

2023
SDN End of Year Impact Report

Message from the Board

Dear Friends, Supporters, and Community,

2023 will forever be remembered as a year of resilience, heartbreak, and unity. In the early months, we celebrated being able to return to in-person gatherings through our Layali Ramadan series, and we proudly launched the Health & Wellbeing Fund, raising thousands to support essential health initiatives in Sudan.

Only days after Ramadan ended, the war in Sudan broke out on April 15th. This marked an unprecedented and devastating chapter for our people. Many of our team members were directly affected — some in the epicenter of the conflict, others with families trapped and seeking safety. Overnight, SDN pivoted from planned programming to urgent crisis response.

Together with our partners and community, we coordinated evacuation efforts, shared verified information, and mobilized our diaspora to support one another in any way possible. This experience has reinforced that SDN is not just an organization, but a network of people bound by solidarity and care for Sudan.

Through it all, your generosity, commitment, and support made our work possible. As we look ahead, we remain steadfast in our mission: to stand with Sudan in times of rebuilding, and to be there for one another through every challenge.

1. Executive Summary

The Sudanese Diaspora Network (SDN) entered 2023 with a focus on health and wellbeing, and the year began with hopeful momentum. We successfully launched the Health & Wellbeing Fund, partnered with organizations providing life-saving services in Sudan, and reunited our community through in-person iftars across five cities.

Yet, only days after Ramadan concluded, Sudan was plunged into war on April 15th, 2023. The outbreak of violence forced millions to flee, fractured families, and created an unprecedented humanitarian crisis. SDN immediately pivoted to crisis response — leveraging our networks across the diaspora and in Sudan to:

- Share accurate, real-time updates.
- Support coordination of evacuation efforts.
- Identify and communicate urgent needs on the ground.
- Mobilize diaspora communities to help one another.

Despite the heartbreak, the year demonstrated the resilience of the Sudanese people and the power of community action. In total, SDN raised over $22,000 to support health and wellbeing initiatives, while simultaneously becoming a critical communication and support hub for the diaspora during the war.

As the displacement crisis continues, SDN is now shifting its focus to support Sudanese who have taken refuge both inside Sudan and in neighboring countries, most notably Egypt, where large numbers of our people are seeking safety. This new direction reflects our ongoing commitment to meet our community where they are, ensuring that Sudanese everywhere have access to support, solidarity, and opportunities.

2. Key Activities

In 2022, SDN continued to strengthen its global presence and community impact, focusing on connecting Sudanese youth and young professionals across the diaspora. We expanded our network and deepened partnerships with grassroots organizations in Sudan, enabling targeted support for local communities. Our initiatives included cultural and social events, online programs, and collaborative fundraising campaigns, all designed to foster engagement and solidarity among Sudanese communities worldwide. Notably, our efforts provided vital support for education, health, and wellbeing programs in Sudan, reflecting the tangible outcomes of coordinated diaspora-led initiatives and laying the groundwork for future expansion.

a. Layali Ramadan: Nurturing Spirits, Focusing on Wellbeing

A cornerstone of SDN's annual calendar, the Layali Ramadan Online Series celebrated its fifth consecutive year with resounding success. This year's theme, centered on spirituality and mental health, struck a chord with our global audience. The month-long series featured insightful workshops and talks by esteemed speakers, fostering significant online engagement. The series was not only a virtual gathering but also manifested in physical iftar events providing the opportunity for families to break their fast but also served as a means to raise funds for the Wellbeing Fund.

We also launched the Health & Wellbeing Fund during the Holy Month of Ramadan, responding to the urgent health crisis in Sudan. to support and initiate various Health and Wellbeing endeavors in Sudan during and beyond the Holy Month of Ramadan. Sudan is currently undergoing a dire economic crisis, leading many struggling to make ends meet whilst also impacting their Health (mental and physical) and Wellbeing. **The campaign raised $16,208**, distributed across four partner organizations:

- ***Gowana Amal*** – Children's Cancer Care home in Khartoum and Madani that provide essential care and services for children undergoing cancer treatment.
- ***Taafi Organization*** – a registered nonprofit in Sudan providing mental health and addiction services, including diagnostics and treatment.
- ***Shabab al Kheir*** – supported with kidney dialysis machines, equipment
- ***Shabab Al Nahda*** - mental health therapy and raising morals initiatives.

In addition, SDN funds will also seed pilot projects in Sudan addressing health and wellbeing challenges beyond Ramadan.

Global Iftars: Reconnecting in Person

For the first time since the pandemic, SDN returned to having global in-person iftar gatherings under Layali Ramadan, with events taking place in London, Arizona, Toronto, the DMV (Washington, DC Metro Area), and Dallas. Hundreds came together to breakfast, build community, and contribute to the Health & Wellbeing Fund, raising a total of **$11,995.** The online portion of the campaign raised **$4,213.**









[Images from the Global iftar events - London UK, Washington DC USA, Dallas USA, Toronto Canada]

Distribution of Funds

The Health and Wellbeing Fund, a testament to SDN's commitment to making a tangible impact, focused on supporting Health and Wellbeing initiatives in Sudan. At a time when Sudan faced a dire economic crisis, impacting the mental and physical health of many, SDN directed its fundraising efforts toward organizations actively addressing these pressing issues. The aim was to provide support to those struggling to make ends meet and uphold the Health and Wellbeing of the Sudanese people within our means.

Organisation	Description	Amount ($)	Total Per Organisation
SDN x Shabab Al Kheir	Kidney dialysis supplies/equipment	$2,000	**$6,200**
SDN x Shabab Al Kheir	Kidney dialysis supplies/equipment	$4,200	
Gowana Amal	Medicine/Pharmacy supplies	$1,856	**$5,808**
Gowana Amal	Gasoline for centre generator & Transportation expenses	$619	
Gowana Amal	10x Beds + mattress for new arrivals to Madani Centre (procured by SDN)	$2,200	
Gowana Amal	5x Beds + mattress for new arrivals to Madani Centre (procured by Gowana Amal)	$1,133	
Shabab Al Nahda	Mental health therapy sessions & raising moral initiatives	$1,000	**$1,000**
Ta3afi	Mental health treatments and supporting hospitals with medicines	$1,000	**$1,000**
SDN	Emergency relief projects & Organisation maintenance	$3,060	**$3,060**

b. Slam Dunk for Sudan

SDN received a donation from Slam Dunk for Sudan, following a community basketball fundraiser. The community event raised **$3,500** and the money donated to SDN was used towards helping refugees with food and rent assistance in Sudan, through Fill a Heart and Cairo Sudan Aid.

Distribution of Funds

Through the collaborative efforts of Fill a Heart (FAH) and Cairo Aid Sudan (CAS), the funds raised were allocated strategically to address the urgent needs of Sudanese families displaced by the ongoing conflict and seeking refuge in Cairo. A total of 25 families received essential food aid, 19 individuals were provided with medical support and emergency medications, and 19 families received assistance with rent to secure temporary shelter. A breakdown of the funds used can be seen in the table below.

Organisation	Description	Amount
FAH X CAS	Essential Food Supplies (Oil, flour, pasta, lentils, milk sugar, rice, tea, beans)	$400
FAH X CAS	Healthcare and medication	$900
FAH X CAS	Rental Assistance	$1900
FAH X CAS	Remaining funds to be used in October for further humanitarian assistance	$300

3. Responding to Crisis: The Outbreak of War in Sudan

Only days after Layali Ramadan concluded, on April 15th, 2023, war broke out in Sudan. This tragic and unprecedented conflict has devastated lives, displaced millions, and deeply impacted our own team members and community. Many of our families were caught in the epicenter of the fighting, struggling to escape and find safety.

SDN immediately pivoted its work to respond to the crisis:

- Collaboration with local organizations on the ground and across the diaspora to share accurate updates and identify urgent needs.
- Supporting evacuation efforts by helping coordinate safe routes and sharing information with those in danger.
- Information and communication – keeping our network informed with real-time updates on the evolving situation and relaying needs from the ground.
- Community mobilization – ensuring diaspora communities could help one another in moments of crisis, offering solidarity and support wherever possible.

This moment tested our resilience as an organization and as a people. Yet, it also reinforced the strength of our community — united, responsive, and determined to stand by Sudan in its darkest hour. SDN will continue to adapt, supporting emergency relief, information-sharing, and long-term recovery efforts alongside our ongoing mission.

SDN in Conversation with…

SDN has been actively engaged in addressing the urgent needs of Sudanese families affected by the ongoing war in Sudan. As part of SDN's commitment to fostering awareness and support, the organization initiated the 'SDN in Conversation With' series. We encourage all our partners and support to follow and support the ongoing work of the group grass root organisation navigating difficult circumstances during this war to help bring relief to those impacted by it.

- **Sudanese American Physician Association (SAPA):** Dr. Yasir Yousif Elamin shared insights into SAPA’s humanitarian response, including acute medical support, hospital operations, aid for internally displaced persons (IDPs), and refugee assistance in Chad and South Sudan. The conversation highlighted the collaborative impact of diaspora-led networks and SAPA’s rapid intervention amid ongoing conflict.

- **Cairo-Sudan Aid:** The discussion with Mahmoud and Victoria Sama highlighted the grassroots response to displaced Sudanese in Cairo. Their Community-Based Organization (CBO) provided emergency shelter, food, medical support, and employment opportunities for over 200 families, demonstrating the power of community-driven initiatives in crisis.
- **Fill-A-Heart:** Mohammed, founder of Fill-A-Heart, discussed the organization's holistic approach to humanitarian aid, encompassing healthcare, education, and emergency response. The session emphasized the challenges of reaching communities amid conflict, preparing for seasonal health risks, and engaging local medical partners.
- **Women of Sudan:** This conversation showcased the critical role of women in Sudan during conflict, highlighting initiatives in advocacy, medical aid fundraising, and storytelling. Efforts raised funds to support over 400 civilians with injuries and approximately 80 individuals requiring life-changing surgeries, emphasizing the resilience and determination of women on the ground.

Through this series, SDN amplified the voices of frontline organizations and individuals, fostering awareness, mobilizing support, and demonstrating the collective impact of the Sudanese diaspora. These conversations underscored the importance of solidarity, humanitarian action, and sustainable community engagement during a year marked by one of the worst crisis our country has faced.

4. Diaspora Engagement

Recruitment Drive

In response to a highly successful operational year in 2022, the Sudanese Diaspora Network (SDN) launched a comprehensive recruitment drive in February, seeking to expand its dedicated team of professionals and volunteers. As a non-profit organization, SDN has been a beacon of success in fostering community engagement and support within the Sudanese diaspora. The organization's achievements in 2022 not only underscored its commitment to its mission but also captured the attention and interest of a myriad of individuals eager to contribute to the community's well-being. The February recruitment drive, therefore, served as a pivotal opportunity for like-minded individuals to align themselves with SDN's goals and become integral contributors to its continued success.

Recognizing the need for a more extensive team, especially in regions with less representation, SDN aimed to fortify its impact by attracting passionate and dedicated individuals. The recruitment process adhered to a meticulously designed protocol, ensuring a systematic and transparent approach to candidate selection.

- **Expression of Interest:** Prospective candidates were invited to fill out detailed interest forms, providing insight into their skills, experiences, and motivation to contribute to SDN's mission.
- **Form Processing:** The recruitment team diligently processed the submitted interest forms, reviewing each candidate's alignment with SDN's core values.
- **Interviews:** Candidates underwent online and several face-to-face casual interviews to gauge their compatibility with SDN's culture and mission, ensuring a cohesive fit within the existing team.

The recruitment drive garnered significant attention, with over 40 individuals submitting their details either as volunteers or presenting innovative project ideas aligned with SDN's mission. This influx of interest not only reinforced the organization's impact but also ignited a renewed sense of purpose among existing members. Witnessing the enthusiasm from potential new team members inspired current members to persevere in their efforts, knowing that a larger, like-minded community was forming to collectively drive positive change.

Looking ahead, SDN is proactively planning to restructure its framework in the coming year, facilitating a seamless integration of new personnel into the organization. This strategic move aims to empower the incoming members to find their footing swiftly, ensuring they can contribute as powerfully as they aspire to, thus further amplifying SDN's impact within the Sudanese diaspora.

Expanding on its current presence, SDN boasts a global network of members spanning from Arizona, Texas, DMV, Toronto, London, Leeds to the UAE and Sudan. This international reach underscores the diaspora community's strong desire to unite in supporting the motherland, especially in the face of the unfortunate war engulfing Sudan. The diverse geographical spread of SDN members signifies a collective commitment to fostering positive change, and SDN remains hopeful that this unity and dedication will only continue to flourish in the future.

Online Presence and Outreach

In 2023, SDN strengthened its connection with Sudanese communities across the globe through a robust online engagement strategy. Our digital platforms became a critical hub for information, dialogue, and community mobilization, particularly during times of crisis.

Key highlights include:

- Virtual Programs and Workshops: Partnering with Nas AlSudan, SDN hosted online sessions on mindfulness, spirituality, and wellbeing, reaching hundreds of participants across multiple countries.
- Real-Time Crisis Communication: Following the outbreak of war in Sudan, SDN leveraged social media, newsletters, and messaging platforms to provide timely updates, disseminate verified information, and coordinate diaspora-led support efforts.
- Community-Building and Awareness Campaigns: Online campaigns amplified fundraising initiatives, promoted diaspora-driven volunteer projects, and highlighted the work of organizations such as SAPA, Cairo-Sudan Aid, Fill-A-Heart, and Women of Sudan.
- Interactive Engagement: SDN facilitated dialogue through Q&A sessions, virtual meet-ups, and discussion panels, creating an accessible platform for diaspora members to contribute ideas, share experiences, and participate in collective action.

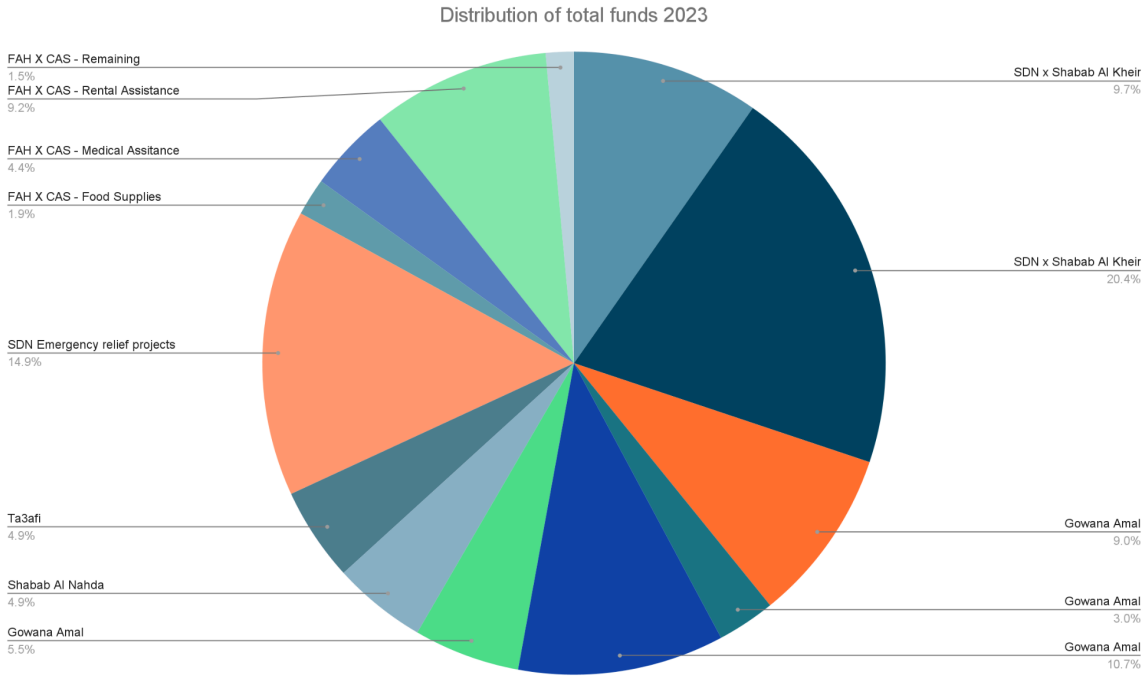
These efforts reinforced SDN’s role as a digital connector, ensuring Sudanese communities worldwide remained informed, engaged, and empowered to respond to both immediate and long-term challenges.

5. Financial Impact

SDN's 2023 initiatives were made possible through the generosity of our global community. Over the course of the year, we raised a total of **$22,041**, which was directed toward key programs supporting health, wellbeing, and emergency response efforts in Sudan and among displaced communities. The following section provides a detailed overview of how these funds were allocated across partner organizations and initiatives, reflecting our commitment to transparency, accountability, and maximizing impact.

Financial Breakdown – 2023:

- **Health and Well Being Fund Fund (Ramadan):** $17,068
- **Slam Dunk for Sudan (Post-Ramadan):** $3,500



5. Looking Ahead

As we move forward, SDN is committed to carrying the lessons of 2023 into our future work. The war has reshaped the realities of Sudan and the diaspora, and our mission must continue to adapt.

In 2024 and beyond, SDN will focus on a dual approach:

1. Humanitarian Response & Crisis Support
    a. Continue mobilizing our diaspora network to respond to urgent needs created by the ongoing war.
    b. Strengthen partnerships with trusted organizations on the ground to deliver timely, effective support.
    c. Expand our role as a communication and coordination hub, keeping the diaspora informed and connected to what is happening in Sudan.
    d. Support displaced Sudanese communities — not only within Sudan, but also in neighboring countries such as Egypt, where many have sought refuge.
2. Long-Term Development & Community Empowerment
    a. Build on the success of the Health & Wellbeing Fund by piloting SDN-led initiatives that address health, wellbeing, and resilience.
    b. Deepen engagement with Sudanese youth and professionals across the diaspora through mentorship, knowledge-sharing, and career development.
    c. Develop programs that bridge emergency response with long-term recovery, ensuring impact beyond moments of crisis.

Though 2023 brought unprecedented challenges, it also affirmed our collective strength. The Sudanese Diaspora Network will continue to stand at the intersection of emergency relief and long-term rebuilding, guided by the resilience of our people and the belief that even in the hardest times, we can create pathways to hope and renewal.

6. Acknowledgement

SDN wishes to acknowledge the extraordinary courage, dedication, and resilience of the individuals, organizations, and communities who continue to support Sudan during this unprecedented crisis. This includes the local and diaspora-led organizations, healthcare professionals, volunteers, and community leaders working tirelessly on the ground, often under dangerous and challenging conditions, to provide essential aid, medical care, shelter, and guidance to those affected by the conflict.

Their work — whether through hospitals, community-based initiatives, emergency shelters, or advocacy — exemplifies the strength, solidarity, and determination of Sudanese communities. SDN is proud to stand alongside these efforts, amplifying their impact and sharing their stories, as they embody the true spirit of support for Sudan in the face of adversity.