

# ANNUAL REPORT 2022

Photo by Ruby Zahav

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KU CHI NA TE

THE ART OF  
CRAFTING  
FREEDOM





# LETTER FROM THE DIRECTORS

**We are thrilled to present to you the 2022 annual report for Kuchinate.**

We reflect with gratitude on the past year and are amazed by Kuchinate's ability to not only survive but thrive amidst the multitude of challenges faced.

Our artisans have a strong community of supporters, including our board, advisory group, staff, volunteers, interns, friends, donors, and shoppers. Without all of you, Kuchinate would not exist. You are a vital part of our success and progress.

In a year characterized by an environment of instability causing further hopelessness for the asylum-seeking population, we have tried to create hope and internal stability for our women. Our 10 asylum-seeking managers are a testament to what can be accomplished. They are confident, in charge, managing, designing, delegating, problem solving, advocating, they are learning, developing and they dare to dream. Our artisans continue to learn skills and make beautiful handcrafted works and visual art, which is shipped, exhibited and sold in shops and galleries in Israel and abroad.

We are proud to have served the most vulnerable in the community, while the less vulnerable were able to find work post-COVID which supplemented their income at Kuchinate.

We hope you take pride in looking at our successes of 2022 in the following report, as our success is your success. Thank you for your continued support, and we hope that you find the annual report informative and inspiring.

Please know that you always have a home to visit here at Kuchinate.

**With warm regards and gratitude,**

*Diddy & SR Azeet Kidome*





# ABOUT KUCHINATE

Kuchinate's goal is to achieve resilience and well-being through an art-based holistic approach which includes economic empowerment, psycho-social and community support, vocational training and public advocacy. Kuchinate takes pride in using this unique approach to strengthen, uplift and empower hundreds of the most vulnerable women within the African asylum-seeking community.





# HIGHLIGHTS OF 2022



## Kuchinate hired 10 community managers from the collective.

Our ten community managers each are in charge of an integral part of the organization and are provided with the education, practice, and experience that they need to fill these roles with increasing competence and confidence and develop transferable skills for their and their communities' future.

## Tel Aviv was ranked the most expensive city in the world.

The rise in prices was felt deeply by and impacted Kuchinate's artisans and managers and their families who were just surfacing from the economic crisis they were thrown into during the pandemic.



## We sold our products all across the country through our homesales.

We visited 52 homes, community centers and fairs to spread the word about Kuchinate and sell our products in home sales.



## Kuchinate products flew to 9 countries

Our products were sent to the US, Canada, South Africa, the UK, Sweden, Finland, Italy, Germany, and Belgium.

## 3 women of the Kuchinate collective were resettled to the United States, Canada, and Sweden.

There is no durable solution for many of our most vulnerable women in Israel. We work hard to try and help our artisans who most need it to be resettled to a first world country through the UNHCR. In 2022, with mixed emotions we bid farewell to only 3 of our women who were fortunate enough to be resettled to the United States, Canada and Sweden.

Our Computer and Digital Literacy teacher Tesfazgi Asgedom started a new life in Canada. With a growing Kuchinate community in both Canada and the United States we have started dreaming about expanding Kuchinate across borders.





# PSYCHOSOCIAL

**360+**

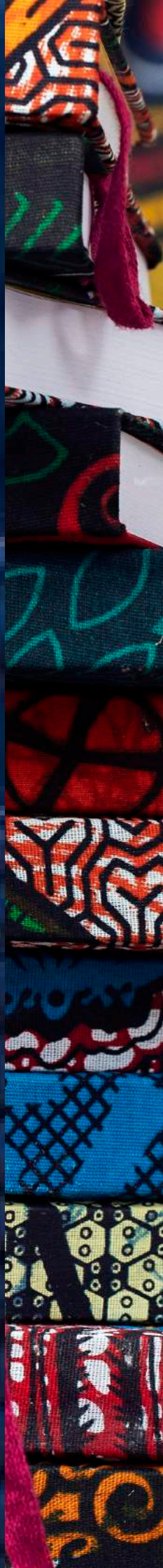
women received psychosocial support, including help with navigating the Israeli bureaucracy

**20+**

new women joined Kuchinate

**4600+**

nutritious and delicious lunches have been cooked, served, and eaten by the women of Kuchinate.





We celebrated life, courage and danced and laughed together during our annual christmas party and several graduation parties.

100+

social workers, psychologists, medical and social work students from Israeli welfare services, universities, and rehabilitation institutions across the country came to our studio to learn about our model and learn from our women.

The social work team collaborated with and cross-referred to and from other refugee support organizations.





# ECONOMIC

In 2022, **over 80 women** received a fair and regular income through their work at Kuchinate. Together we made:



**7500**

SEWN PRODUCTS



**6039**

CROCHETED PRODUCTS



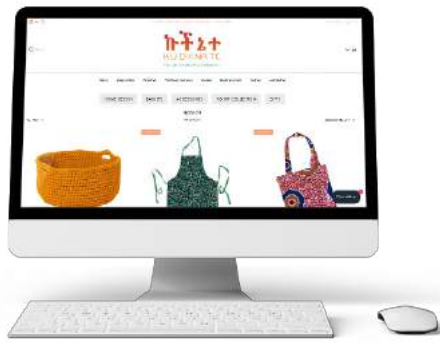
**4766**

UPCYCLED PRODUCTS

## FLEXIBLE WORKING CONDITIONS FOR GREATER RESILIENCE

Working either in our studio or from their homes, or even on the bus, women are able to plan their work around their mothering and other responsibilities. This flexibility allows them to be more independent while earning an income.





## COLLECTION LAUNCH

We would like to introduce you to our newest friends at Kuchinate, a range of sewn animals in colorful African fabrics. The animals were designed in collaboration with artist and long time volunteer Laura Burch. These elephants, giraffes, camels and snakes come in different sizes. The sewing department worked diligently with Laura to develop their basic sewing skills and craft the different animals.

## KUCHINATE GOES DIGITAL

Kuchinate made tremendous strides in digitizing the entire inventory and sales system. This was no small feat, as until the beginning of this year, everything at Kuchinate was done manually.

Before the digitization was implemented, the managing community women had to first undergo basic digital literacy training, and then a more intense training program to work with the new system, Shopify. We are extremely proud that Shewit Gebreamlak is our inventory expert and in charge of Shopify.





# EDUCATION

Throughout 2022, Kuchinate has exponentially expanded our program of vocational activities for Kuchinate community managers and artisans **to improve their personal, professional, general and vocational development.** These activities included practical skills in language, business, and computer and digital literacy, along with vocational skills to improve the women's standing in their respective communities and within their own families.



In February 2022 we opened our Educational Studio, a dedicated space set aside for learning away from the busyness of our studio, where 8 volunteer teachers teach:

**18 women English**

**14 women Hebrew**

**17 women storytelling and public speaking**

**19 women Shopify and digital system**

**18 women Computer and Digital Literacy Skills**



## EDUCATION DIRECTOR/PROGRAM

We are proud to have welcomed our new Director of Education, Laurie Lijnders.







186

**women attended various courses** such as sewing, crochet, and upcycling, English and Hebrew language, computer and digital literacy, Shopify and political storytelling and public speaking.



# EDUCATION CONT.



Kuchinate community managers have taught:

**40 women Level 1 sewing**

**22 women Level 2 sewing**

**16 women crochet skills**

**8 women upcycled products**

**10 women dolls**

Through our Storytelling and Public Speaking training course, Kuchinate supported community managers and a handful of artisans to feel more confident in telling their personal stories, share their lived experiences in Eritrea/Sudan, along the migratory route and in Israel and advocate for asylum-seeking women in general.

# ART

The artwork of one of the Kuchinate artisans, Lina Otom Jak Agolon, was displayed for the month in the High Court of Israel in Jerusalem, as part of a collection of artworks honoring International Refugee Day. Lina's work of art was among those of well established Israeli artists including Philip Rantzer and Elham Rokni.

The summer exhibition "The One World" was displayed in Tel Aviv at Parterre - Project Space for Philosophy and Art, and curated by our board president, Sandra Weil. The exhibition brings together cultures and religions traversing three continents. Alongside prominent Israeli artist Ohad Meromi and Palestinian artist Erada Jumaq, two Kuchinate artisans proudly displayed their works. Lina Otom Jak Agolon and Mebrhit Gebremariam created works reflecting their cultures and traditions.

In March, we took part in the exhibition of international artist Poly Applebaum at Magasin III Jaffa in her piece "Red Desert, Red Mountain, Red Sea". **The piece featured baskets crocheted by Kuchinate artisans.**

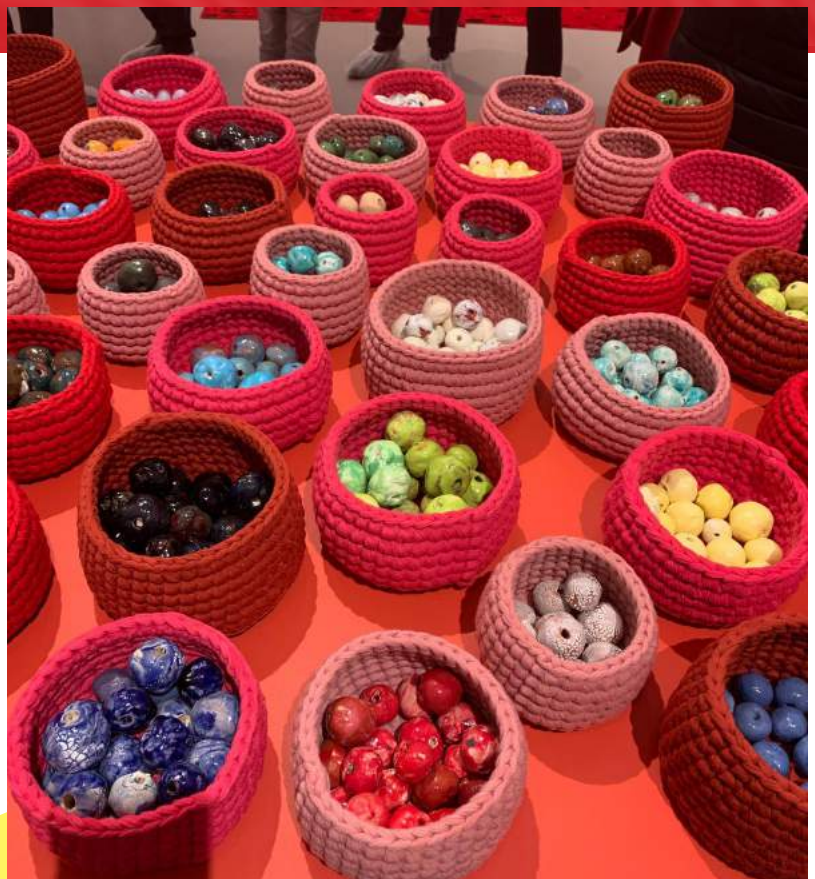




# When Your Art Can Travel to Your Exhibition but You Can't

The impossible lives of African asylum seeker artists in Israel. 'Whenever these thoughts are getting to me, I paint and it calms me'

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"Red Desert, Red Mountain, Red Sea"  
Artist: Poly Appelbaum, featuring Kuchinate Magasin III, Jaffa



# ADVOCACY



**We welcomed over 3600 people into our studio for a buna (traditional coffee ceremony) talk.**

People from all walks of life, ages and nationality joined us, listened to women's personal stories and learned about the plight of asylum seeking women from different African countries and Kuchinate.

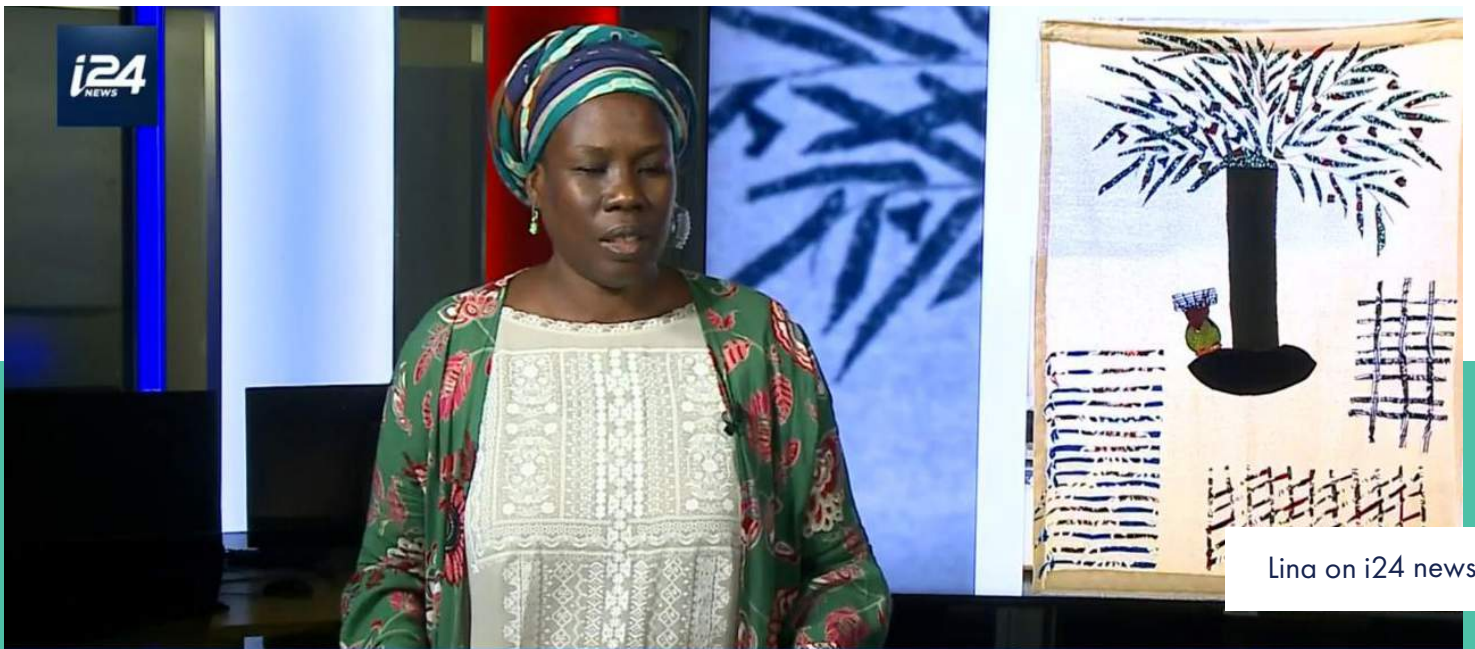
## **INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY**

We celebrated International Women's Day with an event at our Shabazi store with an Eritrean coffee ceremony, Odeya Rosenak who read her poetry, and well known singer Mira Awad who sang and showed her art, and the Kuchinate women sang as well.

We were part of an International Women's Days celebration "Women Driving the Green Agenda" in Stockholm, Sweden at the Zimbabwe Ambassador Residence with thanks to Israel's ambassador to Sweden, Ziv Nevo Kulman. Bracelets made by our artisans were given as a gift to everyone at the event including Jenny Ohlsson: State Secretary and Sofia Calltorp: Ambassador for Gender Equality & Coordinator of Feminist Foreign Policy in Sweden.







Lina on i24 news

## UNE ARTISTE SOUDANAISE SE BAT POUR RESTER EN ISRAËL

L'OMS S'ALARME D'UNE EPIDEMIE MORTELLE DE CHOLERA AU LIBAN

TEL-AVIV  
22-03



## KORNIT FASHION WEEK

### Hope, Love, Freedom, and Happiness.

These are the words found on our t-shirt designed by Lahav Halevi that launched at the 2022 Israel Fashion Week. Participating in this massive event and reaching a wider audience was an exciting and new opportunity to advocate for asylum-seeking women in Israel and across the globe. A big thank you to Kornit Digital, Lahav Halevi, and FAF Design Studio.





# ADVOCACY CONT.

## MADAME MOREAU

Throughout 2022 Kuchinate collaborated with Haitian voodoo artist Madame Moreau, selling her beaded works in our studio and Shabazi shop.

## ASSUTA HOSPITAL COLLABORATION

In March, Kuchinate artisans, in collaboration with local organizations Ruach Tova and Larger than Life (G'dolim Me'Hachaim), volunteered for children with cancer at Assuta hospital in Ramat HaChayal. More than 100 staff, doctors, nurses, maintenance, and administration workers crocheted with our Kuchinate artisans and then donated the 100 baskets to children fighting cancer in the hospital.

## HAGADDAH SHOW WITH REFUGEE ARTISTS

We launched the Hotline for Refugees and Migrants' Art Haggadah at our Shabazi store with music from Lily and Tonton Kalupa (asylum seekers from Congo), poetry by Patrick Kafoya Chuma (an asylum seeker from Congo), and music by the Kuchinate Women's Choir. On display both in the Haggadah and in the store were the works of asylum-seeking artists, including those of the Kuchinate artisans.



Selam Mamusha next to her work "My Brothers"



# תודה

# THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

Milwaukee Jewish Federation

The Clore Foundation

Manos Unidas

UNVFVT

UNHCR

Agiamondo

Pontifical Mission Middle East

Healing Across the Divides The

Good People Fund

Comboni Sisters

Beck Foundation

Fondazione Migrantes

Trento

Opera Diocesana Per La Pastorale

Movimiento Cultural Cristiano

Philip King Charitable Trust

Frank Family Foundation

Centro Missionario Diocesano

The Blue Thread



## CROWDFUNDING CAMPAIGN

We ran our second ever crowdfunding campaign. Because of you, **we raised over 725,000 NIS that will help Kuchinate to support its artisans in the coming year.**

We would also like to thank our refugee partner organizations for the wonderful work that they do in the legal, education, health, employment, food insecurity, children and family spheres, and the volunteer groups who give in kind donations to members of our community.

We are very grateful to all supporters, volunteers, members of the board, private donors, and foundations who supported us, gave us their time, and contributed to our success this year.

All of the generous private donors and supporters who wish to remain anonymous, as well as all who supported us through IsraelGives, MyIsrael, The New Israel Fund, and the Good People Fund!





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