



Annual Report 2022

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FOREWORD

After a total of ten years of preparatory cooperation with Indian artists and several joint projects over the years, the time had come in 2022 : we were very happy that Clowns Without Borders India accepted our invitation to join CWBI as a chapter. Trusting that this step will further intensify the cooperation with the Indian partners, we can also take another step closer to our common goals : to shape CWBI as an increasingly culturally and artistically diverse organisation that remains true to its inner core of political neutrality. Even if after three years of pandemic some of our partner associations have to go through difficult times to restructure, these common goals and values remain untouched.

As travelling became possible again without restrictions, the year 2022 was marked by a stocktaking of best practices and a return to the possibility of implementing projects in the same way as it was before the pandemic. Nevertheless, depending on where our chapters are in the world, we also have to face new challenges again and again. An example is the 2022 year for our European chapters - a persistently intense war, which not only causes an intra-European humanitarian crisis but also brings many other (e.g. economic) problems with it, has never taken place since the founding of CWBI. The realisation that we can combine many available forces in a very short time to jointly face a crisis on our doorstep was a great experience.

Looking forward to the first General Assembly in four years, which will again be held in person, I am deeply grateful to have been able to serve CWBI as President for 8 years with the help of so many colleagues from around the world.

.Working on a common, worldwide network of artists dedicated to humanitarian interaction can only be achieved with loving devotion and empathic patience; but also in tandem with the joy of pausing once in a while to take the clown's perspective - what means, keeping wonder, exploration and even failure available as resources, even in such a large organisation and collaboration.

Alexander Strauss,
*President of Clowns Without
Borders International*



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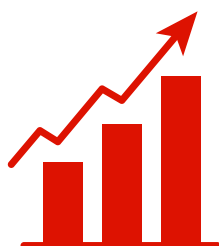
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STEERING COMMITTEE

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PARTNERS



CWBI CHAPTERS ACTIVITIES IN 2022



72
projects



33
countries



8
joint-projects



950
shows



143 954
children and adults
attending shows



2600
workshops



60 675
children and adults
participating in
workshops



2022 TIMELINE



MARCH

Board Meeting

FEBRUARY

Diversity Policy Implementation Meeting

MAY

General Assembly online



AUGUST

A new official chapter : CWB India !

SEPTEMBER

Board Meeting

OCTOBER

Diversity Policy Implementation Meeting

NOVEMBER

Welcome Aziza, our new team member !



DECEMBER

UNESCO Conference

To be continued...

WHO WE ARE

Clowns Without Borders International (CWBI) aims to facilitate communication and cooperation between Clowns Without Borders chapters around the world as well as to protect and support the common identity and the quality of the work of existing and future Clowns Without Borders chapters through accountability and governance.

CWBI is legally based in Spain and composed of 14 operational chapters throughout the world: *Australia, Switzerland, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Spain, Sweden, South Africa, United Kingdom, USA*. These national chapters organise artistic and humanitarian projects in collaboration with local and international partners, working in more than 40 countries per year. Professional artists volunteer their time to perform, lead workshops and share laughter with children and their communities.

Mission

CWBI chapters share a common mission: to offer joy and laughter to relieve the suffering of all persons, especially children, who live in areas of crisis including refugee camps, conflict zones and territories in situations of emergency.

Beneficiaries in 2022

- Children affected by natural disaster
- Children and adults seeking asylum

- Internal displaced people affected by war, political or economical situation
- Indigineous community
- Marginalized girls affected by sex work

History

Clowns Without Borders International began in Spain in 1993 when Tortell Poltrona, a clown from Spain was asked by the children at a school in Barcelona to go to the Istrian Peninsula in Croatia to perform for refugee children. The children in Barcelona raised the funds to send Tortell to Croatia after refugees in the Istrian Peninsula wrote to them: "You know what we miss most? We miss laughter, having fun, and enjoying ourselves."

On that first project Tortell performed for 4.000 Children in Croatian refugee camps. It was the beginning of "Payasos Sin Fronteras" (Clowns Without Borders Spain).

Now, 30 years later, the Clowns Without Borders International Federation is made up of 14 Clowns Without Borders national chapter organisations. Professional circus and street performers, clowns, actors, magicians and musicians offer their skills on a voluntary basis to bring laughter, dreams and poetry to communities in areas of crisis around the world.

All CWB chapters share the same objective : to improve the emotional wellbeing of communities, especially children, in areas of crisis through performances and other artistic interventions.

A NEW CHAPTER : CWB INDIA !

After many years of collaborating in partnership with CWB chapters, and after two years of pandemic that has been slowing down the administrative process and paperwork, **CWBI has welcomed a new official chapter in India.** CWBI is now composed of 14 national chapters and welcomes its first chapter in the Asian continent.

Rupesh Tillu, founder of CWB India, grew up in Mumbai and has been associated with CWB projects in different places of the world since the past ten years. He attended a clowning workshop by a trainer from Germany and realized *“that I had been doing this my whole life. I just wasn’t aware that it was called clowning.”*



It sparked his interest in the art form, following which he applied to Clowns Without Borders in 2007 and was accepted into a six-month international programme, in Sweden. He joined them full time the following year. Then he joined many CWB tours in Moldova, Egypt, Palestine, Bhutan, etc. Living then in Sweden, he joined a project supported by CWB Sweden to bring psychosocial support to the red light district young girls in Mumbai, India.

In 2013 and 2014, the project continued not only with the girls but also with their mothers joining the shows, and also offering training to the girls, so they could perform themselves the following years. In 2015, he moved back to Mumbai and progressively gathered artists from various backgrounds, starting the process to create an official CWB chapter in India.

RECONNECTING WITH UNESCO



As an NGO in official partnership with UNESCO (consultative status) since 2015, Clowns Without Borders International joined the 2022 International Conference of NGOs held in Paris from the 14th to the 16th of December 2022 around the following theme : "Breaking barriers : what role for civil society organizations toward a sustainable future ?"

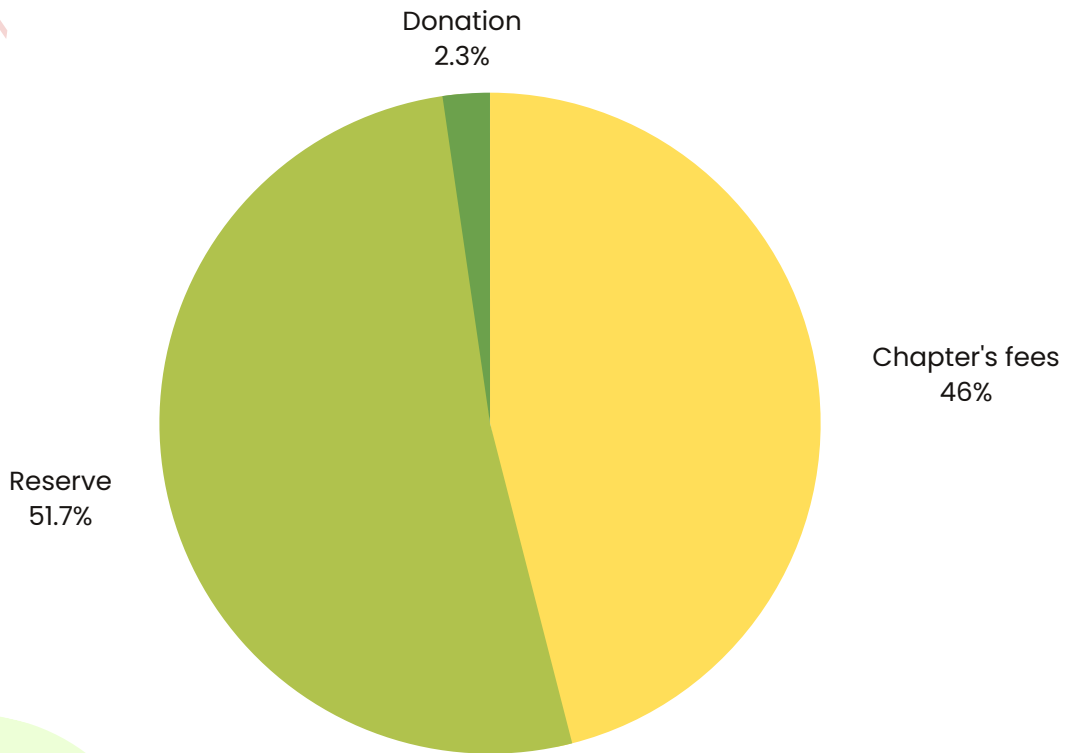
More than 400 NGOs from all around the world gathered to reflect together on how to co-create the working program of the NGO-UNESCO Liaison Committee next mandate.

A good opportunity for Claire ROZIER and Aziza Samti, CWBI representatives, to reconnect with international NGOs and partners, especially after several years of pandemic that affected the existing links.

During the last day of the conference, the recommendations for the 2023-2025 program were discussed and the newly elected Chairperson and members of the Ngo-UNESCO Liaison Committee were officially announced. We wish to express our sincere congratulations and support to Nick Newland and his team for this next mandate in which CWBI hopes to be active in co-creating and breaking both internal and external barriers the way we do in clown's world : working seriously, without taking ourselves too seriously.

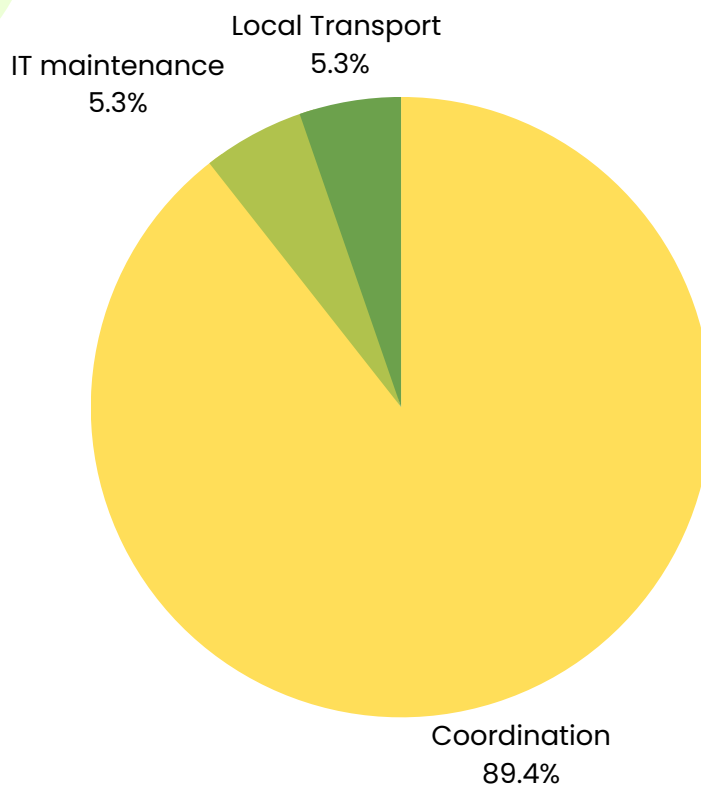
FINANCIAL REPORT

INCOMES



**Balance
between
incomes
and
expenses :
5903€**

EXPENSES



CWBI Steering committee



PRESIDENT

Alexander Strauss - CWB Germany
alex.strauss@clownsohnegrenzen.org



TREASURER

Anneli De Wahl - CWB Sweden
anneli.dewahl@gmail.com



SECRETARY

Arthur Toyoshima - CWB Brazil
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In 2022, CWBI had one part-time employee, Claire ROZIER based in France as an international coordinator. The team also welcomed Loan COSTIL working as a civic service position for 8 months starting in November 2021 until July 2022, supporting the coordination of CWBI. In november 2022, CWBI welcomed Aziza SAMTI who started her civic service position for 8 months (half-time).

Board meetings take place online three times per year, gathering representatives from all CWB chapters. Annually, CWBI coordinates the in-person General Assembly, which due to the pandemic, took place online for the third consecutive year.

THANKS!

In 2022, CWB chapters have worked with several partners including :



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