

**ENGINEERS
WITHOUT BORDERS
DENMARK**

2023
Annual report



Index

Chairman's report	3
About EWB-DK	4
EWB-DK in Numbers	5
SDG 4: Quality Education for All	6
SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation.....	8
SDG 7: Sustainable Energy	10
SDG 12: Responsible Consumption.....	12
SDG 13: Climate Action	14
SDG 16: Strong Institutions	17
SDG 17: Partnerships	18
Internship with EWB-DK	19
Corporate partnerships	20
The Board/ Thank you to our donors	22
Annual accounts	23

* Cover image: Construction of a new school in Vaahun village, Sierra Leone, August 2023.
The image is reversed from the original. Photo: Mikkel Hørlyck

Chairman's report

2023 has been an eventful year. Our work has been rewarded with significant grants, an award-winning photographer has documented our climate change efforts, we have been honoured with an award and the number of people reached by our efforts has broken a record with over **140,000 people**. This is a very satisfying result of our work.

With the largest grant in EWB-DK's history, our main donor, CISU, decided at the beginning of 2023 to grant **DKK 4.1 million** to a new and ambitious climate adaptation project in Sierra Leone's capital, Freetown. The project aims to secure water and sanitation conditions against flooding and pollution and has got a good start. Similarly, activities have been ongoing in the southeastern part of the country, where the goal is to make 50 villages resilient to climate change.

Climate adaptation and the environment play a significant role in our projects, and with a strong commitment from our local partners, volunteers and Danish corporate partners, new initiatives have been tested in relation to collecting ocean plastic, establishing waste sorting systems locally in Sierra Leone and Togo and preparations have begun to establish a biogas plant in a vulnerable area in Freetown. At the same time, we have started work on establishing tea production for poor tea farmers in our programme country, Zimbabwe. In Sierra Leone, we have made significant progress in improving conditions for young people with disabilities in close collaboration with our partner, OTC.

Our long-standing focus on ensuring access to clean water and improving sanitation is being recognised, and it was a great honour to be award-

ed the **BIOFOS Inspiration Award 2023**. The recognition came with a generous amount of money for our WASH efforts and a big recognition to all our talented people.

Strong partners and civil society

Our work could not exist without the dedication of our skilled volunteers who make their knowledge and competencies available, but also through our secretariat, which advises and implements the projects. Similarly, our partnerships in the Global South play an important role as they are the link between the civilian population and the authorities. Their tireless work to ensure the success of the projects helps to create strong foundations and local ownership, and we are increasingly experiencing the strong commitment of the beneficiaries. This has led several of our partners to be consulted in drafting Sierra Leone's first climate law.

In Denmark, we have also seen enormous goodwill and corporate commitment. From **Ramboll**, we experience tremendous support for our projects - both in the form of financial funding and strong resources from the employees. At **Emendo**, employees have chosen to support three of our projects in Sierra Leone, Zimbabwe and Togo with knowledge and financial support. Together with **DIS** and **Ocean Plastic Forum**, we have developed and tested a barrier to collect ocean plastic in Sierra Leone. **Eltwin Group** employees have produced data monitors that have been installed on water towers in Sierra Leone. And at the engineering programmes at **DTU** and **SDU**, there has been an overwhelming demand and response to the courses we have been a part of. This has a huge impact on our work with partnerships like these.

A new strategic year

EWB-DK is heading in a new direction. After 12 years in the organisation, its Secretary General was offered a new position at the end of 2023. Therefore, the focus has been on finding a new leader to head the organisation and lead the work on the new strategic goals.

Looking into 2024, EWB-DK has a significant working capital of around DKK 5,5 million from public funds and DKK 2,8 million from private foundations to initiate new activities. With the donations, we will, among other things, start an ICT HUB for young female STEM students, a beautiful new school will open for over 400 students, and work will begin on building a biogas plant and a hostel for young people with disabilities. In addition, we expect to finalise funding for several new projects we have in the pipeline.

Finally, I would like to thank our loyal members, dedicated volunteers, Secretariat, partners in the Global South, Danish NGOs, companies, and universities for helping us realise our projects. Together, we are helping to fulfil the SDGs and improve living conditions in some of the world's poorest communities.



Bent Michael Nielsen
Chairman of the board

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bent Michael Nielsen". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned below the printed name and title.



About Engineers Without Borders - Denmark

Engineers Without Borders – Denmark (EWB-DK) is a technical-humanitarian organisation that works to improve the living standards of the world’s most vulnerable people through long-term, local, and technical solutions to contribute to strong and resilient communities through capacity building and the active involvement of the local population in the Global South.

The skilled and committed volunteers in EWB-DK are our technical foundation and cover many professional skills and experiences, and their role is to liaise with our partners to ensure sustainable, quality solutions in our projects. In addition, the secretariat supports in ensuring a holistic ap-

proach to the projects through development counselling and interaction with volunteers and partners.

We transform our technical expertise into relevant, sustainable, and lasting locally anchored solutions with a tangible and immediate effect. We work closely with universities and companies to share knowledge and create anchorage with our partners, and the UN Sustainable Development Goals are our guiding principles.

We believe in strong local ownership, and a central player is our partners in the Global South, particularly in our two programme countries, Sierra Leone and Zimbabwe. Together, we improve access to education and

healthcare, provide clean water and better sanitary facilities, make local communities resilient to climate change, establish solar-based power and waste management systems and much more.

We believe that the world’s most vulnerable have and can develop the needed and relevant skills to play a decisive role in developing their societies. Local communities supported by EWB-DK and partners must identify problems and solutions by themselves, irrespective of whether the poverty is social or economic or due to other forms of marginalisation. Help to self-help is at the core of our mission.



EWB-DK in numbers



29,915 hours volunteered



1,430 members



142 active members



9,7 mil DKK in donations



8,8 mil DKK in project expenses



399 days on mission in local communities



140,000 people impacted

In 2023, EWB-DK efforts have been carried out in the following countries and regions:





SDG 4: Quality Education for all

Every child has the right to go to school. However, in many places, children's and young people's learning takes place under challenging conditions in small and run-down rooms with limited learning materials. As education is crucial to improve future opportunities, EWB-

DK supports school systems in the Global South by securing access to quality education by renovating existing structures, constructing new school buildings, providing access to electricity, securing sanitary facilities, and providing accessibility for people living with disability. We also support the schools' skills and

management with training, relevant learning materials for young people in STEM education programmes and the organisation of students and parents in management structures. The projects secure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for everybody.



New primary school in Ghana has opened

Pebi, Ghana

In the small fishing community Pebi in southern Ghana, years of work to build a primary school have been completed. In 2023, the school could finally open its doors to around 100 schoolchildren in the area. EWB-DK has been responsible for the advisory part of the project in close cooperation with the small Danish NGO "100% for the Children" and local contractors.

Partner: 100% for the Children
Donor: Ramboll Foundation
Positive impacted **100** children

Advocacy for inclusive education

Kenema, Sierra Leone

People with different abilities in Sierra Leone experience significant discrimination. EWB-DK supports the organisation Opportunity Training Centre's (OTC) tireless work to improve conditions for people with different abilities. OTC runs a vocational and technical school where young people with different abilities can receive an education in a safe and disability-friendly environment. Among other things, EWB-DK has assisted with the construction of new buildings and supports OTC's work to advocate for the rights of people with different abilities, especially in rural communities in Kenema District. OTC's persistent work has been recognised regionally and nationally. Several students from the centre have been accepted into universities and higher education, buildings have been rehabilitated and OTC has begun to establish partnerships with other organisations and donors.

Hostel to improve opportunities for young people with disabilities

During 2023, a feasibility study was carried out to highlight the lack of housing for people with different abilities and to engage with authorities and relevant organisations on how to improve conditions, resulting in the development of a strong advocacy tool. The study will form the basis for constructing a hostel for young people with different abilities, where they can stay while attending OTC and other education programmes, and create a platform that can strengthen and allocate for the conditions for persons with different abilities. The new hostel will be able to accommodate up to 100 people and make a big difference to their future opportunities.

Partner: Opportunity Training Centre (OTC)
Donors: CISU, ARUP and private donations
Beneficiaries **110** persons



“Working with EWB-DK has helped to ensure the restoration of dignity for the lives of disabled persons in Kenema.”

- Opportunity Training Center (OTC)



ICT Hub for young female students

The path to technical education, learning and access to jobs is a challenge for young women in Sierra Leone. Therefore, during 2023, EWB-DK and our partner SEND-SL have started work on establishing an ICT Hub at the STEM school Nyapui Senior Secondary School of Excellence for young girls in the Kenema District. The capacity of the teachers has been significantly strengthened

through online teaching and sparing so that in the future, they can offer more targeted and practical teaching, where students will have the opportunity to learn basic programming and work with several technical machines, donated by eduard.dk. In this connection, the project has had a Danish intern and a technical expert attached to the school, who has initiated the activities.

In addition, the project also includes the local community to create awareness and interest in STEM education for young women. The new ICT Hub is scheduled to open in early 2024.

Partner: SEND-SL
 Donors: CISU and eduard.dk
 Beneficiaries 397 persons

Community-driven improved education at rural primary school

Vaahun, Sierra Leone

In the village of Vaahun in south-eastern Sierra Leone, the current school consists of a single classroom shared by over 200 children in multiple classes. At the initiative of our partner SEND-SL and the local community, work is underway to build a new, beautiful school that will accommodate over 400 students in six classrooms and cover four other villages.

In the school's design, great emphasis has been placed on using sustainable materials, resulting in the use of burned clay bricks. However, production has been hindered by the extended rainy season but is now back on track. Parallel with the construction of the school, the community has been actively engaged in planning the enrolment and management of the future school. The mobilisation and involvement of the community has created an enabling and supportive environment for learning, which is evident in the significant progress



Photo: Mikkel Hørlück

made in the students' reading and comprehension skills.

The construction work is expected to be completed in early 2024, and students can use the classrooms in the spring of 2024.

Partner: SEND-SL
 Donor: Marie & M.B. Richters Fond, Erik Thunes Legat, NNE, Bygma Fonden and CISU
 Beneficiaries 570 persons



SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation

Access to water, proper sanitary facilities, and hygiene (WASH) are fundamental human rights. At the same time, well-managed and distributed water resources are crucial for economic development, the fight against poverty, and gender equality. EWB-DK's WASH projects pro-

vide access to clean and safe drinking water through the construction of water towers and wells, monitoring of water systems and orderly sanitary conditions for the poorest and most vulnerable in the world. We build strong management, operational and economic structures around our technical solutions to

ensure the long-term sustainability of our projects. Disease control is a central theme, including health education and health insurance schemes informing and enabling access to basic health services. With these measures, the projects ensure beneficiaries have sustainable water and sanitation access.



Photo: Mikkel Hørlyck

A Green Empower House in Freetown slums

Freetown, Sierra Leone

EWB-DK has been working for several years to improve sanitary conditions in Sierra Leone's slums and rural areas. In the poor neighbourhood Pottor, in the capital Freetown, access to proper sanitation is very limited, and there is a high risk of spreading diseases. Therefore, there are plans to establish a Green Empower House close to a small market area. The

Green Empower House will serve as a community centre, a business hub, and a biogas plant while also providing improved sanitary facilities. The idea is to utilise organic waste and human faecal waste to produce biogas, showcasing the production of green energy while offering additional services needed in the community. This will benefit the entire community by improving

sanitary conditions and showcasing a green alternative to coal and fuel. Together with our partner WHI-SL, we conducted a feasibility study in the area in 2023. The location for the project is secured, and we are ready to start scoping the design and apply for funding to bring it to life.

Partner: WHI-SL

Donor: CISU

EWB-DK's efforts honoured with inspiration award

In the autumn of 2023, the Danish wastewater company BIOFOS awarded EWB-DK the Inspiration Award. The prestigious prize was awarded for EWB-DK's commitment and development work based on volunteerism and high professionalism to improve water supply and sanitation for the world's poorest people. The award was presented during the Danish Water Conference in Aarhus and comes with DKK 10,000, which will be spent on EWB-DK's WASH initiatives.



For our **strong collaboration to improve water conditions in Sierra Leone**, WHI-Sierra Leone presented EWB-DK with this great recognition in December 2023.



Empowering Communities through Monitoring Water Towers

Kenema, Sierra Leone

For several years, EWB-DK has been monitoring the functionality and water consumption of community water in rural and urban areas in Sierra Leone. During 2023, EWB-DK organised a workshop at the Technical University (ETU) in Kenema, where students, lecturers and our partners were taught how to install monitoring systems. In this regard, new monitors were installed on five water towers. The system is working as intended, and the authorities and residents now have access to data on the amount of water being pumped into their villages. Following the training, an online course was set up to strengthen the university teachers' and students'

ability to produce the monitoring systems themselves. The monitors are developed in close collaboration with the University of Southern Denmark (SDU), with contributions from the Danish companies DIS and Eltwin Group. The installation of the monitors contributes to our WASH and climate program in Kenema. Read more about the project on page 14.

In 2024, the system will be expanded to also monitor and transmit the temperature, determine how well the pump is working and pick up signals if something changes. As part of this initiative, EWB-DK and our partners have collaborated with the SL Na-

tional Communications Commission (NATCOM) to submit the first official application for using associated radio frequency spectrums based on international standards (ITU) program component.

Get insight into the data transmissions. Scan the QR-code:



Installation of a Danish waterworks in Sierra Leone

Freetown, Sierra Leone

In the capital, Freetown, work is underway to reconstruct a former Danish waterworks from Agerup, which has been decommissioned and transported to Sierra Leone. Along the way, the project had to change location, as it turned out that there was not enough water in the subsoil to apply pumps. Instead, the water plant will be built in the Waterloo neighbourhood in close collaboration with the local partner Water4Ever. The plan is to utilise the existing boreholes of the area

and connect these to a small water supply system to enable an increasing amount of people to gain access to clean drinking water. The project aligns with EWB-DKs long-standing engagement in the country on securing access to clean water, and the system is deemed relevant.

Partners: Water4Ever

Donor: Ramboll Foundation

Beneficiaries 5,000 persons





SDG 7 Sustainable Energy

Universal access to energy, increased energy efficiency, and using renewable energy are essential to create sustainable and inclusive societies, economic development, and re-

silience to environmental challenges such as climate change. EWB-DK's sustainable energy projects contribute to solutions that ensure a stable electricity supply to small communities and contribute to the develop-

ment of local communities. The surplus energy from the energy system is often utilised at schools and health clinics to charge gadgets or mobile phones and provide services that sustains a strong business model.



Community Solar Powered Business Hub to create green jobs

Mendekelema, Sierra Leone

Access to electricity is far from given in rural areas of Sierra Leone. In the village of Mendekelema in the south-east, work has been going on to build and establish a Business Hub. In addition to powering the hub itself, the surplus energy is utilised to power machinery and charge gadgets that are then used to drive different sorts of businesses and thus create green jobs. There is strong support for the project in the local community, which has raised part of the funding. Alongside the construction, our partner SEND-SL has supported the establishment of loans and savings groups, they have trained the local community in entrepreneurship and how to create sustainable green businesses that can grow the local economy and improve living standards in rural areas - with a special focus on women and the younger population.

The new Solar Power Hub is expected to be operational in early 2024 delivering an immense livelihood boosting initiative that will promote income and livelihood security for hundreds of households in Mendekelema and the surrounding communities.

Partner: SEND-SL

Donors: Ramboll Foundation, Asta og Jul P. Justesens Fond, Reinholdt

W. Jorck og Hustrus Fond and FLS-midth Gavfond

Beneficiaries 2,550 persons



“We are honoured to collaborate with EWB-DK in transforming lives through our joint efforts in Sierra Leone. Together, we have been steadfast in addressing critical challenges in health and education infrastructure, climate change, WASH, and renewable energy through innovation and technology. This partnership exemplifies the power of our collective actions in creating sustainable impact in the lives of the people and communities in Sierra Leone. SEND Sierra Leone is proud to contribute to these initiatives and looks forward to continued collaboration, making lasting positive changes in the communities we serve.”

- Social Enterprise Development Sierra Leone (SEND-SL)



Sustaining health through economic development

Baoma, Sierra Leone

EWB-DK and its partner, SEND-SL, have supported stakeholders in and around the village Baoma, in south-east Sierra Leone, to construct a health post to ensure safe labour for women and improve general health conditions in the area. In 2023, a follow-up project was launched to solidify and expand the sustainability and gender equality achieved. Furthermore, a kiosk was designed and built in the vicinity of the health post, and a solar energy system from the health post was expanded and connected to the kiosk. The new structure will serve as a social and economic centre in the area, offering goods and services as well as income to support the long-term viability of the health post.

Furthermore, 24 Health Insurance Scheme savings groups have been formed so that community members can save money and make collective decisions, enabling them to afford medical treatment and other investments in improved health and well-being, and 80 women have been trained to form business plans and get access to financing. Now, the community members have taken ownership of both the health post and the kiosk,

and they are using their savings to build community toilets, furniture for the health post, a birth-waiting house next to the health post, etc.

Through the two successive projects, Baoma and its surrounding communities have a solar-powered health post and kiosk, a strong partnership with local health authorities, commu-

nity savings and self-support groups to pay for health emergencies, strong community-based institutions, greater gender equality, and increased possibilities for long-term economic growth.

Partner: SEND-SL

Donor: CISU

Beneficiaries 2,550 persons



SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Environment

The volume of waste in developing countries is increasing, especially the amount of plastic. At the same time, many smaller communities lack a strategy for dealing with waste, which is often landfilled by chance, so that children and livestock have free access to it. This can have fatal consequences in diseases transmitted from the waste or livestock dying. Furthermore, the amount of plastic in the oceans

and large landfills has grown significantly globally and has now reached a problematic level. EWB-DK's waste projects aim to develop local waste management to significantly improve the population's health and quality of life and create new income opportunities by sorting and recycling waste. The projects contribute to ensuring sustainable consumption and production methods.



Community-driven waste management in Togo

Kétao, Togo

Waste management challenges have been significantly reversed in the market town of Kétao in northern Togo, West Africa. Together with the local partner ADSA and the inhabitants, EWB-DK has initiated a waste management project and established a waste disposal centre, connecting 250 households.

ADSA has shown an increased understanding of running and monitoring the waste management project and the importance of reaching long-term economic sustainability, and the citizens have actively engaged themselves in public awareness-raising activities. The second phase of the project is now underway, with the task of expanding waste collection to the entire city with 1.000 households. This will involve mobilising and educating citi-

zens on how best to sort their waste so that plastic, metal, glass, etc., can be recycled into value-added products that benefit the local community and strengthen the capacity of ADSA.

Partner: Association de Développement Social et Agricole (ADSA)

Donors: CISU and Emendo

Beneficiaries 2,027 persons

Get an insight into the project activities. Scan the QR-code:



WHY I VOLUNTEER



"I grew up in Kétao, Togo, without a waste management system. Household waste was predominantly biowaste, mainly used to produce compost. After four decades, the population has exponentially increased, with plastic and diapers widely used, resulting in dire consequences for public health and environmental pollution. In 2018, an experimental waste management system was implemented with EWB-DK and the local partner, ADSA.

Encouraged by its success, I am eager to contribute to expanding waste management throughout the entire town. Leveraging my local knowledge from Kétao and experiences gained through my education and work in Denmark, the current project offers me a unique opportunity to gain ground-based experience in waste management in low-income countries where the population struggles with daily living challenges.

Beyond technical skills, this project empowers my communication and management skills, which I can use in my professional work at Copenhagen Municipality and personal development."

Vincent Edjabou,
Volunteer project manager



Solid waste management in Freetown with floating barrier

Freetown, Sierra Leone

Freetown, the capital of Sierra Leone, is struggling with a growing influx of solid waste, especially plastic, and with waste management being at an almost non-existing level the issue is a pressing concern. Around 80% of the plastic waste is currently dumped on streets and in rivers, and it ends up in coastal areas and the Atlantic Ocean. Together with DIS, Ocean Plastic Forum (OPF) and local partners WHI-SL and Skill Pool, we are working on designing, constructing, and installing a floating barrier in Aberdeen Creek, as well as establishing a pre-sorting and storage facility for the collected marine plastics.

In the Spring of 2023, the barrier was built and tested - first in Denmark and then in Freetown. It was a success but with a need for adjustments. At the same time, work has been done to find a suitable location for a waste management site where the collected waste can be sorted. In collaboration with local authorities, the system for how solid waste and plastic will be sorted, cleaned, and

recycled to generate income is currently being developed. Along the way, three Danish interns have been connected to the project in Denmark and Sierra Leone.

At the beginning of 2024 the agreement of the waste management site was signed with the mayor. This is an important milestone in establishing a long-term waste management system in the area.

Partner: WHI-SL and Skill Pool
Donors: CISU, DIS and Ocean Plastic Forum (OPF)
 Beneficiaries 3,500 persons

Get an insight into the testing of the barrier. Scan the QR-code:



WHY I VOLUNTEER



"I have volunteered at EWB-DK for four years and have been involved in multiple projects in Sierra Leone. For the past year and a half, I have been involved in a waste management project aimed at tackling the severe waste pollution in Sierra Leone's capital, Freetown. It takes great pride in contributing to a cleaner future for the communities in and around Freetown.

Our project constraints are vastly different, leading to many challenges and problems to solve. But that's where the magic happens. By bringing people together of different skill sets and backgrounds, we find a way to solve these challenges and problems. In the cross section between volunteers, Danish and Sierra Leonean NGOs, we continuously try to improve our ways of working to foster stronger and better collaboration between all parties. ...and while we can't solve everything, we keep pushing our efforts in a direction for the better."

Aleksander Birk Andersen, Project Manager at DIS and volunteer Project Manager at the solid waste management project.



"The successful partnership between SPSL and EWB-DK has,

over the years, built our organisation upon enhancing its capacity and good relationships with community stakeholders, local authorities, development Partners, Civil Societies, MDAs, and the local and central Government. The partnership has given us a much enhanced organisational capacity in terms of Climate Action, enabling the organisation to build resilient communities through Climate adapta-

tion activities. Consequently, SPSL was accredited by the Freetown City Council for the support in the development of the first ever Freetown Climate Action Plan, and our assistance for the launching and on behalf of the city we were invited to discuss with international development partners on issues related to Climate."

- Skill Pool Sierra Leone



SDG 13: Climate Action

Due to lack of state funding, many poor countries are forced to address the negative climate change impact themselves. Together with local partners, we seek to build resilience and action from below. Active citizenship is a crucial element of EWB-DK's

resilience and climate action approach. EWB-DK's partnerships and projects support civil society's resilience and develop local solutions that create new and innovative models for climate action in synergy with regional and national development plans. The projects contribute directly to strengthen

local resilience and adaptability to climate-related risks and natural disasters by improving skills, knowledge, and the human and institutional capacity to counteract, adapt, limit damage, and secure early warning of climate change.



Photo: Mikkel Hørlyck

Citizen-Driven Climate and WASH Management in 50 rural communities

Kenema, Sierra Leone

Water, health, livelihood, and climate change are closely linked. In close collaboration with our partners SEND-SL and WHI-SL, we strengthen the population of Kenema district in Sierra Leone by engaging 50 rural villages in activities to mitigate climate change and to safeguard water supply and infrastructure through capacity building in climate resilience initiatives.

In 2023, the project continued its community-based analysis, identification, and documentation of climate hazards and their effects at the community level, involving relevant actors at district level and other relevant stakeholders. The result has been the first produced climate incident report that captured the situation

and challenges faced by communities due to the negative impact of climate change. SEND has subsequently been invited to meetings with the national authorities on developing a national Climate Adaptation Plan to bring civil society together around what the new climate plan should contain.

The project also focuses on equipping the communities with skills to respond and adapt to climate hazards such as flooding and heat stress. Measures such as digging trenches, renovating, and securing 19 wells against overflowing, and organising community resilience groups have been implemented to manage flooding. To promote transparent management of the water supply area and to

ensure a prompt response and action when water supply systems break down, the project initiated systematic data collection at the community level. This involved using technology to monitor the functionality of selected water supply systems remotely. Read more on page 9.

During 2023, two Danish interns have been assigned to the activities in Sierra Leone.

Partners: SEND-SL and WHI-SL
 Donors: CISU, Emendo, Jubilæumsfonden, Rambøll, Kulturstyrelsens Udlovningsfond, Saxildske Familiefond and Fonden af 24 december 2008

Impact 53,000 persons



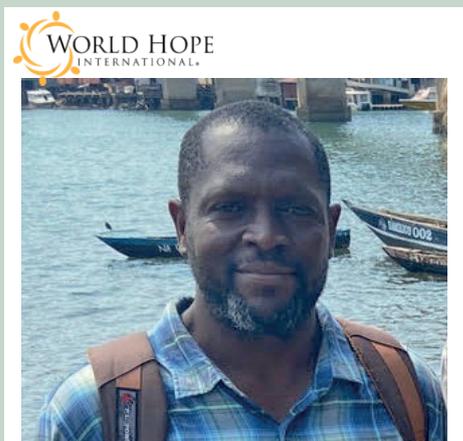
Citizen-driven climate adaptation in Freetown

Freetown, Sierra Leone

Climate change is affecting the vulnerable and poor people in communities in Sierra Leone. In three selected urban areas in the capital, Freetown, EWB-DK, our two partners, WHI-SL and Skill Pool, and the inhabitants, we have introduced several citizen-driven initiatives to make the communities resilient and robust to climate change. The areas are severely affected by recurring periods of heat, drought, and flooding, making life difficult for the more than 60,000 inhabitants.

The project is based on the partners' previous efforts in the area, and among others, the water and sanitation conditions will be secured against flooding and pollution by digging canals, planting trees, and establishing two new water facilities with four water kiosks to supply the inhabitants with clean drinking water. In addition, strategical actors will be engaged through advocacy and knowledge-sharing initiatives to strengthen a shared climate adaptation agenda.

Partner: WHI-SL and Skill Pool
Donors: CISU and Ramboll Foundation
Beneficiaries 63,500 persons



WHY I VOLUNTEER

"Since I decided to volunteer at EWB-DK, I enjoy having the opportunity to support our local partner in Sierra Leone with my professional and interpersonal skills. It gave myself an uplift of my skills. Throughout the project, we have worked with very skilled people, both our partners in Sierra Leone and within the project group in DK. Being in contact with different cultures in the other part of the world is very giving. The dedication of all project members throughout the project is very motivating, and I have the impression that all individuals strive to make the world a better place. Personally, I am looking forward to following our common project in Sierra Leone very closely and successfully close the project."

To everyone considering becoming a volunteer at EWB-DK, go ahead - I can only recommend it!"

- Pia Pfabe, Construction manager at CG Jensen and co-project manager of the community driven climate project in Freetown.



"I count it all joy to be part of the tremendous work EWB-DK is doing in Sierra Leone in providing clean drinking water, assisting local communities' initiatives in Climate Mitigation and Adaptation, and improving the general livelihoods of the citizens, specifically, in the West End of Freetown and in the Kenema District. Personally, I am continuously building on my capabilities as a Civil Engineer through the diverse engineering designs and bottom-up approaches being implemented in our projects with EWB-DK."

Hassan Borbor Kamara, Engineering Support Specialist, WHI-SL



Photo: Mikkel Hørlyck

Award-winning photographer portrays climate change in Sierra Leone

Under the title “Building the Future”, EWB-DK has teamed up with the Danish photojournalist Mikkel Hørlyck to depict climate change in Sierra Leone. Mikkel Hørlyck travelled with EWB-DK on a reporting trip to Sierra Leone in August 2024. Here, he portrayed, through his camera, the harsh reality of climate change that people live under in the slums of the capital, Freetown and several villages in south-eastern Sierra Leone, as well as several citizen-driven initiatives EWB-DK has launched together with local partners.

The result is a powerful series of images, which have been exhibited in several places in Denmark, submitted to various photo competitions, and communicated through lectures, social me-

dia, and articles. Several of Mikkel’s images are used in this annual report.

Donor: The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark’s Engagement and Information Pool, OpEn



Photo: Mikkel Hørlyck

“The collaboration on the photojournalistic project ‘Building the Future’ with EWB-DK was profound and a strong experience. I was in serious touch with climate changes and how to deal with them. The vision of thinking in all plans about life was a way to see every detail—that was my experience with EWB-DK in collaboration with existing partners locally in Sierra Leone: WHI-SL, Skill Pool, and SEND-SL

It was truly amazing to meet the people of Sierra Leone and photograph

them in their daily life. It touched me deeply, and I was impressed with their ability to endure and survive”.

See more of Mikkel Hørlyck’s photos from the project. Scan the QR code:



-Mikkel Hørlyck, Conflict photojournalist and visual artist



SDG 16: Strong Institutions

Building strong local institutions and partnerships is fundamental to all EWB-DK's projects. In its local initiatives and projects, EWB-DK focuses on strengthening transparency and civil society's involvement in providing public services. We have a special focus on local mobilisation and capacity building, integrating private sector and educational

institutions, and developing methods and innovation across the technical and development efforts, including strengthening active citizenship, which is part of all projects. We see civil society as a huge resource with a spare potential to be a significant actor in the solutions to the basic challenges facing many communities in the countries, we work in.



Innovative tea production for smallholder farmers

Honde Valley, Zimbabwe

In the Honde Valley in Zimbabwe, smallholder farmers have experienced a drastic reduction in tea prices and often experience exploitation by the large producers. Together with the Honde Valley Tea Growers Association (HVTGA), EWB-DK has endeavoured to improve the conditions of tea farmers. In May 2023, EWB-DK went to Zimbabwe to officially launch the project, to meet the local communities and tea-producing areas and visit the production site. Following

the mission, HVTGA has attended several capacity-building activities regarding organisational development, leadership, financial management and business & administration.

Additionally, the Danish partner Emendo has granted the project supplementary funding, which will be used to construct a tea production factory. In 2024, the plan is to complete the factory and technical training so that the farmers will have a

small tea production running and the necessary skills to operate and manage the factory when the project ends in April 2024.

Partner: Honde Valley Tea Growers Association (HVTGA).

Donors: CISU and Emendo
Beneficiaries **6,886** persons



“Teamwork involves working together, fostering a spirit of cooperation and leveraging collective strengths to accomplish shared objectives.”

- Honde Valley Tea Growers Association (HVTGA).



SDG 17: Partnerships for the goals

EWB-DK's projects exist because of strong partnerships with civil society organisations, universities, and government institutions. Therefore, our work has a targeted focus on building strong partnerships with

civil society organisations and educational institutions in the Global South and partners in Denmark (companies, universities, and NGOs) and contributes to strengthen global partnerships for sustainable development. The work involves

developing, transferring, and disseminating technological solutions to create better conditions in developing countries and encourage and promote effective public and civil society partnerships.



Photo SDU

Global engagement through education and exchange of experience

Denmark/ Sierra Leone

EWB-DK has good experience working with universities and companies in Denmark and the Global South. In this engagement project, Danish university students are given the opportunity to increase their knowledge and commitment to the SDGs through various educational programmes at the Danish Technical University (DTU) and Southern University of Denmark (SDU). There has been great demand to participate in the programmes, where students have worked with specific cases and given their suggestions on how to solve various challenges in the Global South. Their commitment to innovative solutions has been impressive, and the support from several Danish companies that have made their knowledge available has been great.

In addition, in 2023, we shipped a container to Sierra Leone with donated equipment that has been repurposed by our partners. Furthermore, we sent six interns to Sierra Leone to work on various projects. Here, they have worked closely with our partners on sustainable solutions and donated equipment from Denmark, thereby benefiting local partnerships and communities with know-how and technological solutions.

The project runs until June 2025.

Partner: University of Southern Denmark (SDU), Technical University of Denmark (DTU) and DIS
Donor: GLOBUS





Internship with Engineers Without Borders - Denmark

EWB-DK regularly offers internships for Danish university students—either in Denmark or with our partners in the Global South. The interns are assigned to our projects and work closely with our partners and project groups back in Denmark. This is a win-win situation for all parties, as it creates a great exchange of experience and knowledge sharing across cultures and disciplines.

During 2023, we had six university interns travelling to Sierra Leone. Five interns travelled for three months, while one person combined his internship with assignments in Denmark and 2-3 weeks in Sierra Leone. The interns ap-

proached the tasks with great enthusiasm and put their knowledge and subject areas from their studies to good use. During their stay, they have worked closely with our partners and contributed to solutions for the various project-related activities. Among other things, they have helped develop and test a barrier for collecting marine waste, worked with waste management in the capital, Freetown, taught STEM students and worked with climate adaptation in several villages in the south-eastern part of the country.

The internships are funded with support from the GLOBUS pool.

Watch our two interns, David Bysted and Sara Karlskov, talk about their internship.

Scan the QR code:



Video with David



Video with Sara

Internship on waste management and plastic recycling

“Having been interested in joining EWB-DK as a volunteer, I had to apply when I saw the opportunity to do an internship in Sierra Leone on a project concerning waste value chains and recycling in the Capital, Freetown. Working with the kind and competent people of WHI SL and SP taught me a lot about NGO work in a different country and how to operate within different governance policies. I have deep respect for those who maintain the will to drive positive and sustainable change in their society, even when resources are scarce.

Apart from strengthening my competencies, I found it incredibly empowering to live solo for three months in Sierra Leone. The duration of my internship allowed me to confidently build a daily routine and get to know the country—and come to love it and its people immensely. Don't let your gender or travelling experience keep you from seizing this opportunity.”

Julie Andersen has completed a bachelor's degree in urban-, Energy- and Environmental Management at AAU and did an internship in Sierra Leone for three months.



Corporate partnerships

Our collaborations with companies and universities play a significant role, not only in Denmark but also in our programme countries in the Global South, where we have an increasing focus on strengthening partnerships with national universities and local companies and institutions.

Our corporate partnerships provide us with unique access to state-of-the-art technical knowledge, which we can use to strengthen our technical and development activities and benefit the world's poorest. EWB-DK's corporate members' engagement in our activities is often motivated by a desire to explore how their employees, core business areas, and expert technical knowledge can be applied and provide value in our projects.

In recent years, the considerable synergy potential between corporate

Denmark and EWB-DK's mission has become evident and exemplified in actual project initiatives. With a closer relationship between Danish corporations and their employees on one side and local NGOs and beneficiaries on the other, we can create an even more lasting commitment and a clearer understanding of the huge contribution that can be made from a Danish corporate platform.

We are experiencing significant interest from small and large Danish companies and educational institutions interested in collaborating, allowing us to deliver even better results for the local communities and partners in the Global South. From **Ramboll**, we have seen a great willingness to support our projects not only financially but also with great knowledge and relevant resources from their skilled employees. At the engineering company **Søren Jensen**,

there has been a great commitment to the school construction in Vaahun in Sierra Leone and at **Emendo** we have experienced a huge interest among the employees, who have chosen to support three of our projects with knowledge and financial funding.

Together with **DIS** and **OPF**, we have succeeded in developing and testing a barrier to collect waste in Sierra Leone. In cooperation with **SDU**, the company **Eltwin Group** has further developed a data monitor for transmitting water to water towers in Sierra Leone. And in the engineering programmes at **DTU** and **SDU**, there has been an overwhelming demand and response to the teaching programmes we have been a part of.

Thanks to our corporate members



Partnership with Eltwin Group: New generation of the EWB-DK Monitor

Eltwin Group is passionate about supporting initiatives that create a positive impact on society. One such endeavour that has greatly inspired the employees is the partnership

with EWB-DK, where the staff are proud participants.

“For some time, we looked for a partnership combining our skills in power

electronics and manufacturing with humanitarian work,” explains CSR & Marketing Manager Joan Møller Rusbjerg. “And the partnership with EWB-DK is a wish come true.”



Eltwinners with the final prototypes. Photo by Eltwin Group

The dedicated team from Eltwin Group has manufactured prototypes of the new generation EWB-DK Monitor, allowing for the installation and testing of the software, which has been installed and tested at the water towers in Sierra Leone (see more on page 9). The monitor was developed by EWB-DK and the University of Southern Denmark, who designed a new generation in collaboration with DIS. The new EWB-DK Monitor is working as intended, and Eltwin Group has produced 50 monitors that will be installed on different water towers in Sierra Leone.



Partnership with OPF: Combats plastic waste in Sierra Leone

The Ocean Plastic Forum (OPF) has worked closely with EWB-DK in recent years to establish a marine plastic barrier and sorting centre in Freetown, Sierra Leone. OPF continues to benefit significantly from the technical expertise of the volunteer engineers involved to design and implement

the waste barrier and collection centre effectively. In addition, it is inspiring for OPF that EWB-DK contributes to project management, local community engagement and resources, with EWB-DK’s secondment scheme being invaluable to the project. For OPF, EWB-DK’s experience and net-

work help to ensure long-term sustainability through building a value chain for plastic waste, which supports the ambition that the current collaboration project can eventually be expanded to other areas in Sierra Leone (read more about the project on page 13).



The Board of EWB-DK



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Additionally, we would like to extend our sincere gratitude and appreciation to all private persons for their donations.

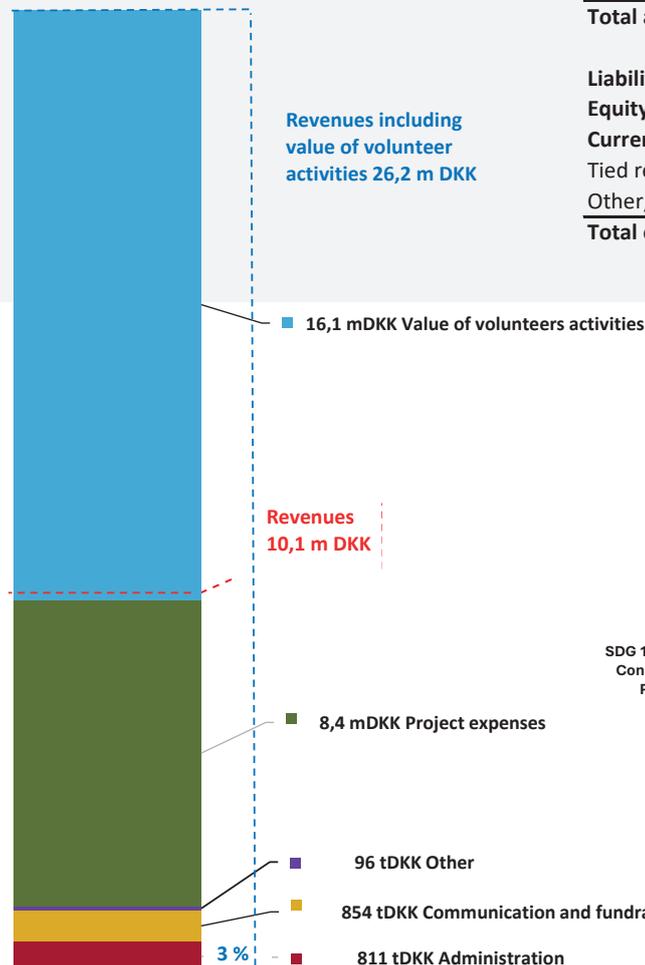
Annual accounts

How we spend our revenue

Administration accounts for 8% of our revenue in 2023 (11% in 2022).

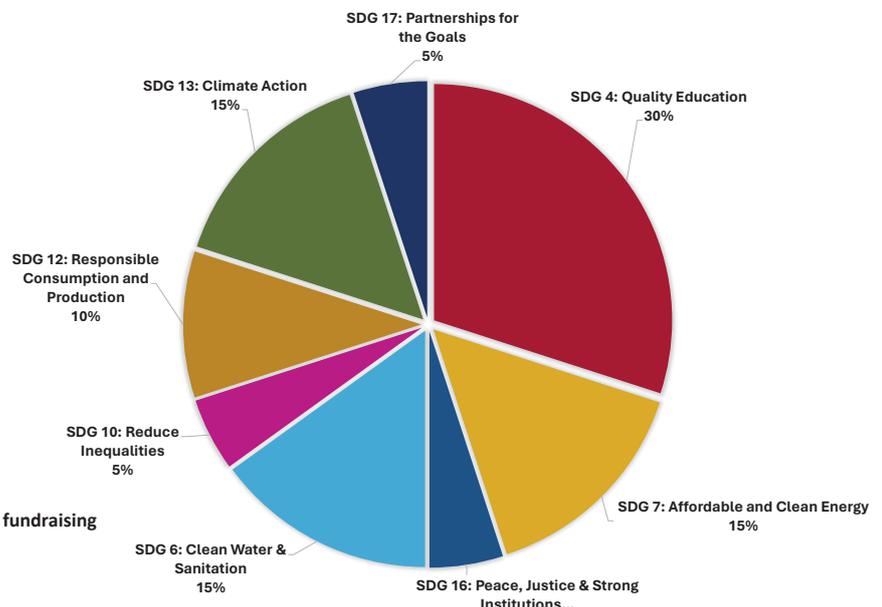
However, if we include the estimated* value of volunteer activities from project groups and volunteers on mission, the administration is at 3% in 2023 (3% in 2022).

*Estimate based on a survey amongst volunteers and average hourly fee including overhead based on DANIDA standards.



OPERATING STATEMENT <i>January 1 - December 31</i>	2023 <i>(DKK 1,000)</i>	2022 <i>(DKK 1,000)</i>
REVENUES		
Income	10,444	6,136
Prepaid donations, Beginning of the year	7,996	8,288
Prepaid donations/grants, End of the year	-8,351	-7,996
Total revenues	10,089	6,428
EXPENSES		
Direct project expenses	7,587	4,305
Indirect project expenses	791	626
Other activities	950	1,000
Management and general expenses	811	703
Total expenses	10,139	6,634
Earnings before interest	-50	-206
Interest expenses	1	2
ANNUAL RESULT	-49	-204
BALANCE SHEET <i>December 31</i>	2023 <i>(DKK 1,000)</i>	2022 <i>(DKK 1,000)</i>
Assets		
Other receivables and prepayments	212	637
Grant receivable	3,466	4,253
Bank account	5,848	4,361
Current assets	9,526	9,251
Total assets	9,526	9,251
Liabilities		
Equity	853	902
Current liabilities		
Tied reserves for projects	8,351	7,996
Other, current liabilities	322	353
Total equity and liabilities	9,526	9,251

Project share in SDG's





Trykt af Stenby Tryk A/S - på klimo-kompenseret, PEFC og FSC godkendt papir der støtter Plan 2020.

If you want to hear more about our work, follow us here:



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