



Impact Assessment from the 2011  
drowning prevention programme

## Background

Africa has the highest continental drowning rate in the world.

In 2011 as part of a unique initiative to reduce the burden of drowning in Africa, Nile Swimmers trained vital water safety skills to fifteen Sudanese villagers living along the world's longest river.

The ten-day training program was designed to provide drowning prevention, swimming, water rescue and emergency first aid skills to participants.

The participants then returned home to pass on those skills and that knowledge to their local communities.



## Survey

To evaluate the success of the programme, the Sudanese Sea Scouts assisted with the delivery of a structured questionnaire to participants.

The survey was conducted via e-mail, and follow up telephone conversations, or face-to-face meetings.



# Funding

In 2011, the Nile Swimmers programme trained 15 Sudanese men for two weeks at a total cost of **£8000** (GBP) which consisted of:

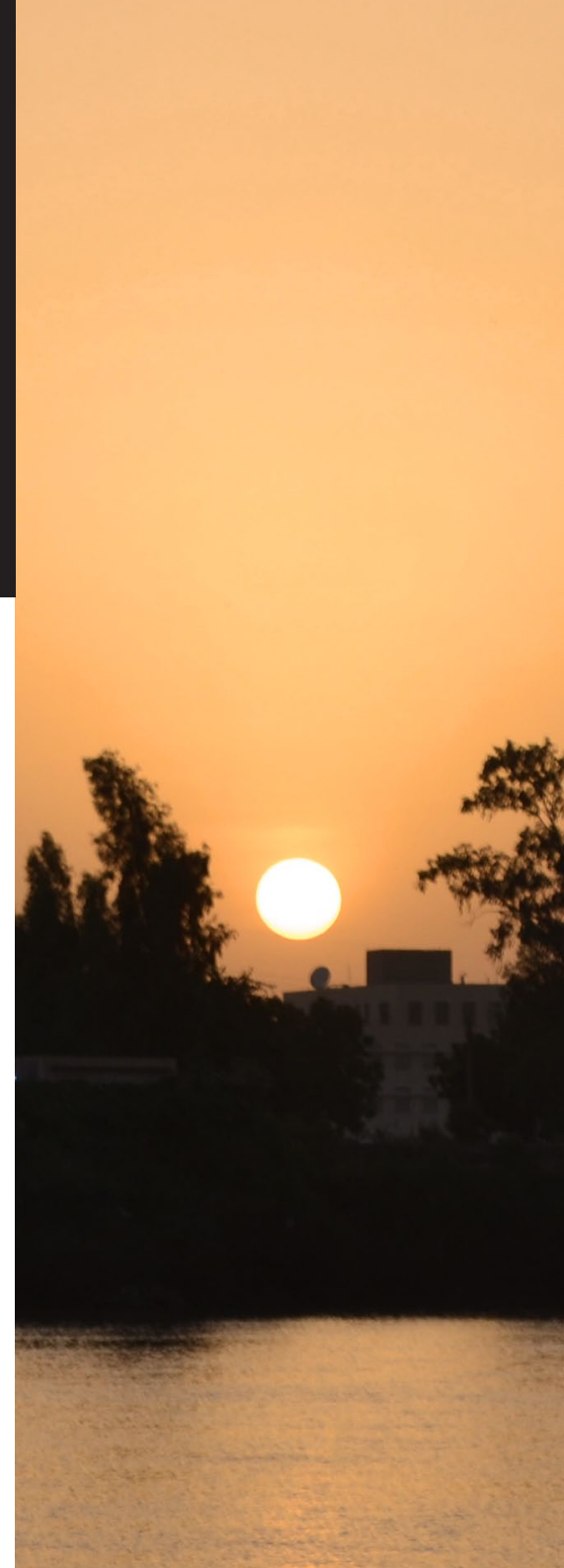
- 75% from external fund-raising in the UK
- 25% from in-kind donations in Sudan

Therefore it costs approximately **£533** (GBP) to train each person for two weeks. A breakdown of costings is available on request.

# Results

In the two years following their attendance on the Nile Swimmers training programme, graduates have had a direct impact upon drowning rates in Sudan by:

- Directly saving the lives of 5 people, 3 of them children, avoiding an economic loss.
- Delivering community water safety awareness and rescue training in over 25 villages across four different states in Sudan.
- Delivering rescue training to: swimming pool staff, swimming pool users, school students, Civil Defence staff, university students, scout groups, and local villages.
- 33% becoming employed as lifeguards, swimming teachers or professional rescuers.
- Improving water safety awareness in their communities:
  - 88% of Nile Swimmers graduates state that their communities are now more aware of the dangers of water as a direct result of training they have received.
  - We estimate that 600 people have been directly educated by Nile Swimmers graduates; indirectly benefiting at least 12 000 people.





# Challenges

The challenges Nile Swimmers have faced include:

- Lack of funding and resources
  - Despite logistical support from the Sudanese Sea Scouts the Nile Swimmers graduates felt that additional training resources and community education material would have improved their outcomes.
- Needing lots of permits from different authorities
  - Although the authorities were generally supportive of the work of Nile Swimmers, some local government departments were reluctant to engage with drowning prevention initiatives.
  - The Civil Defence has given written endorsement of Nile Swimmers in a Memorandum of Understanding signed in 2011.

# Recommendations for future projects



## Gender mainstreaming

Engage with women's networks and groups and advocate for the inclusion of women into drowning prevention initiatives. Work with the Sudanese Sea Scouts to run training camps for women. This will enable targeted programmes to be directly delivered to mothers and indirectly impact their young children.



## Production of more educational resources

Nile Swimmers are currently working in partnership with other leading international drowning prevention organisations to produce educational resources that are suitable for sustainable use in low-resource settings.



## Increase micro-funding

As part of future projects identify methods of providing start-up seed funding or capital, to enable Nile Swimmers graduates to deliver locally appropriate drowning prevention programmes in their local communities.



## Increased utilisation of the Sudanese Sea Scouts

Providing training, funding, and institutional support will increase the monitoring and evaluation capacity and capability of the Sudanese Sea Scout network – to target specific communities and develop appropriately targeted drowning prevention programmes.

## Quotes from Nile Swimmers Graduates



**“I feel I have a big job to do, to fight drowning”**



**“It motivated me to work as a lifeguard”**



**“I feel accountable for the safety of lives in the Nile in my area”**



**NILE SWIMMERS**

برنامج مكافحة الفرق - الكشافة البحرية السودانية 2011 م  
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**Nile Swimmers**

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