

2023 Annual Report

# **Together for Peace: Interrupting Cycles of Violence**



## Dear Friend,

As I reflect on the past year, I am humbled by your unwavering support that energizes our mission at NP. Despite the persistent challenges, your dedication has propelled us forward in interrupting cycles of violence and advocating for transformative change.

At NP, we lean into nonviolence and peace in response to the world's conflicts. Through Unarmed Civilian Protection, we focus on inclusion, building trust, and encouraging relationships. Your support helps us make a tangible difference in the communities we serve, resisting the forces that drive despair.

Throughout 2023, NP remained committed to protecting communities facing imminent threats of violence. In Qayyarah, Iraq, our team accompanied girls to school and supported women leaders as they advocated for safety. In the U.S., NP facilitated safety at community events and trained our partners to now do the same. In North Darfur, Sudan, Women Protection Teams keep people alive amidst civil war. Together with our partners, we connected communities in conflict with the vital resources they need to stay safe.

This year also marked 20 years since our first program in Sri Lanka. Over two decades, we've seen the profound impact of our collective efforts, witnessing communities emerge from conflict and nurture the seeds of peace.

While challenges like digital threats, climate change, and critical election junctures remain, your continued support keeps us resolute in advancing our mission.

As we look ahead, I am inspired and energized by the opportunities for change that emerge during major transitions. Together, we can create a world where violence is not inevitable, where communities shape their own destinies, and where peace reigns supreme. Thank you for your unwavering support in 2023. Together, we are making peace possible.

With heartfelt gratitude,

**TIFFANY EASTHOM**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, NONVIOLENT PEACEFORCE





## INTERRUPTING CYCLES OF VIOLENCE

**Breaking cycles of violence is challenging: families expect revenge, rumors spark pre-emptive attacks, and impunity perpetuates sexual and gender-based violence.**

Fayza (name changed), a member of the Women's Peace Teams in Zummar, Iraq, is a powerful example of direct intervention. After participating in NP trainings, she felt empowered to prevent her daughter's forced marriage and address gender-based violence in her family. "NP made me feel I am the person who has a say and can decide for my family. I want my daughter to see if I can be strong; she can too." When Fayza's husband beat their daughter, Fayza intervened using nonviolent conflict resolution skills she learned from NP. "If I never changed and believed in myself, my daughter would have been murdered in front of my eyes, and I wouldn't have been able to do anything about it."

In Iraq, NP and Community Peace Teams, comprising youth and women like Fayza, patrol, provide protective presence, and accompany those at increased risk of violence. Their work is both responsive to current violence, and proactively builds peace: women now feel more confident and secure standing up for their rights and accessing support services.

"Protective presence and accompaniment have significantly increased women's safety," one woman shared. "Perpetrators are becoming reluctant to commit violence because of the voluntary peace teams connecting victims with organizations, security agencies, and community forums," a Community Peace Team member from Qayyarah added.

**Breaking cycles of violence requires not just immediate intervention but also long-term support for local peacebuilding.**

The people of Basilan are on a challenging decades-long journey toward peace, amidst persistent violence from insurgency groups, clan conflicts, and gender-based violence. Despite this, a group of Gender Peace Champions has emerged, dedicated to fostering a more inclusive and nurturing community environment by ensuring the active participation of women in peace processes.

"Since working with NP, we've realized our rights as women. In the past, we were disregarded—men made all the decisions. We didn't know we had rights too," shared Mardiya Amlain, one of the Gender Peace Champions.

Mardiya and the other Champions are now better equipped with Unarmed Civilian Protection skills, from early warning and early response to conflict resolution. They now share their knowledge within their communities, advocating for nonviolence and integrating gender equality with their own traditional practices.

Active participation of women, including former combatants, is critical in peacebuilding efforts as they often bear the brunt of conflicts and face exclusion from decision-making. These champions inspire a future where human rights, peace, and equality prevail.





In Juba IDP camp, South Sudan, tensions ran high among police, camp leaders, and groups of youth self-described as gangs.

NP staff built trust with gang-involved youth by consistently showing up at a local tea shop, listening to their concerns, and engaging in everyday activities like football matches. Over time, these interactions led to deeper dialogues about the root causes of gang violence, conflict mediation, gender-based violence prevention, positive masculinities, and child protection.

This trust-building paved the way for NP-mediated dialogues between gangs, community leaders, and police. Today, the dynamics have transformed: gangs participate in community activities, and the police allow them to exit the camp through checkpoints.

“The gangs and the community became friends. People play football together, they unite themselves. We eat together. We share things together,” shared Christian, leader of one of the gangs.



Youth Protection Teams Soccer Match. Juba IDP Camp, South Sudan, Oct. 2022. ©NP

## CONNECTING ACROSS BOUNDARIES

*Reflections from Abit M., NP Protection Officer in Iraq*

“I have been working in Mosul since 2017, facing numerous challenges with ISIS. I remember helping families forced to leave their homes and possessions, often encountering 13-year-olds with firearms. Decades earlier, my own childhood was marked by violence; I also carried a firearm as a child.

When I joined NP, the mission to bring peace to my community and the world deeply resonated with me. I began working with NP, engaging with diverse communities divided by families and tribes. **The “instinct” of violence and revenge from my childhood shifted to a belief in peace.**

Iraq is very diverse country and getting all these people together is always great work, but our close-knit community work, not just a distant representation, changed many minds. Through collaboration with my team and Community Peace Teams, we fostered humanity and unity.

Experiencing both violence and peace, I now passionately convey this message to others. My community has embraced me as I promote peace, having shed the hate and violence that once filled my heart. At 40, I reflect on the past 5 ½ years since my transformation—they represent my entire life. The violence of my youth no longer defines me; instead, I draw on it as experience. We have worked to end family wars, and though it’s difficult to speak about my past, I share my story with gratitude.



“Men from both sides of the armed conflict were laughing, sharing and cooperating with one another, ready to learn how to bring a gender lens to their work.

Carmen Lauzon-Gatmaytan, Philippines

**320**

activities were conducted by NP in the Philippines this past year to build the peace capacity of Joint Peace and Security Teams. These teams are made of Philippine security personnel and former non-state armed actors. Training and activity topics included how to run joint monitoring patrols, responding to conflict over land, and leading civilian evacuations.

Joint Peace and Security Team members praying. 2022. ©NP



## REACHING COMMUNITIES IN PARTNERSHIP



Mon Yuck Yu, Raising Health (left) and Qaaree McDaniel, NP (right). New York, U.S., Sept 2023. ©NP

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individuals like Anna were engaged through 43 trainings on community safety in NYC. Through our work with individuals and 28 partner organizations, NP is able to exponentially grow our work to interrupt cycles of violence.

"I've learned more about community safety in the past two years from NP than I have my whole life. ...being a part of this training really felt like ground zero for learning about what community safety truly means."

Anna Ye, Safety Lead for Think!Chinatown Nightmarket. Over the course of 2 years, Anna met with NP to understand and respond to safety needs of the market, where hundreds of community members shop, chat, and connect over meals. Initially, NP provided protective presence at the markets, but now Anna and her team confidently provide protective presence on their own.



Partner at inception workshop in Aceh, Dec 2022. ©Flower Aceh

614

survivor statements documented by our partner Kontras Aceh, surpassing their total for the past 5 years. This new collaboration has re-energized the truth and reconciliation process that started 18 years ago. By teaming up, our partnership has enabled faster, more efficient data gathering across more areas that are still healing from decades of armed conflict.

"We are not just talking about the past conflict, we are talking about the future."

A member of Kontras Aceh, part of the consortium of six partners collaborating with NP in Aceh, Indonesia. This consortium promotes a holistic approach to transitional justice.



791

sets of personal protective equipment (ballistic vests and helmets) were lent to volunteers representing 41 partner organizations working in frontline Oblasts. NP works with dozens of local partners to increase access to fuel and stipends, volunteer insurance, mental health support, and protection-focused sub-grants.

Five

Oblasts (provinces) are covered by active NP programming—Odesa, Mykolaiv, Donetsk, Kherson, and Kharkiv—3 of which are along frontline areas.

Local organizations are at the forefront of humanitarian responses, but they need protection. In frontline areas, high-quality protective gear is essential but often unaffordable for local volunteers. To ensure the safety of these volunteers and first responders, NP has provided vital protection kits, including flak jackets and helmets. This program helps volunteers operate safely and continue their critical missions, such as accompanying people during evacuations and distributing food and medicine in hard-to-reach places.



Igor, a volunteer, shared, "The bulletproof vest saved my life," recounting a time he protected another volunteer from harm during shelling.

By expanding this program and advocating for its adoption by others, NP aims to further safeguard volunteers and enhance humanitarian efforts.

NP partners, the Ukrainian Red Cross, in NP-sharing program flak jackets. 2023. ©NP. Above: A volunteer from one of our partners, Henadaii, survived a rocket shelling while evacuating families because of his NP vest. Kherson, May 2023. ©Henadaii





## ADVOCATING FOR PEACE

In response to the outbreak of civil war in Sudan in 2023, local community groups like Women Protection Teams (WPTs), supported by NP, have emerged as frontline responders in North Darfur. These teams consist of trained Sudanese women who identify and address protection risks faced by their communities.

“We provide survivor-focused support and connect community members to follow-up services, although this is extremely challenging at the moment,” explained Ishrava, a WPT member.

“We can reach out to all people, and people know where to find us 24/7.”

Ishrava, Women Protection Team member, Sudan

The WPTs implement simple, yet highly effective, approaches to prevent violence, such as sharing early warnings across the community about where clashes are escalating. Daily communal violence also continues during civil war and the WPTs facilitate local conflict resolutions. For example, when a young woman was accused of a deliberate miscarriage, it led to her and her mother's arrest. But the local Women Protection Team successfully advocated with the local administration and police to look at the facts in more detail, leading to the release of both the young woman and her mother.

WPT members across North Darfur work alongside NP on community protection—from sexual and gender-based violence prevention and reuniting families separated by the civil war. By the end of 2023, there were five WPTs, more than 120 women total, each keeping people safe in their homes, and on the frontlines of civil war.

Women Protection Team member at a rally during the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence. North Darfur, Sudan, Dec. 2023. ©NP

The work of Women Protection Teams is not limited to Sudan. Community teams are advocating for their families and neighbors around the world.

259

Community Peace and Safety Team members in 18 teams active across Iraq

1,007

Early Warning, Early Response monitors in the Philippines

123

community-based protection teams active across South Sudan.



We collaborate closely with local partners in Aceh, Indonesia, to advance women's rights. Women rights defenders face formidable challenges, that range from funding constraints to death threats. Before teaming up with NP, the defenders had limited capacity to mobilize effectively. For example, many defenders, some ex-combatants, are grappling with poverty and could only engage in grassroots advocacy efforts locally due to financial barriers to transportation and accommodation.

With NP's support, these dynamics have transformed. NP now covers transportation and accommodation costs, meaning women rights defenders can more easily and safely reach those they serve and collaborate across communities. This initiative not only amplifies the defenders' voices in promoting gender equality and peacebuilding, but importantly, the information gathered from across larger numbers of women equips the defenders to advocate more effectively at the government level. This dual approach empowers defenders to advocate for themselves within their communities, access existing services, and influence policymaking for a safer and more inclusive Aceh.

Strategic planning meeting with partners. Aceh, Indonesia, Feb. 2023. ©Flower Aceh



Severe flooding in South Sudan, exacerbated by the climate crisis, cut off NP's regular visits to the Women Protection Team in Tong. NP had been working with the group of women in the remote area for years to address increasing violent conflict, child protection issues, and sexual and gender-based violence.

When the NP team finally was able to return to the area, now only accessible by a 2-hour canoe journey, they found that the team had not only sustained their activities but also adapted to the new challenges posed by the floods. The women were conducting child protection awareness sessions, highlighting the dangers of children playing in flooded areas. They also continued to address gender-based violence risks exacerbated by displacement and the need for long journeys to collect firewood, now made even more dangerous by needing to wade through unhealthy water.

Despite the lack of frequent NP visits, the team in Tong demonstrated their capacity to support their community, showing resilience and adaptability by relying on both their traditional wisdom and NP's training for keeping one another safe. They have continued to be leaders in their community, increasing awareness of women's protection and encouraging safer practices.

**“ Since the formation of the Women Protection Team in Tong, we the members became closer to each other and started working together in doing awareness on protection and dissemination of peace messages in our community.**

**Women Protection Team member,  
Tong, South Sudan**



## ADAPTING TRADITIONAL WISDOM TO MODERN CHALLENGES

As communities face both climate challenges like flooding and digital threats such as online exploitation, adapting traditional wisdom is increasingly essential for modern resilience. Youth especially, steeped in their communal traditions and with a front seat to the changing world, are applying what they know to be effective in reducing the biggest threats to their community's safety.



In the Philippines, youth organizations lead workshops on digital citizenship—navigating the internet safely and responsibly—to combat online sexual exploitation. These sessions educate communities about cyber safety. With support from NP and local partners, one session alone reached over 60 participants, teaching them how to protect themselves online and reduce risks for vulnerable populations.

Nash Dunding, a youth leader, emphasizes the importance of youth in bridging the technological, age, and gender gaps: “We must be part of the solution, and to be part of the solution, we need to find where we are in the process.”



In Iraq, Nejma, a 17-year-old girl, and Nabba (names changed), a 22-year-old college student, had been blackmailed online. It is increasingly common that photos are doctored to show women and girls in compromising situations with men. But after they both attended NP's training on conflict transformation, they realized they had the ability to report their cases.

Nejma shares, “Trusting NP to support me through the reporting process was key. Now my case is resolved, and I live in safety. I avoid fake accounts and raise awareness about online blackmailing for women and girls in my community.”



## LOCAL VOICES, GLOBAL ADVOCACY: A PARADIGM SHIFT TOWARD NONVIOLENCE

Amidst diminishing peacebuilding resources worldwide and global conflicts that are increasingly more deadly for civilians, grassroots efforts are reshaping humanitarian responses and challenging conventional aid paradigms—from the frontlines in Ukraine to the heart of South Sudan.

Ukrainian local organizations stand resilient on the frontlines, delivering vital aid and protection despite significant challenges in accessing resources. However, as efforts to localize often put more burden and increase risks for local volunteers, NP plays a crucial role in bridging the gap between these organizations and international humanitarian resources—prioritizing local leadership while ensuring their safety.

NP's Bella Khanameryan reminds us: "Each of us is a human, a personality. Only after that are we a procurement officer or a protection officer."

One way NP highlighted this was by co-creating a forum event with local groups and the Odesa City Council to address the disconnect between local needs and international aid. The forum provided a platform for open discussions, capacity-building sessions, and networking opportunities, strengthening relationships between local volunteers, authorities, and donors. Initiatives like this make it easier for local communities to take leadership in their own protection and action, safeguarding more people amidst the ongoing war.

In October 2023, NP hosted an International Gathering on Unarmed Civilian Protection in Geneva. This event is part of an ongoing effort to document and share effective UCP practices and to bring together practitioners, policymakers, and researchers to enhance community-centered, nonviolent protection strategies. 84 UCP organizations were represented. The participants were fortunate to hear from South Sudanese grassroots leader Mary Nyachat Chuol who traveled to Geneva to share her extensive experiences keeping her community safe and to learn from practitioners from all over the world.

“Let us embark on this journey together.

Mary Nyachat Chuol,  
Women Protection Team  
member, South Sudan

"While in Geneva, I had an eye-opening revelation: South Sudan is not alone in facing challenges. It dawned on me that people all over the world are struggling with their own set of problems. This realization ignited a fire within me to focus on our younger generation, to instill in them the power of positive ideas that can transform their perception of violence and conflict," reflected Mary. "Let us embark on this journey together, fueled by passion and determination, as we work to create a world where conflicts are resolved through understanding, compassion, and cooperation."

While it may seem like Bella's and Mary's work in Ukraine and South Sudan are worlds apart, they both embody what courage, resilience and dedication look like in the face of some of the hardest challenges one can experience. Over the years, NP has learned through experience that the most impactful thing we can do is work to enable local efforts for peace and security, doing everything from directly protecting activists to skill-building to amplifying the voices of those who are most impacted by violence. Aid is a bandaid to a wound that has already happened, Unarmed Civilian Protection is the pathway to a permanent change—to shifting us all away from competition and distrust towards collaboration and peaceful co-existence.





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## Fiscal Year 2023 - GLOBAL

### STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

#### Non-Current Assets

Plant, property and equipment	\$89,873
Fixed operating assets right-of-use	\$640,765
Accounts receivable long term	\$599,200
<b>Total Non-current Assets</b>	<b>\$1,329,839</b>

#### Current Assets

Cash and cash equivalents	\$4,343,474
Grants and donations receivable	\$14,026,730
Other amounts receivable	\$63,376
Deposits and prepayments	\$305,337
Investments	\$901,249
Deferred charges and accrued income	\$56,338
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>\$19,696,503</b>

#### Liabilities

Accounts payable	\$1,005,915
Deferred income	\$15,622,212
Payroll liabilities	\$1,232,354
Accrued charges	\$187,285
Loans and lease agreements	\$642,797
Provisions and other payables	\$2,638
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>\$18,693,201</b>

<b>Net current assets</b>	<b>\$1,003,302</b>
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<b>Total net assets</b>	<b>\$2,333,141</b>
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Equity capital	\$46,222
Cumulative unrestricted reserves	\$1,771,146
Cumulative restricted reserves	\$515,773
<b>Total capital and reserves</b>	<b>\$2,333,141</b>

### STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

#### Support and Revenue

Government and institutional	\$24,175,629
Corporations and foundations	\$653,155
Donations directed by individuals	\$2,290,209
Other income	\$162,100
Investments revaluation	\$101,585
Present value discount	(\$38,543)
<b>Total support and revenue</b>	<b>\$27,344,135</b>

#### Expenses

Staff costs	\$13,799,315
Direct program costs	\$4,896,694
Travel and transport	\$2,065,394
Professional services	\$1,842,865
Occupancy and other administrative costs	\$3,413,654
Finance and other net operating costs	\$1,251,574
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>\$27,269,497</b>
<b>Net surplus/deficit</b>	<b>\$74,638</b>

#### Other comprehensive income/(expenses)

Unrealized exchange	(\$4,705)
Reserves revaluation movements	\$33,084
<b>Total other comprehensive income/(expenses)</b>	<b>\$28,379</b>

<b>Total comprehensive income/expense</b>	<b>\$103,018</b>
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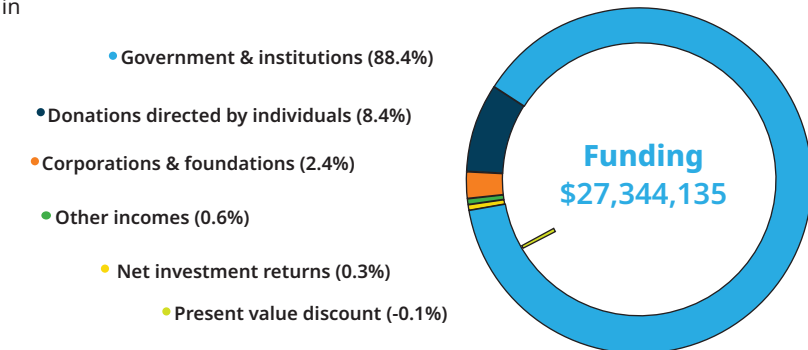
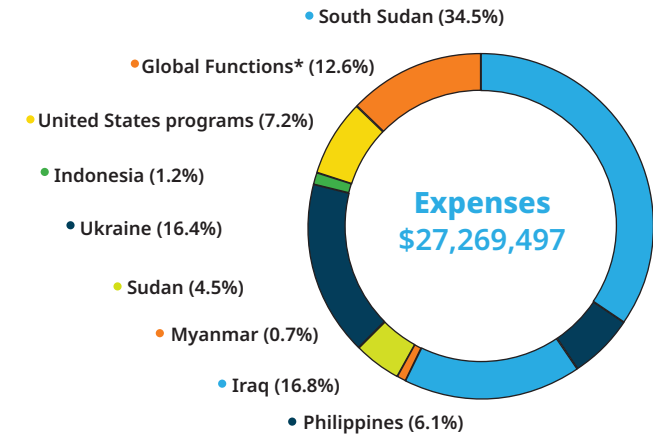
Returnees from Sudan headed toward Bentiu, Unity State, South Sudan, June 21, 2023. ©NP

### FINANCIALS

Nonviolent Peaceforce is an international nongovernmental organization with the following legal entities:

- U.S. (501c3)
- Switzerland (Swiss Foundation)
- Belgium (AISBL)
- France (Association de loi 1901)

The financial statements on this page and the previous represent the combined revenue and expenses to provide a full picture and scope of our work. We conduct annual external audits for each program site as well as the legal entities in compliance with local requirements.



\*Global Functions include NP Headquarters and NP US non-program costs.



## Fiscal Year 2023 - US

### STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

#### Assets

Cash and cash equivalents	\$774,909
Investments	\$901,249
Related party receivables	\$6,101
Grants and contributions receivable	\$1,300,379
Prepaid expenses	\$85,121
Equipment (less allowances for depreciation)	\$70,359
Right of use asset	\$640,765
Grant and contributions receivable, net of current portion and discount	\$560,657
Deposits	\$20,811
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>\$4,360,351</b>

#### Liabilities

Accounts payable	\$60,090
Accrued vacation and payroll liabilities	\$48,458
Operating lease liability	\$642,796
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>\$751,344</b>

#### Net Assets

Without donor restrictions	\$2,038,719
With donor restrictions	\$1,570,288
<b>Total net assets</b>	<b>\$3,609,007</b>

<b>Total liabilities and net assets</b>	<b>\$4,360,351</b>
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### STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

#### Support and Revenue

Individual contributions	\$1,314,835
Foundation and corporate grants and contributions	\$1,636,391
Government grants	\$624,723
Contracts	\$55,930
Return on investment, net	\$143,763
Other revenue	\$3,500
<b>Total support and revenue</b>	<b>\$3,779,142</b>

#### Expenses

Program Services	\$3,330,080
Management and General	\$208,482
Fundraising	\$548,795
<b>Total expenses:</b>	<b>\$3,087,357</b>
<b>Change in net assets:</b>	<b>\$(308,215)</b>

Net assets at beginning of year	\$3,917,222
<b>Net assets at end of year</b>	<b>\$3,609,007</b>

“

When we moved into the Hub for Nonviolence and Safety in North Minneapolis in November 2023, the dream was that the neighborhood would be safer. I'm proud to say that's exactly what we're doing, from hosting community get-togethers like barbeques or coffee Mondays to having really deep interventions with people. Nonviolence is the only force capable of turning an enemy into a friend. Don't just take it from me: community members are saying the community is becoming safer just by having the Hub's presence.

Will Wallace, Director of Community Peacebuilding,

“

One day, I woke up and decided I wanted people to care about me, so I started showing care to others, and that's how I came to NP. But the change is bigger than myself: I've heard nothing but impactful stories, people thanking us for being here at the Hub. What struck me was when someone told me '20 years ago I would've thought I would've have to kill you, because back in the day I saw you as a threat. And seeing you change your life, I'm inspired by that.' And that's just one of dozens of stories we hear. When someone who is so good at being bad turns their life around it makes the whole community safe, and that's what we are continuing to work for here.

Michael Powell, Community Peacebuilder,  
Minneapolis, U.S.

To bring life to our new Hub for Nonviolence and Safety, we worked with a local creative agency, Modern Day Me, on a vibrant mural. Minneapolis, US, 2023. ©NP





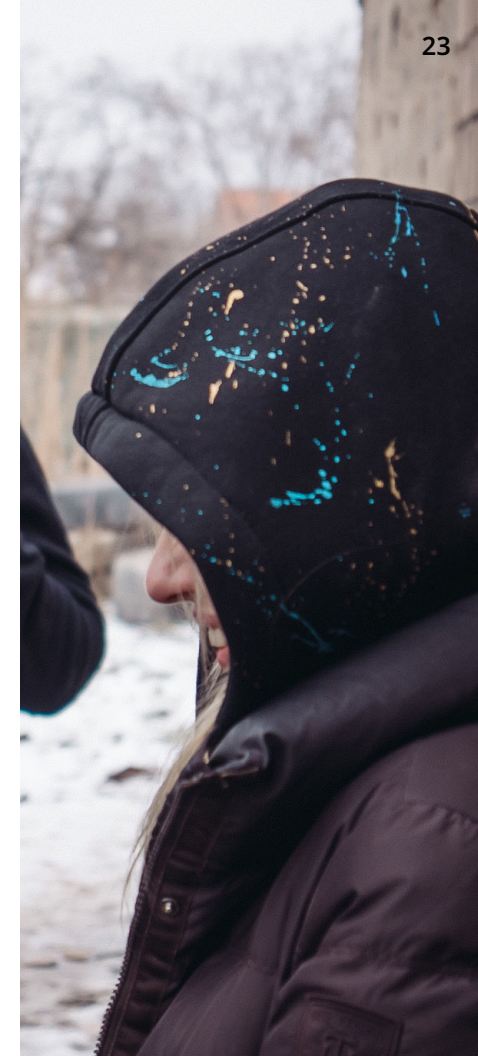
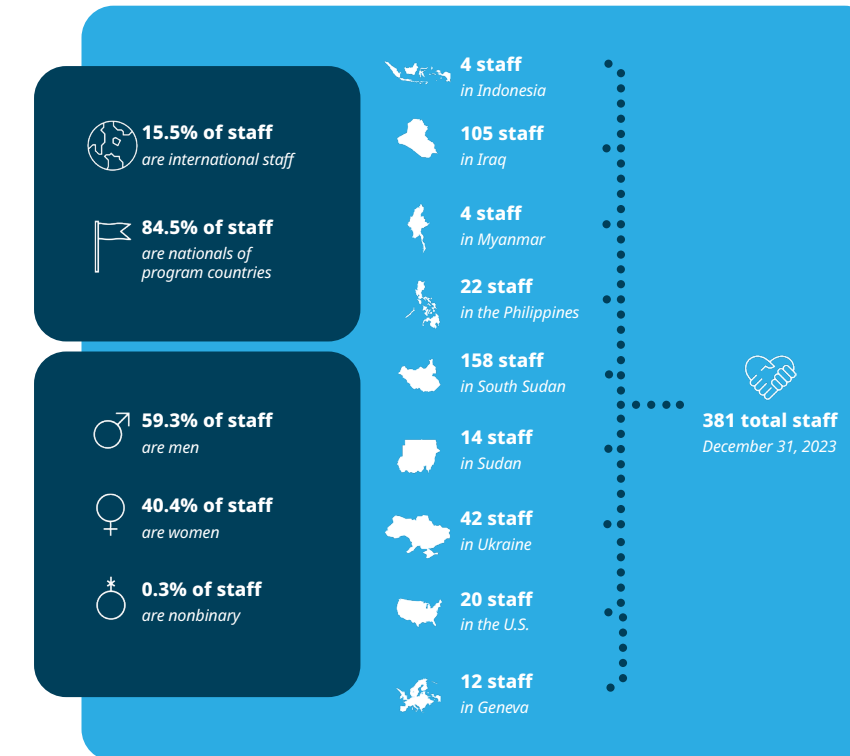
## Thank You for Your Support

Your donation helps protect civilians and transform the world's response to conflict.

The financial information covers a 12-month period (January 2023 - December 2023) for all activities implemented by Nonviolent Peaceforce. The yearly financial statements of NP legal entities are subject to audit. Audited financial statements are available at [nonviolentpeaceforce.org/financials](https://nonviolentpeaceforce.org/financials).

Together, with our entire community of supporters, you provide safety and stability to people living in violent conflict. To view our full list of donors, visit [nonviolentpeaceforce.org/annual-report](https://nonviolentpeaceforce.org/annual-report).

### STAFFING BY DEMOGRAPHICS & LOCATION







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## TRANSFORMING THE WORLD'S RESPONSE TO CONFLICT

*We protect civilians in violent conflicts through unarmed strategies. We build peace side by side with local communities. We advocate for the wider adoption of these approaches to safeguard human lives and dignity. We envision a worldwide culture of peace in which conflicts within and between communities and countries are managed through nonviolent means.*

[www.nonviolentpeaceforce.org](http://www.nonviolentpeaceforce.org)



## GET IN TOUCH WITH US!

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Cover: Women Protection Team member  
advocates for peace. December, 2023. ©NP