



ANNUAL REPORT 2022

My Visits to the Projects in 2022

Every year, if possible, I try to visit all eight centres in our project countries. Unfortunately, last year it was not possible to travel to **Ethiopia** because of the civil war. The visit to **India** however went well. We had to re-register Operation Rescue in Kolkata and going through all those bureaucratic hurdles was new to me. The centre has a new leader in Abhisek, and it was nice to see the team talking daily about Operation Rescue's values and future aspirations to encourage them to face the challenges ahead. Our main focus in Kolkata is still to enable our children to go to school by financing their education and providing them with the necessary materials and uniforms.

My first visit to Nagaland in East India was moving and impressive. There is a new children's centre in a slum there. The population and culture is closer to Asia than in most of India, and mainly Christian. The environment is harsh and the hygiene conditions are poor. Hygiene and living conditions in the entire slum need to improve, and we are committed to this. Together with the residents we were able to improve the area and do some clearing up and cleaning, which was very necessary. We were able to remove roughly ten trucks full of rubbish and dirt.

It was important to me to get to know the team, the board and the families. We were able to clarify many questions, make important decisions and formulate an annual plan. Next we want to buy our rented premises or get a piece of land of our own from the government.

The focus in Patos in **Brazil** this year was to take another step forward with literacy training with the team so that the children acquire a firm basis for their school education. Many children, especially the older ones, need

to greatly improve their reading skills in order to be able to lay a good foundation for their future lives. In Patos, the new garden project in the centre is particularly pleasing, as the children and their parents learn to produce and grow vegetables and salad for their families. Fortunately, we were able to fill vacancies on the board and realign ourselves as a body. In addition, the new bus that we bought last year is now bringing children from the outskirts to the centre. In Americana near São Paulo, after barely a year of activity, we are looking for a plot of land for our own centre because our rented premises are bursting at the seams. We hope to get the land we need from the government.

Our new project has also got off to a good start in **Mozambique** and we already own a piece of land, even if the registration has not yet gone through with all the authorities. During my visit, we were able to meet officials from different levels of government and plan the construction of the new centre. There, too, it was encouraging to be able to develop a vision with the team and to share out responsibilities.

It has been an amazing year with new beginnings in many areas and with a number of challenges, above all bureaucratic hurdles. We have to overcome these in order to be able to work legally everywhere. How much we can do ourselves depends very much on the location. Where there is a need for accountants and lawyers, it is always expensive. The planning of the new centres also requires local experts which is always a challenge. I would like to thank our supporters, who are accompanying us on this exciting path and tackling challenges together with us.

I believe that growth is important and I trust that God is showing us where there is need and how we can best alleviate that need. Difficult situations that we encounter always start me wondering if we can do more. Thank you, dear donors, for your help which enables us to continue to grow. God bless you, your families and everything you do.



Marciano Teixeira
Founder and CEO of Operation Rescue

The Year 2022 - a Year Full of Gratitude

I look back on the past year with gratitude and awe. What a privilege to be able to do this work among the less fortunate.

I am full of gratitude that ORE has been able to continue supporting all its existing projects, i.e. almost 1300 children and their families. This also means that all of these children received one hot meal per day. They were also enabled to play, laugh, jump around and be children, despite their poverty. They were also able to go to school if it was open at all, which unfortunately was not the case in Ethiopia these past two years.

Full of gratitude, I look at Americana, a town in the south of São Paulo, where another ORE project was able to open up to children from the neighboring favela. Also to Mozambique, Quelimane, where we were able to take on a project in the midst of miserable conditions

in 2022. The project has already developed and grown well.

I look at Nagaland, where Alem, our former Kolkata project manager, has created a new project among disadvantaged families. Altogether there are now almost 1300 children and their families who are provided with the essentials by Operation Rescue. What a miracle!

In Tigray, north-eastern Ethiopia, a two-year civil war came to an end last November. Two years without internet, two years without electricity, no phone, very little food and much suffering. Most of the people in Tigray are very emaciated and yet they kept fighting and working. Our staff there have tirelessly distributed food and medicine, visited our families and encouraged them through all the suffering. Amid the difficult stories that have unfolded in their own lives, they have also been there for others. What amazing people, what wonderful employees we are privileged to work with. They didn't give up and are heroes to me! It is a great privilege to know all these people and to see them enable at least a few hundred children and their families to have a better life together.

In the summer I spent four weeks in Patos in Brazil where we had lived as a family for a total of seven years. Unspeaking heat, almost no rain and a high level of poverty are just a few of the challenges in everyday life. But you also meet an incredible number of strong people who are fighting for survival and are always looking for a new way to earn money to live a better life. Gratitude floods my heart to know that we also have friends there and local workers who pass on the love of God to these children from neglected families: employees with a lot of patience, who always explain and enforce the same rules, employees who do handicrafts, tell stories, encourage and invest their time in these kids. What heroes in this heat - they live, they love, they laugh and celebrate festivals as they arise. I can learn so much from my employees.

Full of gratitude, I look at the accounts for the past year. So many people who have chosen to give. My heart becomes calm and grateful for so much goodness and mercy!

How grateful I am to be able to be a small part of this whole!

Christina Teixeira

Founder of Operation Rescue



Greatest Progress in Our Projects

Mozambique- Operation Rescue Makes a Difference

I have been in Mozambique since 2008 when we started work rescuing children who had been through sexual abuse and other devastating experiences. The work was always challenging because there was little money and food available. Under the trees we ran activities and games and introduced the children to local handicrafts. It was like that for many years.

Everything has changed since our partnership with Operation Rescue which has been responsible for the children's aid project in the village of Namacata since the end of 2021. The lives of the 430 children attending the project have improved many times over since then. Today we regularly offer hot meals under our shelter. Many children are orphans and need our support to go to school. They receive school materials, uniforms and homework help from us. We also offer leisure activities and sewing courses. The car that we were able to purchase also improved the precarious transport situation, making our team's work much easier.

Operation Rescue passes on God's love and dignity to these people. For me, who started this work, it is extraordinary to see how a centre for children is being built in the middle of a village - nobody here expected it.

Dalida Ruiz

Head of Operation Rescue Mozambique



Ethiopia - Emergency Aid Projects during the War

Thanks to the help of our donors on the one hand and the partnerships, some of which have been in place for many years, on the other, numerous emergency aid projects were able to be implemented in Tigray during the second year of the war. These were necessary because there was a lack of everything in terms of infrastructure, food and medical care:

- Provision of basic foodstuffs in refugee camps. Many children received medicated formula food because of malnutrition
- Provision of health services in refugee camps
- Medical examination of 398 children by five doctors; almost half of the children required further examinations and medication provided by Operation Rescue
- Medical treatment of 869 people to prevent conjunctivitis
- Psychological and social support for refugees
- Education in refugee camps
- Meals for people in refugee camps
- Providing clean water and washing facilities for refugees
- Activities to empower women who had suffered violence or lost their partners
- Financial support for particularly needy people
- Financial support for the families of our nearly 600 children.

The activities in our centres had to be temporarily suspended, but during this time we supported our children's families with food or financially.



Brazil

Growth and New Activities for More Sustainability

The project in Brazil has become bigger and more diverse in the last year. These new, creative ideas arose from the challenge that many of our children now attend school full-time and can no longer spend half a day with us. In order to continue to serve the community, adjustments were needed. With the newly purchased former bus, children in even poorer outskirts can be picked up for our activities. The bus will be parked on a newly acquired plot of land and another new plot will be growing lots of vegetables as part of an educational campaign for families who can then grow their own vegetables at home.

The kitchen from the early days of the centre was rebuilt and adapted to today's higher demand. A house was bought just down the road, which now houses the sewing machines for a wide variety of courses. These courses are part of the relatively new vocational training project "Jovem Pro", which is constantly growing and in higher demand. Partnerships and financed cooperation enable more and more young people to obtain school and training qualifications and thus access to the world of work.

The team never runs out of ideas and the centre is increasingly becoming a pulsating focal point in the quarter, having a lasting impact on many lives and developing the area visibly and sustainably.



From Our Project Managers

Ethiopia - With New Hope into the Year 2023

The end of 2022 brought a sign of hope for a better future after two years of war and major crisis in Tigray. The conflict, the pandemic and a drought have resulted in Operation Rescue Ethiopia's humanitarian efforts focusing heavily on emergency relief. We care for far more than our 700 orphans and extremely poor children in the cities of Mekelle, Adigrat and Adwa. Other vulnerable children and their needy relatives have also become part of our projects.

With the siege and total blockade of humanitarian aid, our work was severely restricted with little access to cash, communications, medicines, electricity and so on.

Despite these problems Operation Rescue staff reached all of our children, many internally displaced persons, and the target groups of various humanitarian development cooperation programs with cash and food. After the signing of the peace agreement in the last quarter of 2022, a new chapter of hope began for all of us.

2022 was a year in which we experienced God's mighty intervention, protection, and miracles over His people.

Finally, on behalf of the children and employees of our organization, I would like to thank all our partners for their generous support, which makes our work possible. We look forward to the coming year with hope for a brighter future and with even more strong partnerships. GOOD DAYS ARE AHEAD!

Getachew Tesfay

Head of Operation Rescue Ethiopia



Brazil - Americana: The New Operation Rescue Family Is Growing

Of all the phrases that define Operation Rescue in Americana, what struck me the most was that of an 11-year-old refugee from Venezuela: "Aunty, Operation Rescue is like family, isn't it? Everyone is different and lives in different houses, but when we are here we are like family". We asked the children how they define family and got answers such as: Family is affection, love, families take care of the children when we are sick, protect the children and are patient. Family is like Operation Rescue - there is the Aunty (the manager) who is like the mother and the Uncles who take care of the children.

Operation Rescue aims to give our children and young people hope and courage, to support them to learn and grow and to make them believe that dreams can come true. However, since opening our centre we have known that love is the key to everything. Pure and true love is capable of effecting change. It is able to turn uncertainty into confidence, doubt into perseverance, fear into courage, and lack of confidence into boldness. We have already seen how children who previously did not get on in school saw that it is possible to learn; how aggressive children began to find other ways to deal with their anger; how insecure and frightened children who didn't feel they belonged anywhere began to find a home in our centre.

When our centre opened in May 2022, a good 20 children visited us every day. By the end of the year there were already 40 children and some are on the waiting list. In order to take in more, we are now looking for larger premises. Our main goal for the current year is that we remain a family despite the growth. We are aiming for a place of welcome, of listening, of caring: a place where wounds and injuries are cared for, a place of support, encouragement, patience and above all love.

Rachel Mendes

Head of Operation Rescue Americana



India - Successful Start of the Centre in Nagaland

Last year we successfully registered the new project Operation Rescue with the government of Nagaland. With the new centre for currently 105 children, we are pursuing the goal of improving the living conditions of extremely poor and underprivileged children and the children of single parents. We create the necessary conditions to promote their education, and physical, mental and spiritual development.

The academic achievements of our children have already demonstrated success: all but one child has progressed to the next class and two children achieved the best results in their age group in the final examinations. The parents of the children who come to our centre are grateful to the Operation Rescue Nagaland team for their great dedication in supporting their children. We were particularly pleased to hear from a father who thanks Operation Rescue for the help and love the staff give to the children. We are overwhelmed by the trust and commitment shown to us by the local population. Above all, we are grateful for the support that you as donors give us. We continue to hope for your prayers and support so that we can give all these disadvantaged children a good future.

Alem Kichu

Head of Operation Rescue Nagaland



Volunteering – Maybe Something for You?

In November 2022 we worked as volunteers in Patos for three weeks. Even if it was a short time, it had a big impact on us. Since we could hardly understand each other at the beginning, the start was a bit bumpy. However, the team and the children were very patient and so we learned quickly. We spent a lot of time with the children, played with them and taught some of the children a little bit about the English language. This required a lot of personal initiative and the contribution of personal resources. The children had many questions for us, especially about life in Switzerland. During our time in Patos we were able to get to know a culture that was new to us, and to deal with living conditions that were foreign to us. A visit to the families most in need, who are affected by absolute poverty, made us realize what it is like in many places on our planet. We have seen what it means for people to live in poverty. The need for support with essential resources such as clothing and food is a central point in enabling families to lead a decent life.



Despite everything, we were impressed by how cheerful people are. The Brazilian joie de vivre and their open, cordial nature were always noticeable. We were so enthusiastic about the project and the organization that we visited another project in São Paulo on our subsequent trip through Brazil. It was exciting to see how differently the two centres work and yet how they still have certain things in common.

Anyone who is interested in social issues, appreciates working with children and would like to get to know a new culture would be well served with a volunteer assignment in Brazil. The apartment for the volunteers is also well equipped and the rooms are spacious. We lacked for nothing, we felt very comfortable and safe. The roof terrace with a view of the surrounding mountains and the neighborhood was a special highlight for us.

In hindsight we would have liked to have stayed longer and would recommend a stay of several months to be able to contribute more deeply. Nevertheless, we wouldn't have wanted to miss out on our short, intensive and enriching time in Brazil. Brazil definitely has a place in our hearts.

Sandra & Sarah

In 2022, I did a three-month volunteer outreach in Patos. I wanted to do something for God and was excited to see what He had in store for me. I helped look after children in the day centre for children between the ages of four and eleven, played a lot with them, supported the teachers in their lessons and helped with their homework. I was able to improve my Portuguese language skills; the children understood me quickly and helped me learn better Portuguese. I felt safe in the staff apartment in the day care centre. I attended a church in the neighbouring district and the pastor always picked me up by car. People were very friendly, helpful and included me in their community. It was enriching to get to know a new country and a different culture. During this time I was able to deepen my relationship with God and experience his help again and again. Many people in Brazil live in great poverty. I realized what a privilege it is to be able to live in Switzerland. I will remember the time in Brazil as a very nice, not always easy, but instructive and valuable time.

Marc



If you are interested in an outreach, please contact us. Outreaches are also possible in the other countries where we operate.

OPERATION RESCUE UK & IRELAND

2022 was once more an incredibly challenging year for ORE staff, children and families as the war continued right through to November 2022. We as Trustees found it a very anxious and difficult time as communication via the internet and telephone was not possible. It was through the medium of the platform Telegram that we maintained contact with Getachew, listening intently to every short message, aware that he was only able to communicate as and when he could go to a UN office where there was internet access.

This communication with ORE during the year enabled us to see the amazing work still being done by project staff in circumstances which were deeply traumatic, especially during the period when drones were being used to drop bombs and there were many casualties in Mekelle. We also had deep anxiety about what was happening in Adwa and Adigrat as there was no communication at all with them, but again we look back and are deeply thankful that, all three project centres were not damaged, and the staff and children protected apart from a small number caught up in the fighting.

As Trustees we met on several occasions to pray together, and we sent out updates to donors to encourage them to bring ORE needs to God.

It was with deep thankfulness to God that we learned of a peace agreement made between the Federal Government and the Tigray authorities in early November in South Africa. This was greeted by all at ORE with much relief but at the end of 2022 it was clear that much remained to be done to enable anything approaching normal life to be resumed. Schools were still closed as were the banks with infrastructure badly compromised.

ORE supporters in UK and Ireland have never wavered in their support and during 2022 money continued to flow into our account although we made no specific appeal for funds. We are fortunate to have several churches here in Northern Ireland and in England who retain very close links with ORE, maintained in most cases through individual trustees.

As an organisation we faced a real challenge in that our banking provider for many years closed the type of account we had been using and it took an incredible 6 months for us to find an alternative. This very trying experience was a learning experience as we trusted God for a positive outcome but was also a reminder of the low priority given to charities by banking institutions.

2022 was another year with no opportunity for Trustees to visit the project but in early 2023 two trustees made the journey to Mekelle and brought us back first-hand reports which were so welcome.

We continue to entrust all at ORE into God's loving care and protection, looking forward to more opportunities to meet with staff and children to praise and honour our Heavenly Father and to see progress resumed on the building of a new centre for Adwa and work on a completely new project centre at Maichew which is very close to our hearts.



Operation Rescue. [UK & Ireland]

Account for year ended 31st December 2022

Receipts

| | |
|----------------------|--------------|
| Opening Bank Balance | 82.072 - 61 |
| Donations: | 40.689 - 00 |
| Gift Aid | 8455 - 88 |
| Bank Interest | 90 - 54 |
| | 131.308 - 03 |

Expenditure

- **Electronic Transfers**

| | | |
|---|-----------|-----------|
| 08/06/22 | 10.000-00 | |
| 14/07/22 | 20.000-00 | |
| 14/10/22 | 20.000-00 | |
| Payment in lieu of personal donation | 2000-00 | |
| | | |
| • Bank charges for electronic transfers | 40.00 | |
| • Danske Bank charges | 8.75 | 52.048.75 |

Balance as on 31st December 2022 79.259.28

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I have examined the books and documents presented and certify that this account is in accordance therewith.

Signed: David Browne

Date: 23/02.23