
MOVEMENT BUILDING

**\$31,935**



EDUCATION & HEALTHCARE

**\$107,846**



STAFF

**\$69,029**





# LOOKING AHEAD: 2023

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Angels  
MAYBALI

# SUDAN & NUBA MOUNTAINS

2023 will likely be an explosive year for the Sudanese people. We expect armed conflict to reemerge in certain parts of the country, especially Darfur, and maybe even in Khartoum.

It is likely that the regime will fracture and may drag the country into a full-blown civil war. The army and paramilitary Rapid Support Forces are already very uneasy allies. Plans to integrate the RSF into the army will likely be a source of major crisis. In fact, if a new war does begin in Sudan, it will likely be between the army and RSF. Such a conflict would be devastating to the entire country, sideline the pro-democracy movement, and destroy what is left of the economy. The exact triggers for such a war and how one would play out are unknown, but war clouds seem to loom larger with each passing month.

We expect the situation in the Nuba Mountains to remain relatively calm but doubt a ceasefire will turn into a more permanent peace agreement. The Sudanese army seems to have no desire for a return to war with the Nuba people, although there are worrying signs that the Rapid Support Forces and other regime-backed paramilitary outfits are open to skirmishes, looting, and destruction of Nuba areas in isolated frontline communities. Still, if war between the army and RSF does break out, there is a real chance fighting could reach the Nuba Mountains and complicate the lives of the people we serve.





# OUR MISSION

2023 will likely be another year of unpredictable and chaotic moments. Sudan remains in [the top 10 list](#) of countries at greatest statistical risk for mass killing. We don't know how things will shake out in Khartoum with [the vague new agreement](#). The political system in the U.S. is already gearing up for another heated presidential election. A recession is still a possibility, although we aren't deeply concerned as recession predictions continue proving to be wrong, the economy is humming along, and inflation is showing signs of easing.

This season is one in which we can learn about the complex and sometimes harsh environment we are in. Our Sudanese partners have been doing this for some time now. Rather than committing to a hard plan in 2023, we will pursue a few key principles:

1. Be rooted in the basics. It is clear that making big plans and bold proclamations is not the best idea right now. Instead of anxiously fighting against forces far outside of our control, we'll be taking everything one day, one week, and one month at a time within the context of what we have always done: serving our Sudanese partners and you to the best of our ability.
2. Be nimble. We jumped at several last minute fundraising opportunities in 2022 that really paid off. Looking back, there were also a few that we missed. Next month we will streamline some of our internal processes to put some free time back into our leadership team. In the midst of uncertainty there is opportunity, and we need more space to seize every one of them.
3. Be and think small. We have no plans to expand in 2023. We will focus on sustaining and strengthening our core programming in Sudan and in our global movement. While we have the cash on hand to add a new full-time staffer, we currently have no plans to hire. There are still too many unanswered questions about the future and what our staffing should look like.

In summary, our focus in 2023 is making incremental progress. This perhaps doesn't sound as exciting as previous years, but there is so much good work left to be done with what we already have in our mission.

Our optimism remains tempered, but we can remain effective despite the challenges ahead of us. We are encouraged by the bravery of our Sudanese partners and the determination of our movement. And you have the opportunity to be at the heart of our movement in 2022.

# HOW YOU CAN HELP

Here are the top ways you can partner with us in 2023.



## JOIN THE RENEWAL

Our family of monthly givers is at the heart of our mission.

[LEARN MORE & JOIN →](#)



## START A CAMPAIGN

Launch a fundraising page and ask your friends to pitch in!

[SIGN UP →](#)



## GIVE ONCE

Make a quick donation to help our Sudanese partners succeed.

[GIVE ONLINE →](#)





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