



ENGINEERS  
WITHOUT BORDERS  
DENMARK

# LIFE AFTER SURVIVAL

*belief in a new future*

# Engineers without Borders Denmark

was established in 2001 as a non-political humanitarian organisation based on the work of volunteers.

Our primary mission is to support the recovery, return to normality, and belief in a new future for people affected by natural or manmade disasters.

We work in close cooperation with other relief organisations through providing engineering competencies and technical skills. Furthermore, we contribute with technical humanitarian aid in projects aimed at improving living conditions in poorer countries.

## Focus areas:

- Emergency relief
- Development projects
- Students chapters







# Our vital role in emergency relief

Engineering and technical know-how is an essential ingredient in ensuring livelihood security and social development. The need for these competencies is even more apparent following natural or manmade disasters.

## Examples of our assignments

- Assisting Danish Peoples Aid in rehousing 500 families outside Port-au-Prince in Haiti after the earthquake 2010
- Establishing a school for children of war amputees in Sierra Leone 2009
- Assistance in rebuilding war damaged bridges in Liberia for Danish Refugee Council 2009
- Establishing solar power supply on the West-bank in cooperation with EWBs in Palestine and Israel 2009
- Assisting WFP in establishing market facilities for farmers in Uganda 2009
- Assessing relief and resettlement needs following cyclone Nargis in Myanmar for Danish Peoples Aid 2008
- Assisting the association Children in Africa in building church and school in Uganda 2008
- Supporting damage assessment and the management of reconstruction activities in Lebanon after the war with Israel for Dan Church Aid 2007
- Assessing requirements for water and sanitation for returning displaced communities in Chad for Dan Church Aid 2007
- Providing an engineer as team leader and site planner when temporary refugee camps were built in Southern Sudan for Danish Refugee Council 2006



## Rapid response

Engineers without Borders has a roster of highly skilled and experienced engineers, who are on standby to respond immediately in the event of disaster, and provide support in putting society back on its feet.

They can be mobilised within 72 hours in response to calls for technical, engineering, logistics, or project management skills from one of our partners. Typically their roles involve assessing the extent of

damage, conducting technical needs assessments, and planning and managing rehabilitation requirements.

## Water, shelter and food – necessities of life

Following disaster, people are often forced to move and settle in dangerous or unsanitary conditions posing a multitude of health risks. Contaminated water and poor or inadequate sanitation, lead to water and vector borne diseases. Lack of shelter inhibits protection, privacy, restoration of livelihoods, and a normal family life. Inadequate access to food and a poor diet contribute to malnutrition,

poor levels of health and well-being, and to population movements. Damaged infrastructure prevents aid agencies and relief from reaching people in need.

In collaboration with our partners we therefore strive to establish clean water supply and proper sanitation, provide emergency shelter and base camps for aid workers, organise logistics including food supply,

and establish telecommunications between the many stakeholders that are involved in a relief effort immediately following a disaster.

Our work is mainly channelled through well established international emergency relief organisations such as the Danish Refugee Council, Danish Red Cross, and Dan Church Aid.



## Improving living conditions on a broader scale

At Engineers without Borders we also consider the longer term perspective not solely immediate emergency relief requirements, although this is the focus of our work. We develop projects that help rebuilding communities, regions, and countries as a new future emerges.

Examples of our way of thinking and working: We help rebuild bridges and reconstruct roads. This improves the infrastructure necessary to distribute food, conduct trade, and

keep the economy running. In turn, this helps mitigate food insecurity or other disasters from happening.

We install solar electric light, which facilitate small scale production and enable children and young people to study in the evenings. This supports their efforts to get an education, and provides communities the opportunity to make a living, helping to rebuild regions and improve long term living conditions in the country.

We see opportunities where others may only see junk and rubbish. One possibility is to develop and implement plans for solid waste management to diminish pollution and provide an excellent energy source for stoves and ovens.

All in all, rebuilding the past and shaping up for the future takes engineering skills, and we are proud to provide them.











## Students chapters at four universities

Engineers without Borders finds it extremely important to engage young people in our work. We have therefore founded student chapters at four Danish universities: Aalborg University, Technical University of Denmark, Aarhus School of Engineering, and University of Southern Denmark.

The chapters are mainly run by the students themselves and they cooperate closely with our project groups and secretariat.

Our objective is to give the students and young engineers the possibility to contribute with their engineering skills and to develop their competencies

through working with humanitarian challenges. They participate in building partnerships between students, companies, and non-governmental organisations.

## We achieve more through partnerships

We realise that we cannot change the world and alleviate suffering on our own. We need good and lasting partnerships to supplement our competencies and strengthen our efforts, and then together we can take on greater tasks.

As stressed above, we have close cooperation with most Danish emergency relief organisations, and we constantly broaden our network of univer-

sities and private companies. Internationally, we are a member of Engineers without Borders - International; an international association of national EWB groups whose mission is to facilitate collaboration, exchange of information, and assistance among its 45 member groups.

Engineers without Borders Denmark collaborates with national associations in Sierra Leone,

India, Israel, and Palestine both at the academic level and on concrete engineering projects.

For more information on these organisations, look up the international Engineers without Borders: [www.ewb-international.org](http://www.ewb-international.org).





# Join us and help us achieve more

If you are interested in our work, we offer different ways for you to contribute and participate:

- **Membership:** As a member of Engineers without Borders, you can receive our current news and newsletters via e-mail and will be invited to events, meetings, and the general assembly, where you can have your say and influence the work of our organisation.
- Once a member, you can decide to engage more actively in our work by joining the Rapid Response Roster. To do this, you will have to meet certain requirements (see more on our web site: [www.iug.dk/index.php/beredskabet](http://www.iug.dk/index.php/beredskabet))
- As a private company, you can support Engineers without Borders through a company membership and/or funding of our activities. Here you will receive the same advantages as our ordinary membership.
- As a student member, you will obtain the same advantages as our ordinary membership. Furthermore, we would be happy to help you in selecting cases for your thesis and provide you with both knowledge and advice regarding our projects.

Join us today by sending an e-mail to [medlem@iug.dk](mailto:medlem@iug.dk) with your name, address, and telephone number. Please specify the type membership you are interested in.

Rest assured: You do not need to be an engineer to join us. We welcome everybody who supports our cause and sees the necessity of involving engineers in rebuilding countries and supporting people after survival.

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact us

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## **Photos:**

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## **Short about EWB - Denmark**

- A volunteer technical humanitarian organisation
- We support other emergency aid organisations e.g. Danish Red Cross, Danish Refugee Council, Dan Church Aid, Danish People's Aid
- With our vision “a life after survival”, we aim to restore life saving services for people in need
- We work in disaster-affected areas to ensure access to safe drinking water, proper sanitation, and emergency shelter as quickly as possible
- We provide assistance and support to projects in developing countries
- Student chapters at four universities

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