



**ENGINEERS**  
WITHOUT BORDERS DK

**2024**  
ANNUAL REPORT



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*EWB and partners gathered for the partner seminar in 2024*



# CHAIRMAN

## Erland Stubkjær Christensen

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2024 has been a year of change, growth, and new opportunities for Engineers Without Borders Denmark. With the appointment of our new Secretary General, and the strengthening of our secretariat, we have laid a solid foundation for the future and set a clear direction for our work.

We are proud to have welcomed several new staff members to the team, and with their expertise and dedication, we are better equipped than ever to support our projects and partners around the world. At the same time, the board has focused on developing a new strategy for 2025–2027, created in close collaboration with EWB volunteers, partners, and staff.

In 2024, we strengthened our international presence. A war on the European continent prompted a response from Engineers Without Borders Denmark. With the launch of Ukraine as a new programme country and the relaunch of our emergency assistance as EWB Response, we have expanded our reach and deepened our partnerships. Our volunteers have played a vital role, providing technical expertise, building local capacity, and responding quickly where help is needed most. We are proud to see EWB recognised as a trusted partner by major humanitarian organisations.

Although EWB Response has been a revitalisation of our roots, we must not forget the present. We still continue our important work in long-term projects and partnerships in West and Central Africa with a growing geographical and thematic footprint. We have created good results and

more resilient local communities through long-term engagements and building global relationships in our projects. We will continue this work with long term cooperation because people-to-people exchange is a fundamental necessity for a world where we must understand each other better - on equal terms.

At the heart of all this are our volunteers. In 2024, we introduced a new structure for volunteer engagement and increased our focus on training and community-building. This ensures that our volunteers are well prepared and have the support they need, whether they contribute in the field or from home.

Our growing visibility in the media and increased collaboration with private foundations and companies reflect the strength of our model and the impact of our work. At the same time, we are aware that challenges lie ahead for the entire international development community. With a clear focus on sustainability, we are actively working to diversify our funding base and strengthen our long-term resilience.

To all our volunteers, staff, partners, and supporters: thank you for your dedication, your belief in our mission, and your tireless work to create a better, more equitable world through engineering. We've built a strong foundation together, now it's time to take the next step. We look forward to continuing this journey with all of you.

**“With ability comes responsibility”.**

# SECRETARY GENERAL

## Peter Horne Zartsdahl

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2024 was a transformative year for Engineers Without Borders Denmark, marked by operational growth and adaptation to a turbulent global environment. In 2025, we expect this evolution to continue - for better and for worse.

International cooperation is facing growing pressure from global crises and political instability. New public policies are being drafted while growing inequality, war and climate disruption all reinforce each other. This makes our commitment to improving livelihoods through technical-humanitarian assistance in close global partnerships more important than ever.

In this context, EWB Denmark has something unique to offer. We connect the professional expertise of Danish volunteers with urgent global challenges. We co-create with local communities. And we do so with an unusually strong network of private sector partners who share our values and long-term vision. These collaborations give us both independence and responsibility: to act where larger systems can't - and to do so with humility and professionalism.

Technology, business, and education all rely on a connected world. Our strength lies in our ability to engage directly and authentically - with volunteered skills, solidarity, and technical insight. This is what creates real, lasting impact through global co-creation that solves today's problems and builds tomorrow's solutions.

To this end, EWB Denmark will continue to prioritize hands-on collaboration, long-term partnerships, and strategic use of our technical expertise. As a reliable, value-driven partner, we aim to deepen our investment in local anchoring, capacity development, knowledge-sharing and innovative partnership models - from Freetown to Kyiv. And we will insist on keeping volunteering professionals and our local partners in the driver's seat.

As a volunteer with EWB you contribute where Danish technology, knowledge, and professional skills can make a difference - but you also bear witness and learn. Each mission brings back a team of professionals with a better understanding of the world, a sense for the plight of others, strengthened global relationships, and the motivation to continue our work for a better tomorrow. This is what equal global partnerships should be about. Each partner brings something different to the table, and everyone leaves it wiser and stronger.

It's only been a year since I became your Secretary General. The warm welcome from members, partners, board, and staff has been incredible. Thank you for your dedication - and for trusting us to represent what engineering for global solidarity can, and should, be.





*A group of volunteers, the Secretary General and the Mission Manager in Mykolaiv, Ukraine*



# THANK YOU TO THE PARTNERS AT HOME

We extend our heartfelt thanks to all our partners and donors who made our work possible in 2024. Whether you are a corporate partner, another NGO, or a public or private foundation, your technical and financial support has been vital in enabling our volunteer efforts to empower communities, and create lasting impact. Every contribution, large or small, has helped bring technology, knowledge, and opportunity to those most in need.

Thank you for believing in our mission and walking this path with us.



Søren Jensen



Marius Pedersen



A/S D/S Orient's Fond



CIVIL SOCIETY IN DEVELOPMENT



AARHUS UNIVERSITY



Reinholdt W. Jorck og Hustrus Fond



Jubilæumsfonden af 12-08-1973

Fonden af 24. December 2008

Asta & Jul. P. Justesens Fond

Emilie og Peter Lunds Fond

Det Saxildske Familiefond

Fonden af 17-12-1981



## ...AND IN THE FIELD

We are deeply grateful to our amazing partners in the field as well. We collaborate with local civil society, authorities and other great NGOs in Sierra Leone, Togo, Kenya, Zimbabwe, and Ukraine. Your commitment, knowledge, and tireless efforts on the ground are essential to the success of our work.

Together, we have developed solutions rooted in local needs, strengthened community ownership, and built lasting change. Your insight and engagement ensure that every project is not only technically sound, but also socially and culturally anchored.



**SEND**  
**SIERRA LEONE**  
Working to promote good governance and equality of men and women in Sierra Leone



**DANSK**  
**FLYGTNINGE**  
**HJÆLP**



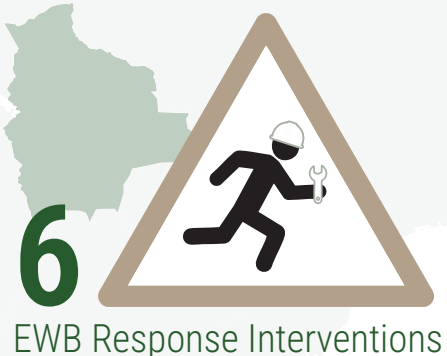
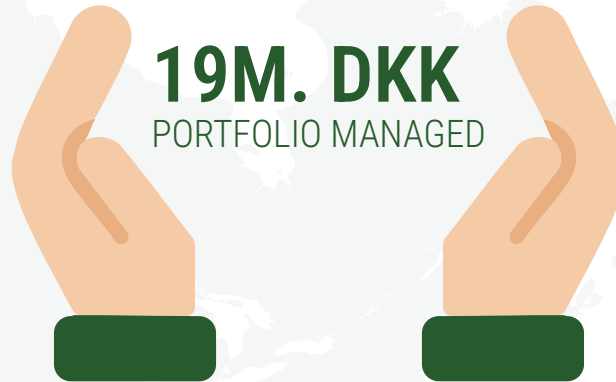
**FREETOWN**  
**CITY COUNCIL**



**SOS**  
**BØRNEBYERNE**



# 2024 IN NUMBERS





**17**  
MISSIONS  
ABROAD



**35**  
VOLUNTEERS  
DEPLOYED



**133%**  
INCREASE  
FROM 2023



**UKRAINE**



**SIERRA  
LEONE**



**TOGO**



**KENYA**



**ZIMBABWE**



Launched in 2024



Current Engagements



Previous Engagements









A rural community that is part of our climate project in Kenema



# HOW WE WORK

Engineers Without Borders Denmark (EWB) operates through two modalities that define our approach to technical-humanitarian work: EWB Projects and EWB Response. These modalities reflect our dual commitment to both long-term, sustainable development and agile, short-term interventions - each designed to address specific types of needs in diverse contexts. These two models enable EWB to deliver impact across both development and emergency contexts, maintaining our commitment to technical quality, local ownership, and responsible engagement.

## EWB PROJECTS

EWB Projects is our core modality for long-term development work. Rooted in strong local partnerships, this approach focuses on co-creating sustainable, technically sound infrastructure solutions that respond directly to community-defined needs. All projects are built on close collaboration between local partners, EWB volunteers, and the communities themselves - reflecting our core DNA: local anchoring and technical know-how.

### Purpose

To deliver long-lasting, community-owned infrastructure through collaborative, need-based projects that combine engineering expertise with sustainable operations, financial models, and local capacity-building.

### Project Lifecycle

EWB Projects begin with locally identified needs presented through our partners. If aligned with EWB's strategy and thematic focus, the initial idea moves either directly into project development or an initial gap analysis followed by the fundraising phase, involving both EWB's secretariat and volunteer expertise.

Throughout implementation, the project is developed and executed in close coordination between EWB, local partners, and community members. Monitoring and follow-up continue well beyond project completion, supporting long-term success.



*The modality structure*

### Key Elements of Sustainable Solutions

Our projects are guided by three key pillars to ensure long-term functionality and local ownership:



*Our volunteer, Vincent Maklawe Edjabou, and waste collectors in Kéto, Togo*

### *Management & Operation*

Effective management is critical to long-term success. Together with our partners, we support local community leaders in establishing managing committees. These are responsible for day-to-day operations, including appointing operators and monitoring infrastructure performance. This structure strengthens ownership and decision-making at the community level, while also engaging relevant local authorities when needed.

### *Financial Model*

A sustainable financial model is essential for ongoing operation and maintenance. We co-develop systems that generate income—such as commercial use of resources (e.g., water sales), community-based entrepreneurship, or user fees. To support this, we help establish savings and loan groups that reduce barriers to business development and can act as a financial buffer for emergency repairs. These models promote self-reliance and shift perceptions around resource value and responsibility.

### *Maintenance*

Qualified maintenance is ensured through the training of private service providers

(PSPs), who are formally linked to communities via service agreements or memoranda of understanding. These agreements outline responsibilities, pricing, and service expectations. EWB and partners play a critical role in building trust, validating service costs, and formalising agreements in a context where such mechanisms are often underdeveloped.

### **Prerequisites**

A project can only materialise if it is aligned with EWB's strategic focus, a local need has clearly been identified and there is a strong partnership foundation in place. Final approval is granted by EWB's management based on a full review of feasibility, risk, and long-term impact potential.

### **Monitoring and Adaptation**

Throughout the project lifecycle, we do regular field visits together with our partners to ensure follow-up and allow real-time adaptation. For projects where it is applicable, we use our EWB Monitor system that monitors technical installations and provides data on an open-source website. This enables remote volunteer engagement and helps communities hold authorities accountable for support and oversight.



# HOW WE WORK

## EWB RESPONSE

EWB Response is a flexible and reactive modality that focuses on short-term interventions with a high deployment frequency. This approach marks the reawakening of a way of working from our legacy as emergency responders. It is designed to react swiftly to acute needs and crisis situations using pre-allocated funds. The modality enables short missions with rapid mobilization of volunteers, where the total engagement typically lasts less than six months and consists of one or more deployments of one to two weeks at a time.

### Purpose

To ensure rapid and flexible contributions within technical-humanitarian work. The modality permits short-term, function-specific interventions that can cover urgent needs for advice, emergency response, training and education through specialist expertise. EWB Response complements EWB's existing project modality and meets the demand from both volunteers and donors for shorter, high-impact interventions.

### Types of Interventions

EWB Response comprises three forms of intervention:

#### *Advice*

Expert knowledge and technical assistance for local partners and NGOs, including strategic planning, review of plans and studies, feasibility studies, and general advice in all EWB themes.

#### *Direct Assistance*

Technical help in emergency situations, where volunteers provide urgent solutions for infrastructure, energy, water supply, and more.

#### *Training and Education*

Technical capacity-building through training sessions, workshops and teaching programs.

*A volunteer evaluating the potential for reusing fallen concrete structures*





## Prerequisites for Activation

For EWB Response to be activated, certain criteria must be fulfilled to ensure EWB resources are used in accordance with EWB charter and strategy.

### *External Criteria*

All actions must address a documented technical-humanitarian need, where local actors lack the necessary expertise or resources to meet the challenge. Furthermore, the action must fulfil a role that cannot be viably provided by existing commercial actors, ensuring that the intervention complements, rather than competes with, local markets and services.

### *Internal Criteria*

An action can only be initiated if it is financed through prior unrestricted donations or EWB's operating funds, and if suitable volunteers are available to carry it out. The mission must be approved by EWB's mission manager, based on a continuous assessment of the safety and security situation. Finally, the expected results must be realistic, measurable, and clearly documentable.

## Framework

EWB Response supports short missions that typically last one to two weeks within an overall engagement of up to six months. Thanks to a short reaction time, a mission can be launched within two to six weeks, depending on the preparations required. The modality lets our volunteers mobilize quickly to meet specific needs when and where required, enabling agile responses and efficient resource use.

## Evaluation

All EWB Response engagements are evaluated according to the specific task. Response engagements are evaluated in three ways:

### *Ongoing evaluation*

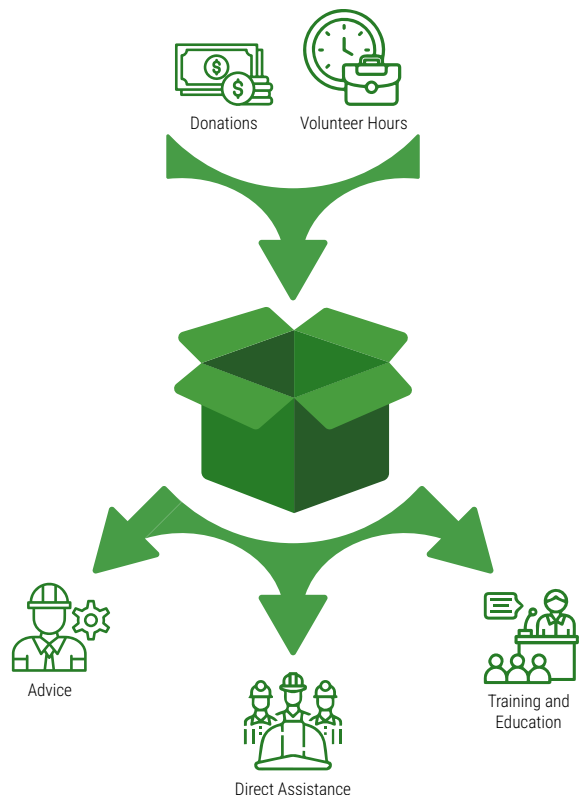
Continuous assessment to ensure effectiveness and alignment with local needs.

### *Final reporting*

A report after completion documents impact, challenges, and improvements.

### *Transparency*

Funding and results are recorded to ensure accountability to donors and stakeholders.



*The modality structure*









*Sprinkler irrigation systems installed for our climate-smart farming project*



# WHAT WE DID

## EWB PROJECTS

Our geographic reach and project efforts have grown in the past year. Here we showcase a selection of representative examples of our efforts. If you are interested in reading more, please visit [iug.dk](http://iug.dk).

### Climate-Smart Farming for Rural Female Farmers

Kenema, Sierra Leone

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In partnership with SEND Sierra Leone, we are making considerable progress in strengthening food security and climate resilience for rural female farmers in Kenema, Sierra Leone.

The construction of the Farmer Field School is well underway, and four acres of land have been prepared with sprinkler irrigation systems (see photo on the previous page). This has allowed the farmers to begin cultivating months earlier than usual and they are already harvesting and selling vegetables at the market.

In addition, two greenhouses have been constructed to support year-round cultivation of specialty crops like habanero chilies and bell peppers.

The farming site will become a demonstration hub, aiming to provide hands-on training in climate-smart agriculture to women from nearby communities.

*One of the newly built greenhouses*







*The Medelekelema business hub seen from above*

## Solar-Powered Hub Drives Entrepreneurship and Community Growth

Mendekelelema, Sierra Leone

In rural Mendekelelema, our newly built solar-powered business hub has quickly become a vibrant center for entrepreneurship and community development. Within just one year, 5,000 residents have transitioned from candles and battery-powered lighting to reliable access to solar energy.

Access to electricity and literacy training has led to the creation of 50 new businesses and 20 jobs, with a noticeable rise in the area's educational level. Most of the new businesses are owned and operated by women, who have been empowered through the project to take control of their economic futures.

Ownership of the hub has been formally handed over to the community, supported by a local board established to ensure sustainable management and daily operations.

### Scholarship: Ansu Kamara

When Ansu Kamara grew up, education was a distant dream, but with determination and academic talent he excelled in school, and was one of 20 students awarded a scholarship to study Solar Engineering at Eastern Technical University. Now, Ansu is thriving as he gains hands-on skills in solar engineering and encourages others in his community to pursue education.



**Ansu Kamara,  
Student at ETU**

"This is where my journey of achieving my dreams started. EWB and SEND Sierra Leone came into my life at the moment I needed them most. They didn't just provide a scholarship; they gave me hope and a future. I am now on a path to fulfil my dreams and make a difference in my community."

# Spearheading Climate Adaptation & Agenda

Kenema, Sierra Leone

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We have, together with our partners SEND Sierra Leone and World Hope International, completed our largest climate adaptation project to date. A 2.5-year long initiative that became a flagship at both district and national levels in Sierra Leone. Our volunteers supported the construction and rehabilitation of climate-resilient WASH infrastructure in 50 rural communities, improving water reliability and significantly reducing outbreaks of typhoid, malaria, dysentery, and diarrhea.



*Community digging ditches to divert rainwater*

To ensure long-term sustainability, a robust management structure was established in the communities. By the end of the project, communities had in total mobilised over 50,000 DKK for future maintenance. Additionally, 120 trained private service providers partnered with the 50 communities, resulting in a 89% drop in infrastructure breakdowns.

The impact extends beyond the scope. Learnings from the project have informed district-level advocacy, leading to Sierra Leone's first district-wide climate risk assessment and the development of a District Adaptation Plan. In turn, two district WASH plans were created, and climate incident reporting, introduced through the project, proved vital in guiding effective local interventions.

## **Civil Society Pushes for Bold Climate Action at 2024 Conference**

A large and successful climate conference, bringing together 200 participants from across Sierra Leone was held by the end of the project. The event addressed the country's acute vulnerability to climate change and emphasized the urgent need for collaborative and sustainable climate action with strong involvement of local communities. Participants raised concerns such as the loss of over 1,000 hectares of forest in under two years, widespread food insecurity, and health risks from traditional cooking methods.

The conference resulted in three major policy frameworks on climate resilience being implemented, and great political attention to the effects of climate change.



*Participants engaging in conference discussions*



# Citizen-Driven Climate Adaption

Freetown, Sierra Leone

We have made significant progress toward improving the resilience of vulnerable urban communities in Western Freetown. In partnership with World Hope International and Skill Pool, we are working in three densely populated neighborhoods affected by recurring heat waves and flooding.

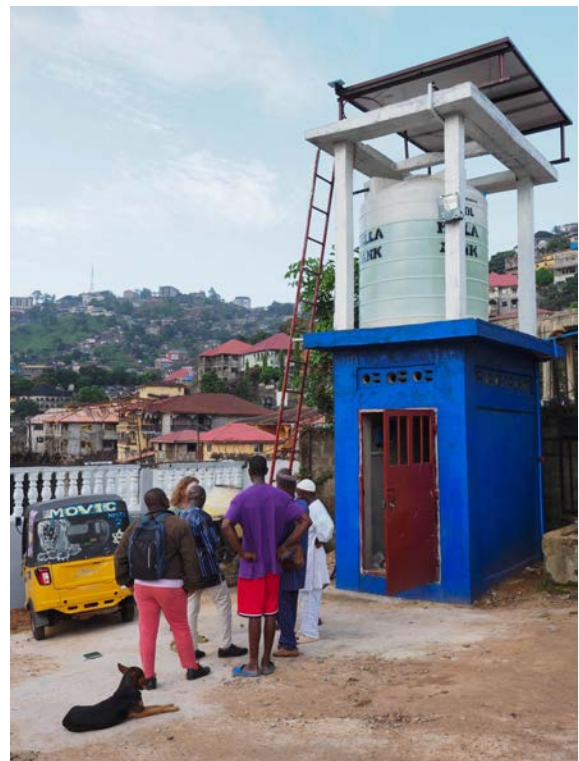
Spanning over two and a half years, the project builds on previous community-based initiatives. So far, we have completed the construction of two water towers and begun the construction of drainage canals to reduce the risk of flooding.



**Emmanuel Tittus Marrah,**  
**Climate Officer at World Hope International**

“Our first approach is to provide information about climate change. We talk about both the reasons for the changes and the possibilities for addressing them. Most citizens do not know much about climate change and what can be done to adapt or mitigate its effects”

The technical inputs have been combined with tree planting campaigns and training to mitigate deforestation and strengthen the resilience of communities. To support ongoing maintenance of infrastructure and reforestation efforts a suitable financial model has been developed.



*A new water tower in the Kamayama community*

*A community in Freetown exposed to heavy flooding*







*EWB and partners gathered in Freetown*

## Partner Seminar in Sierra Leone: Strengthening Relationships and Shared Direction

Freetown, Sierra Leone

In November, we hosted a five-day regional partner seminar in Freetown, bringing together more than 40 participants from over 10 partner organisations in Sierra Leone and Togo. The seminar aimed to strengthen collaboration across borders, share experiences, and collectively shape the future direction of our work.

The seminar marked a significant moment in our partnerships - serving as both a space for honest reflection and a platform for co-creation. Through a diverse programme of plenary presentations, breakout sessions, group discussions, and hands-on field visits, participants explored how we can better support sustainable, locally led development.

One of the central objectives was to ensure that EWB's new 2025-2027 strategy is grounded in the realities, ambitions, and expertise of our partners. The partners gave thoughtful and highly valuable input, which has helped shape a strategy that is both ambitious and practical. The discussions revealed a strong, common desire to focus on practical skills development in areas such as climate adaptation, innovative and inclusive engineering, digital equity, and local resource mobilisation.



## Some of the major results are

1. Common desires will help guide our collective efforts going forward, ensuring our technical and humanitarian work remains relevant and impactful in rapidly changing contexts.
2. Several partners were inspired to revisit their own strategic goals, highlighting the seminar's role in building a shared direction and mutual alignment across the network.
3. Interpersonal connections and trust among participants were strengthened. After a year with new leadership and internal restructuring at EWB, this opportunity to meet face-to-face fostered a sense of cohesion, clarity, and renewed energy across our partner network.
4. The importance of the seminar was also reflected nationally. Our Secretary General appeared on SLBC, Sierra Leone's national broadcaster, to discuss the role of partnerships in advancing sustainable development and to highlight the seminar as an example of meaningful cross-country collaboration.



*EWB and partners on the way to a field workshop*

As we move into 2025, the insights and connections from this seminar will serve as a foundation for deepened cooperation, more targeted interventions, and a stronger, more unified network working toward shared goals in West Africa.

*Discussion during a strategy workshop*





# Rehabilitating Instead of Building New

Kenema, Sierra Leone

In 2024, we launched a new partnership with Grundfos. A small yet highly specialized team was established to assess a selection of challenges presented to us by a local partner. The team was asked to select one case; however, they saw synergies across and decided to combine and conduct a feasibility study on all three challenges.

In Kenema, Sierra Leone, over 100 water towers are currently out of service meanwhile clean and safe drinking water is a scarce resource. This highlights the need for sustainable rehabilitation of existing infrastructure rather than building new systems from scratch.



**Loreen Ople Villacorte,**  
**Employee at Grundfos**

"Volunteering over the past nine months has been an inspiring learning experience. Local challenges like broken water systems are more complex than they seem. Sustainable solutions need local insight, strong partnerships, and simple, cost-effective approaches. Small steps can lead to lasting impact."

However, how do we avoid immediate breakdowns after the project ends? Here the team is working on a set of operational training that will support maintenance, and an expansion of our EWB Monitoring system. The team has grinded data and selected a set of tests to be carried out in 2025.

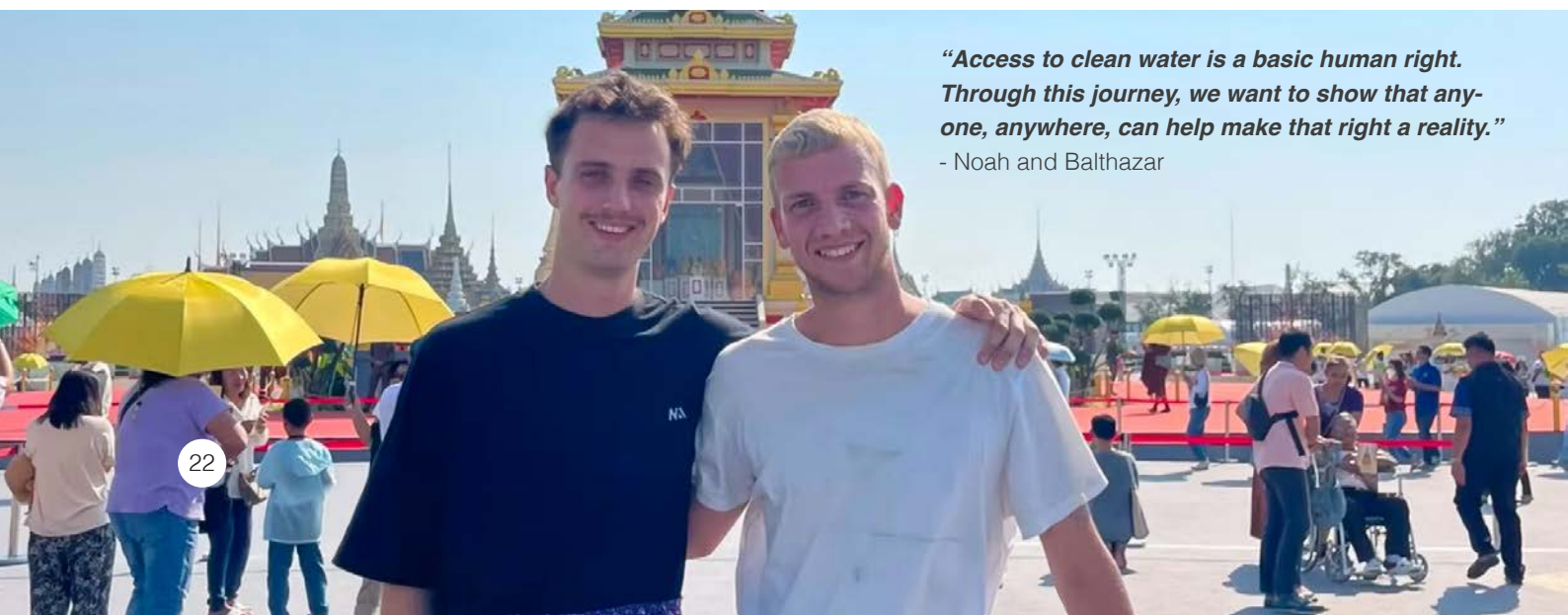
## Hitchhiking for Greater Good

The two adventurers Noah and Balthazar set off on an extraordinarily long hitch-hike journey from Denmark to Australia, not just to explore the world, but to make a difference. Along the way, they partnered with us to raise awareness of water scarcity and funds for rehabilitation of eating water towers in Sierra Leone.

Sharing their travels across continents on social media, they invited their followers into a story of purpose; highlighting the communities they met, the importance of clean water, and how everyone can contribute to a more just and sustainable world. They succeeded in their mission and raised 70,000 DKK for our project.

Thank you for your efforts.

*Noah and Balthazar on the way to Australia*



**"Access to clean water is a basic human right. Through this journey, we want to show that anyone, anywhere, can help make that right a reality."**

- Noah and Balthazar

# New Life to Ågerup Booster Pump

Waterloo, Sierra Leone

Ågerup Waterworks donated in 2023 water supply equipment, which was implemented together with our partner 4Ward in Waterloo, Sierra Leone. The project offered valuable insights into the compatibility between Danish waterworks technology and the practical needs in West African contexts. Based on early findings, and in close dialogue with our local partner, the project shifted focus to an urban setting more suited to the donated booster pump.

Together with 4Ward, our volunteers designed a solution that ensures a reliable and clean water supply, while also being scalable to meet growing demand. Key contributions included the development of a water treatment facility capable of storing water during off-peak hours, the integration of a pre-drilled borehole supplying an additional 60,000 litres which gives a total of 80,000 liters of water daily equal to 500 new water point, and the design and installation of a solar system tailored to the booster pump's energy needs. A volunteer was sent to support setting up the system and conduct pump and control system maintenance training.



*The equipment being installed in Waterloo*



**Anders Jensen,**  
**Employee at Aarhus Vand**

"Being a volunteer has been an exciting and educational experience. This project was my first, and although the learning curve was steep, it became a truly rewarding journey thanks to great support from dedicated fellow volunteers. Henrik Dalsgaard Sloth helped get the project off to a good start, and Morten Møller made a huge effort during the commissioning of the waterworks - his dedication and expertise were absolutely crucial"

## Volunteer of the Year, 2024

Morten Møller

Morten Møller, was awarded "Volunteer of the Year" because of his extraordinary contribution. He is a great example of what it means to be a passionate and dedicated volunteer; he developed an effective cleaning procedure for Grundfos' submersible pumps, he supported the set-up of Ågerup

booster pumps and maintenance trainings, he played a key role in the development of EWB Monitor control panels, and he is part of a newly establish Grundfos volunteer team. Morten always lends a hand when his expertise is needed. Thank you Morten.





# Empowerment through Sanitary Improvements

Nairobi, Kenya

Kibera slum is the biggest informal settlement in Nairobi, Kenya, and the need to improve sanitary conditions is unquestionable.



**Taysir Kadhim,**  
**Employee at Ramboll**

"It was a pleasure to teach wastewater management to such engaged and curious children! Their questions, reflections, and eagerness to learn truly show how important it is to give young people a voice in shaping their own environment."

In 2024, we therefore launched a new WASH project in collaboration with 100% for the Children, and local counterparts. The project tackles critical sanitation challenges specifically for children, aiming to develop a scalable model.

Our volunteers are designing inclusive and circular WASH solutions that prioritize hygiene, accessibility, and clean energy. As part of the project, the Youth WASH Champions program was introduced, empowering 40 students to lead efforts on hygiene promotion and inclusion within their schools and communities.

# Turning Waste into Value

Kéto, Togo

Together with our partner, ADSA, our waste management project in Kéto has made strong progress. What began with 250 households now serves over 1,600, more than six times the original target, contributing to a cleaner city and better public health.

Waste is collected using three tricycles, with households paying a small user fee. A new mobile payment system has improved transparency, increased revenue, and strengthened trust. Collection fees have nearly tripled, moving the project closer to financial sustainability. Recycling has advanced and organic waste is composted and used in an experimental garden supplying local canteens and markets, with growing demand from nearby farmers. Around 300 kg of plastic waste has been recycled into durable pavement blocks,

well received by both the community and local authorities. The planning, systematization, sorting, as well as investigation of valuable uses of recycled waste have been guided by our volunteers.



*Recycling of plastic waste to pavement blocks*



*One of the six new classrooms*

## Innovative Construction, Inclusive Education

Vaahun, Sierra Leone

In early 2024, we and our partner SEND Sierra Leone officially handed over a newly constructed primary school to the Vaahun community. With six classrooms, the school will serve over 400 students from Vaahun and four nearby villages. The project emphasised the use of locally produced materials and strong community involvement throughout the construction process.

Introducing the use of burned clay bricks posed some challenges. With only two suppliers in the country, and one shutting down mid-project, we were left with a single alternative located 300 km. away. Poor storage conditions combined with heavy rainfall delayed brick production, and rising inflation further increased construction costs.

We succeeded in the construction and are committed to utilise our learnings. The project has highlighted the unrealised potential and need for investments in sustainable construction, and the risks of relying on materials with limited local availability or unstable supply chains. The school now stands as a symbol of pride for the community, valued for its architectural quality and long-term impact on education.



**Joseph Ayamga,**  
**Country Director of SEND SL**

“Our accomplishments are not the result of individual effort, but the collective spirit that defines SEND and EWB. Together we are creating meaningful change and securing a brighter future for communities like Vaahun.”

*Pupils at the new primary school*





# Specialty Tea as a Path to Resilient Livelihoods

Honde Valley, Zimbabwe

Our ongoing partnership, with the Honde Valley Tea Growers Association, has reached an important milestone, as the second phase has been finalized. A small-scale tea-processing facility has been built and is now fully operational, with machines and equipment for withering, rolling and drying specialty tea.



**Asbjørn Kløvedal,  
Intern in Zimbabwe**

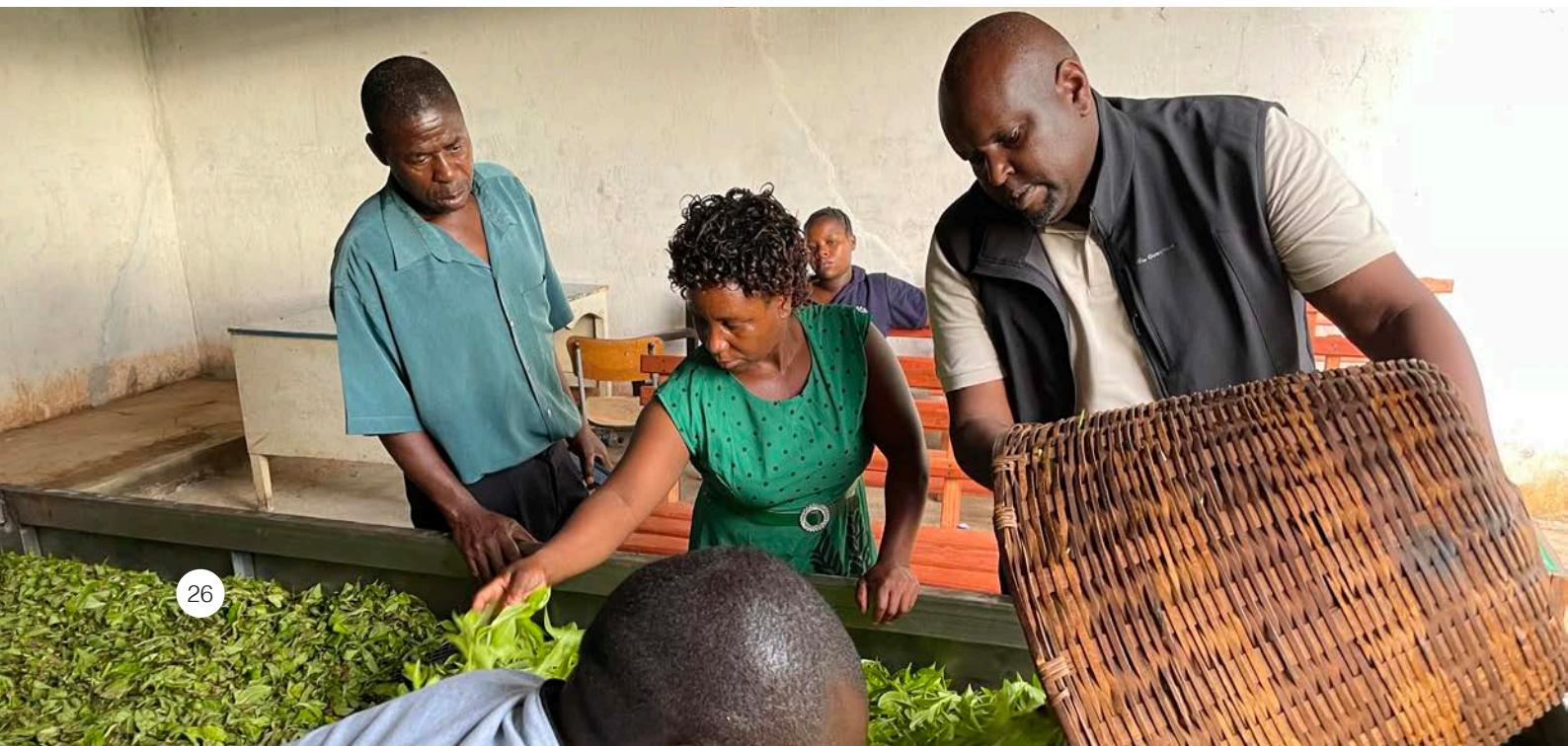
"One of the main reasons I chose to study engineering was my ambition to make a positive impact through my professional work. When I was looking for an internship, it was a no-brainer to contact EWB. I spent six weeks in Zimbabwe, working with the local partners on WASH projects. It taught me how to apply my skills in practice, navigate cultural differences, build meaningful collaborations, and adapt to new challenges. Most importantly, it gave me valuable insights into myself."

Our volunteers supported the construction work, specification of equipment and selection of suppliers. The facility underlines our overall aim, showcasing the value of specialized teas and highlighting its potential as a way of diversifying and strengthening farmers' production line.

With a mix of technical training and organizational capacity building the second phase has been inspirational for farmers and strengthened the organizational mandate of their cooperative leadership in the tea growers' association whose members continue to struggle to find a place in the market.

A third phase of the collaboration was recently approved and as such, we continue our efforts, with a renewed focus on expanding and exploring new markets for the small new production line.

*The Honde Valley Tea Growers Association preparing tea leaves for the drying process*







Charging station powered through the business hub, used as an income generating activity



# WHAT WE DID

## EWB RESPONSE

In September 2024, we re-introduced EWB Response - a modality that allows short-term, function-specific interventions. In March 2022, Ukraine requested Denmark to take a special role in the reconstruction of the Mykolaiv region. With our knowledge and skills EWB is in a unique position to qualify and contribute to the ongoing reconstruction work. In this light it was clear that Ukraine posed as a great first re-introduction of the modality, and so we completed the first fact-finding mission in August 2024. Two more missions were conducted in 2024, and in 2025 on average one mission every month deploys to Mykolaiv.

## Winter Protection of Maritime University

Mykolaiv, Ukraine

The National University of Shipbuilding (NUoS), the heart of Mykolaiv's maritime identity, was hit by missiles twice in 2022. It was left severely damaged with the central infrastructure for water, heating, and electricity malfunctioning. In late 2024, a team of eight EWB volunteers including structural, water, energy, and HVAC experts as well as project managers, visited the site twice to assess the damage and provide advice on how to prepare for the approaching winter. Their recommendations have since been implemented with noticeable effect securing the buildings and making education possible to resume.

We continue the engagement with the university to support reconstruction and construction of shelters so that on-site education can be resumed as soon as possible. In December 2024 EWB and NUoS received an exceptional grant of DKK 6,2 million A/S D/S Orient's Fond to start construction of protective shelters for up to 600 students and staff. The scoping and design phase concluded in March 2025, and is now being prepared for tender.

*Winter protection initiatives at NUoS, protecting the damaged parts of the buildings*





*Volunteers, partners, and Ukrainian delegates gathered at IDA*

## Gratitude from Mykolaiv Oblast

Copenhagen, Denmark

In November 2024, we had the honour of welcoming the Governor of Mykolaiv, Vitalii Kim, to Denmark. His visit was more than symbolic - it was a powerful recognition of our work. The Governor was visiting the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Danish Industry and the Danish Energy Agency - the final stop on his program was to meet the EWB volunteers who have contributed to recovery efforts, particularly at the National University of Shipbuilding where the governor himself was enrolled as a PhD-student when the invasion happened.

We received the governor's delegation with IDA Chair, Laura Klitgaard, the volunteers from Ukraine missions 1 and 2, as well as corporate partners, and friends of the Ukraine programme for a warm and thoughtful exchange with the delegation.

Vitalii Kim was joined by five mayors from the region's largest cities. Together, they shared a clear message: technical support is heavily needed in places that often fall outside the spotlight - the smaller communities outside the Kyiv spotlight, and often in areas that were occupied by the Russian forces and heavily damaged from the fight-

ing. Governor Kim requested that EWB send teams to the more vulnerable communities in Mykolaiv Region and since January 2025 we have been sending ground teams to more than 25 engagements outside Mykolaiv City. Many of them in formerly occupied territories.



**Ole Egberg Mikkelsen,  
The Danish Ambassador to Ukraine**

"It means an incredible amount to Ukraine. Take, for example, a city like Mykolaiv, which lies close to the frontline. In these frontline cities, it is extremely important for Ukrainians to ensure that life continues and that people don't abandon the city. That requires, among other things, access to water and electricity, precisely the kind of support Engineers Without Borders helps provide. That's why this effort is so important. Coming down here, to a city like Mykolaiv, so close to the frontline, is also seen by Ukrainians as a very powerful statement of solidarity."





*Our volunteer, Domagoj Milićević, collecting a water sample to test its quality in Mykolaiv, Ukraine*

## Water Supply Challenges in a War Zone

Mykolaiv, Ukraine

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Following the first EWB fact-finding mission in August 2024, the Danish and Ukrainian Red Cross Mykolaiv requested advice on the city's damaged water infrastructure. Early in the war, the main freshwater intake was destroyed by Russian forces, forcing the city to rely on brackish water sources. This has led to severe corrosion and more than 30 leaks per day in the city's water systems.

Several NGOs, including the Red Cross, have led an exceptional effort in establishing emergency boreholes and water points for Mykolaiv's 470,000 residents to access clean drinking water. We assessed the situation and the impressive work already done, while providing advice on optimizing mineral composition at the water points, as well as general guidance on potential longer-term solutions for boreholes and water supply projects.

## New Partnerships

Kyiv, Ukraine

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As a technical-humanitarian organisation, we aim to do what we do best. That is to provide technical assistance where Danish knowledge, technology and professionalism can make a significant difference. We are proud to deliver our competences to other larger organisations, looking for key competences to strengthen their programming. In Ukraine we have established new partnership agreements with the Danish Red Cross, DanChurchAid and Danish Refugee Council.

All three organisations are strategic partners to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark and do incredibly important and qualified work in the larger reconstruction efforts in Ukraine. We are proud when our volunteers' support is of use to the larger humanitarian programming and enjoy finding the right profile among our active volunteers when difficult questions arise in challenging environments.

# Damaged School Buildings

Prybuzke, Ukraine

A local school in the city of Prybuzke was hit by missiles during heavy armed fighting. Together with the Danish and Ukrainian Red Cross we have been visiting the reconstruction of the school to provide advice on structural assessments, sequencing of the clean up, reconstruction plans and possible reuse of debris. In the coming year we will follow up on the school's reconstruction with the partners, contributing to the children's ability to resume their education.

The school in Prybuzke is a project very well managed by the Ukrainian Red Cross with financial support from the Danish Red Cross where EWB has only served a small advisory role. The school was the first example, however, of a common challenge in Ukraine, where local residents have hid in public buildings during fighting and Rus-



*A volunteer conducting structural damage assessment in collision areas*

sian attacks have damaged the buildings severely. In 2025, EWB has already provided structural assessments for two similarly damaged schools in smaller communities, and set aside funding for stabilisation and early repairs on one of them.

We have also entered into a project cooperation with the International NGO RedR on providing Structural Damage Assessment (SDA) courses to partners in Ukraine to support faster initiation of early repairs and reconstruction.



**Domagoj Milićević,**  
**Employee at WSP DK**

"It is a great pleasure for me to be a member and actively participate in EWB's projects. Each trip comes with its own challenges, and it is always both exciting and meaningful to work on them and develop solutions. Even when we sometimes have to respond quickly and on short notice, the trips always run smoothly thanks to the excellent organisation"



**Jens Erik Trelldal,**  
**Employee at Grundfos**

"Engineers Without Borders has a fantastic purpose. Going out and being on the ground with the people who face the challenges we're trying to solve is, for me, a wonderful complement to my other professional work. Looking at the current situation, I truly feel there's a calling to help some of those who are most in need."



# WHAT WE DID

## SUPPORTING ACTIVITIES

### Volunteer Safety and Preparation

Regardless of where we work, the safety of our volunteers is our highest priority. In the second half of 2024, more than 30 EWB volunteers were deployed, and the launch of EWB Response has emphasized the need for more systematic safety measures.

To meet this need, we created a new position at the secretariat: the Mission Manager. This role is responsible for overseeing our safety protocols, providing comprehensive training, and ensuring volunteers receive tailored country briefings to prepare them thoroughly for deployment.

Since the position was opened in August 2024, over 15 country briefings have been conducted and a new training course, "Deployed - What Now?", has been launched to strengthen volunteers' readiness for fieldwork and allow for families and next of

kin to learn more about the reality, and safety, during deployments.

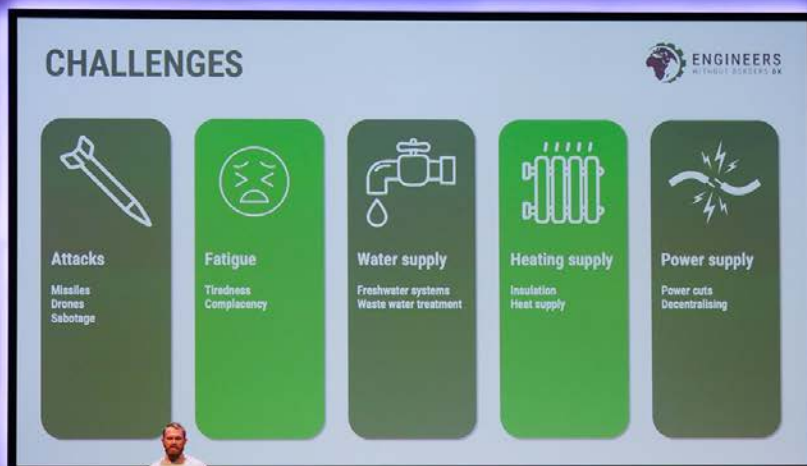


**Lasse Oszadlik,**  
**Mission Manager at EWB**

"It's a great honor to offer my skills in support of those who voluntarily put on the work gear to improve the lives of vulnerable communities."

Furthermore, a 24/7 emergency support phone line has been introduced. Activated during deployments, it connects volunteers directly with the Mission Manager, providing immediate assistance and peace of mind throughout their mission. In 2024 the emergency line handled everything from canceled flights and illnesses to water heater fires and general well-being, before, during, and after deployment.

*Lasse Oszadlik briefing volunteers on safety*



# Stronger Nordic Ties

In 2024, we deepened our collaboration with EWB-Sweden and EWB-Norway through monthly meetings that strengthened regional ties and laid the foundation for joint projects and shared learning. In early 2025, Finland has joined our regular meetings. By exchanging tools, expertise,

and experiences across borders, we're building a stronger network capable of delivering more sustainable and impactful solutions. The Nordic approaches are very similar and we always take home great inspiration and motivation from our neighbours.

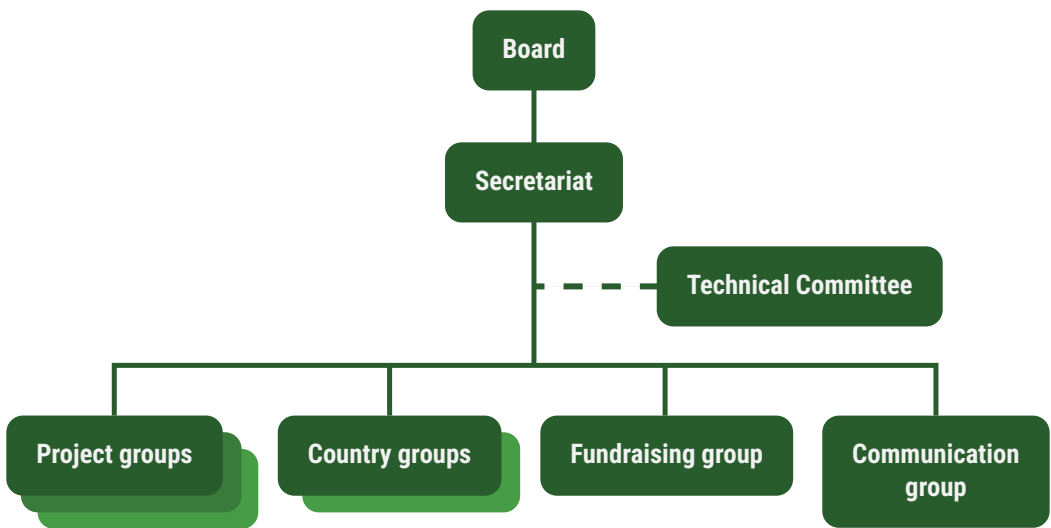
# Organisational Changes

As part of creating a more responsive EWB the full operational responsibility was moved to the Secretariat. This way, the Secretary General is responsible for all deployments, including the safety, training and insurance of our staff and volunteers.

To assist the secretariat in identifying the right technical expertise, the new Technical Committee now oversees our CV database and provides advice on technical designs from the project groups. With the committee of experienced volunteers in an advisory role we ensure clear placement of responsibility with the project managers who works the closest with our partners, without

compromising the need for qualified internal technical reviews and resource allocation.

At the same time, two new thematic groups have been founded: One for fundraising and one for communication. A crosscutting coordination group for project controllers is in the making. Here we invite volunteers with different backgrounds from communication or finance as well as those of our members who may not have the opportunity to deploy, but who keep supporting our effort and who prefer to work more flexibly on applications and project designs - often after bedtime for the kids.



The new organisational structure









A group of volunteers in Mykolaiv, Ukraine



# THE SECRETARIAT

With new leadership comes new priorities. During the last year, the secretariat has developed significantly to better cover the wide scope of operational management of EWB. Our new Secretary General has focused on a stronger public identity, extensive deployment preparedness and training for our volunteers as well as an additional lift on administrative and financial support from paid staff members. All of this ensures that as volunteers, you can prioritise your time and efforts on the engineering and technical work, while the secretariat handles everything to keep you safe, sound, connected, and financed.



**Peter Horne Zartsdahl**  
Secretary General



**Sofie Viborg**  
Int. Project Advisor



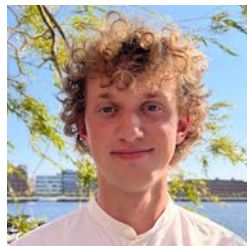
**Pi Arnth Petersen**  
Int. Project Advisor



**Sarah Specht Olsen**  
Int. Project Advisor



**Lasse Oszadlik**  
Mission Manager



**Nicolai Fürstnow**  
Project Design Engineer



**Matthias Köppe**  
Finance Officer

## Looking Ahead

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The changes in 2024 have claimed a lot of focus and resources from the secretariat. We are very proud of our results but also recognise that more work lies ahead of us.

In 2025, we will be investing more in the life-cycle for volunteers, creating more opportunities for our many student members, capitalising on the experience of our seniors, and ensuring that there is a volunteer role for every chapter of a member's life.

A few of the exciting new steps include flexible volunteering through virtual links between Danish offices and teams deployed on the ground, and more social activities cutting across project groups and assembling all members whenever possible. In that respect, we hope to see you soon for our Summer Party - save the date August 30th 2025.



# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Our board ensures that EWB works strategically toward our vision of creating sustainable solutions through engineering expertise and collaboration. In 2024 the board has focused on the recruitment and selection of our new Secretary General, drafting of the new EWB Strategy for approval in 2025, and supporting the organisational and structural changes implemented under the new operational leadership.

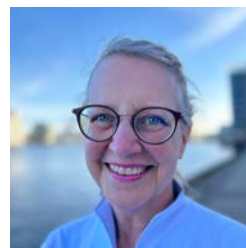
The EWB Board of Directors consists of dedicated professionals from diverse fields elected among our members volunteering their time and competences. They set the strategic direction and actively support our work both in Denmark and internationally. Some of the board members are also actively engaged in the organization's projects, helping to strengthen the connection between strategic leadership and the realities on the ground. Their work is carried out in close collaboration with the Secretary General, the secretariat, and other EWB volunteers.



**Erland S. Christensen**  
Chairman



**Rasmus Visby**  
Vice Chairman



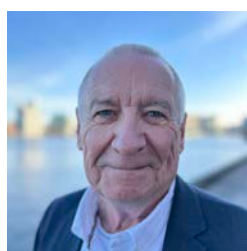
**Vibeke Ackermann**  
Treasurer



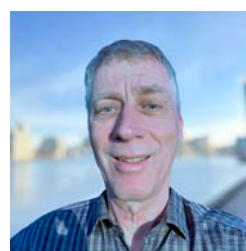
**Christian Grøn**  
Secretary



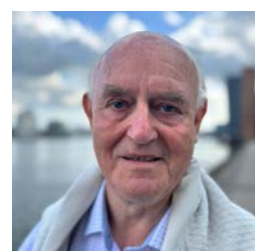
**Christina Berg Olesen**  
Member



**Niels Oscar B. Jensen**  
Member



**Arne Laurvig Palsbirk**  
Member



**Bent Michael Nielsen**  
Member

## A Living Strategy – Use it, Don't Lose it



The 2025-2027 strategy builds on what already works. It reinforces the direction we've shaped together - through years of collaboration between volunteers, partners, the secretariat and the board. At the same time, the world is changing - and so must we. The strategy helps us align our efforts with the needs and opportunities of an evolving and unpredictable world.

Biologists often use the phrase "use it or lose it." The same applies to strategy. It must be lived and acted upon - or it fades. A good strategy sets direction and ambition - and invites us to go further than we thought possible. We aim to grow – though we wish it weren't necessary.

We already work both fast and long-term. With this strategy, we're sharpening that dual commitment: EWB Response, where we provide early technical support in urgent situations, and EWB Projects, where we build long-term, locally rooted partnerships. We want to do more of both – with clearer priorities, stronger collaboration and a shared language.

As they say in Tivoli: "In the eyes of the guest, every employee is a director." In EWB, each of us represents not just an organisation, but a broader commitment. Every encounter, every effort – together with our partners - shows what Danish engagement in the world looks like: grounded in expertise, voluntarism and mutual respect.

- Rasmus Visby, Vice Chairman

*EWB listening to partners' perspectives/visions for future collaboration*





# HOW TO SUPPORT

At EWB we believe that with ability comes responsibility. It is you, our donors, that enable our volunteers to make a significant difference. Their engagement helps empower communities worldwide through humanitarian-technical solutions. Whether you're an individual, a company, or a foundation, there are multiple ways to support EWB.

## Membership

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Join our community to support EWB's mission. Memberships start at 400 DKK per year, with discounted rates for students and the option to support with additional donations.

## Donations

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Contribute a one-time or recurring donation of any amount. Donations to EWB are tax-deductible up to DKK 19,000 per year or up to 15% of annual taxable income for persons or corporations entering a 10-year annual donation agreement.

## Legacy

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Include EWB in your will to make a lasting impact. As a registered charity, bequests to EWB are exempt from inheritance tax, ensuring your entire contribution supports our work.

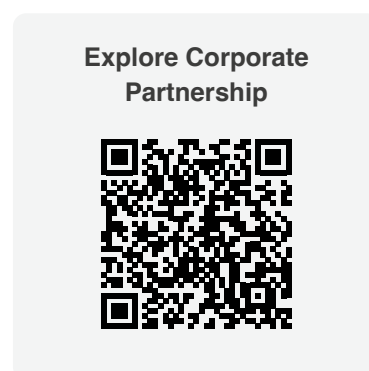
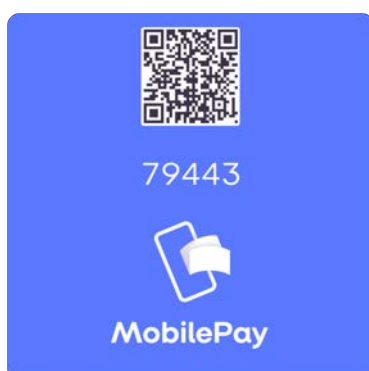
## Corporate Partnership

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EWB offers three types of collaboration, allowing your company to actively engage in sustainable development work and demonstrate significant social responsibility. You can choose between *Partnership*, *Extended Membership*, and *Regular Membership*, depending on the level of involvement and commitment that best fits your needs.

### **Make Your Social Engagement Visible**

A corporate collaboration with EWB allows you to demonstrate visible and meaningful social engagement. It can enhance your ESG profile, attract and develop qualified global talent, and provide your employees with unique opportunities to contribute to philanthropic efforts in challenging and complex environments.



# ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

2024 was a year marked by strategic investment and financial challenges.

EWB recorded a deficit for the year, primarily driven by EWB financed expanded project activity and structural changes aimed at strengthening the organisation in the long term.

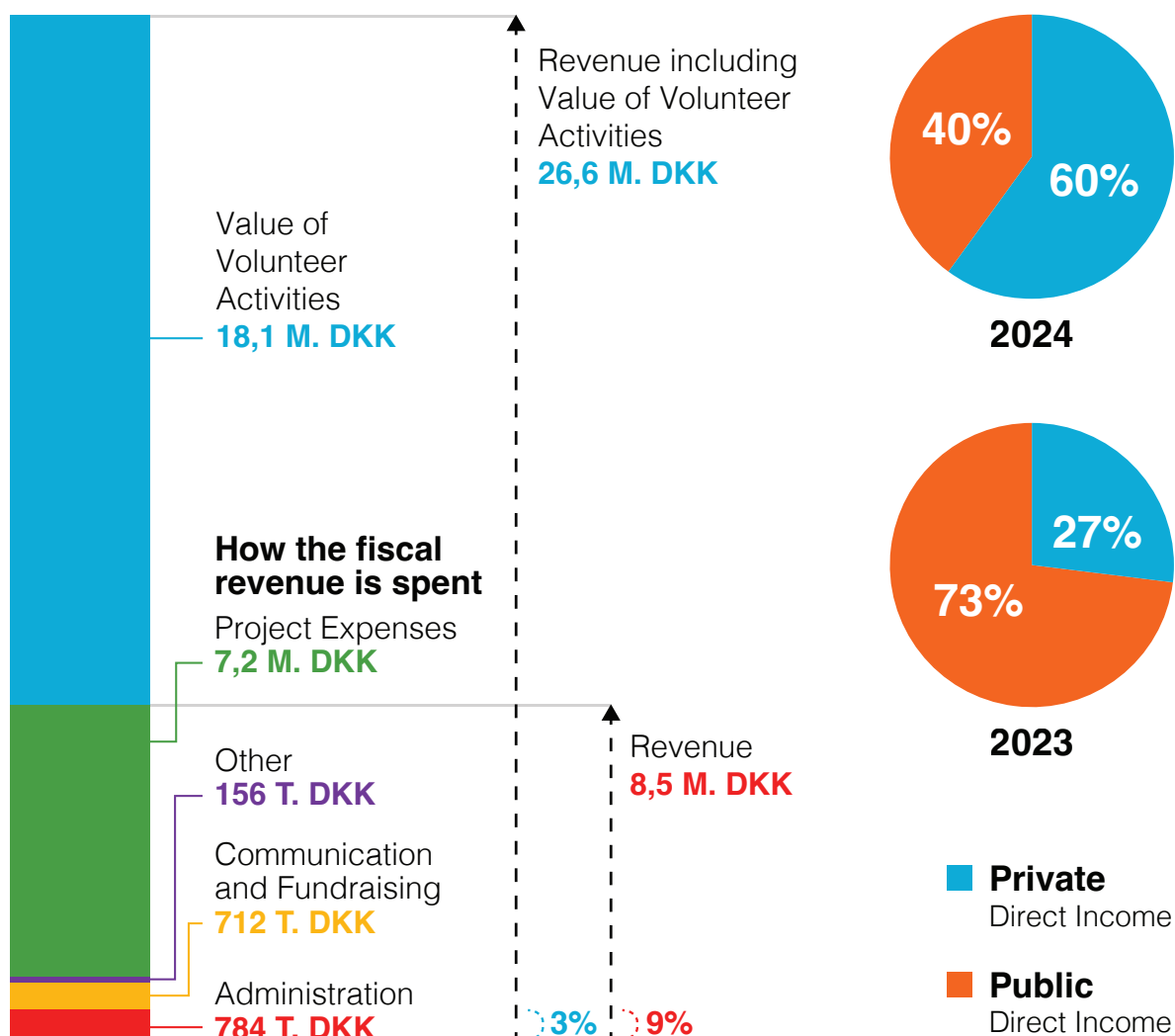
<b>OPERATING STATEMENT</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
<i>January 1 - December 31</i>	<i>(DKK 1,000)</i>	<i>(DKK 1,000)</i>
<b>REVENUES</b>		
Income	15,227	10,445
Prepaid donations/grants - Beginning of the year	8,351	7,996
Prepaid donations/grants - End of the year	-15,110	-8,351
<b>Total revenues</b>	<b>8,468</b>	<b>10,090</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Direct project expenses	5,970	7,587
Indirect project expenses	1197	791
Other activities	868	951
Management and general expenses	784	811
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>8,819</b>	<b>10,140</b>
<b>Earnings before interest</b>	<b>-351</b>	<b>-50</b>
Interest expenses	1	1
<b>ANNUAL RESULT</b>	<b>-350</b>	<b>-49</b>
<b>BALANCE SHEET</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
<i>December 31</i>	<i>(DKK 1,000)</i>	<i>(DKK 1,000)</i>
<b>Assets</b>		
Other receivables and prepayments	191	212
Grant receivable	11,827	3,466
Bank account	3,935	5,848
<b>Current assets</b>	<b>15,953</b>	<b>9,526</b>
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>15,953</b>	<b>9,526</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
<b>Equity</b>	<b>503</b>	<b>853</b>
Tied reserves for projects	15,110	8,350
Non - current liabilities	0	0
Current liabilities	340	323
<b>Total equity and liabilities</b>	<b>15,953</b>	<b>9,526</b>



## Revenue Allocation and Funding Sources

Below, it is illustrated how EWB allocated its revenue in 2024. Administrative costs accounted for 9%, compared to 8% in 2023. When the estimated value of volunteer contributions, from both project groups and deployed volunteer, is included in the revenue, administrative costs represent just 3% - unchanged from 2023. The value of volunteer time is calculated using an hourly rate of DKK 700.

In 2024, we have shifted our income composition. 60% of our direct income came from private funding and 40% from public funding, compared to 27% private and 73% public in 2023. Going forward, we will maintain a strong focus on private funding and continue to build on the progress made in diversifying our income base.









A volunteer taking part in the partner seminar in Sierra Leone





Cover photo: Volunteer testing water quality in Mykolaiv, Ukraine  
Back cover photo: Hand pump in Sierra Leone maintained by EWB-trained operator



Follow us on social media

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