

Annual Report

2023

Clowns Without Borders International

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FOREWORD

During 2023, our 13 Clowns Without Borders chapters continued to spread joy and hope to children in extremely vulnerable situations around the world. The clowns provide a space where the children feel important and create magic out of the most ordinary things. They share moments of laughter, play and relief to build resilience and to dare to dream of a better tomorrow.

I see Clowns Without Borders International, CWBI, as a network and community with a big heart and strong capacities. We continue to adapt and find ways in the changing world around us and local challenges in the different continents where we are based. Ensuring that our work continues as we see and feel the positive effect our projects have for the children we meet.

In September 2023 representatives from the chapters could finally meet again after operating online for three years due to the pandemic. At the Annual General Assembly in Barcelona we could once again share a meal together, laugh and play, exchange experiences, strengthen collaborations, develop the strategic goals of CWBI and celebrate Clowns Without Borders Spain's 30th anniversary! At the same event I was elected new president of CWBI. I feel humble, inspired and excited to step into this role to continue the structural development of CWBI as well as a center and heart within our diverse network. A work that has continued throughout the year. A huge thank you to Alex Strauss from CWB Germany who has served as president since 2015.

I am grateful for the trust to grow with and within Clowns without Borders International and the Swedish chapter. A journey that began 15 years ago when I went on my first CWB project as a circus artist to Palestine. Since then I have been engaged as an artist, pedagogue, project manager and board member. Of course, along with being president, I am still active in the very heart of the organization as an artist, to spread laughter and hope to the children who need it most. In 2021 I was living in Tunisia where I and a team of local artists developed and implemented the project Dreams without borders. The team once told me 'Anneli, your dream became ours' and even if I moved back home to Sweden in 2023 the artists are still running the project today. The project has shown me the importance of children growing up feeling joy, solidarity and hope for the future, it is necessary in order to create and sustain peaceful societies. That is what Clowns Without Borders wants to promote around the world.

Anneli De Wahl,
President

Clowns Without Borders International





© Anneli De Wahl - Tunisia 2021

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"We worked hard for this project to happen and now that you are here we are so happy that we did. It's the first time I see the personalities and playfulness of the children. You brought us a moment of freedom. I wish this week could last forever. "

A staff member working with the children at a social center, in a marginalized and violent suburb of Tunis.

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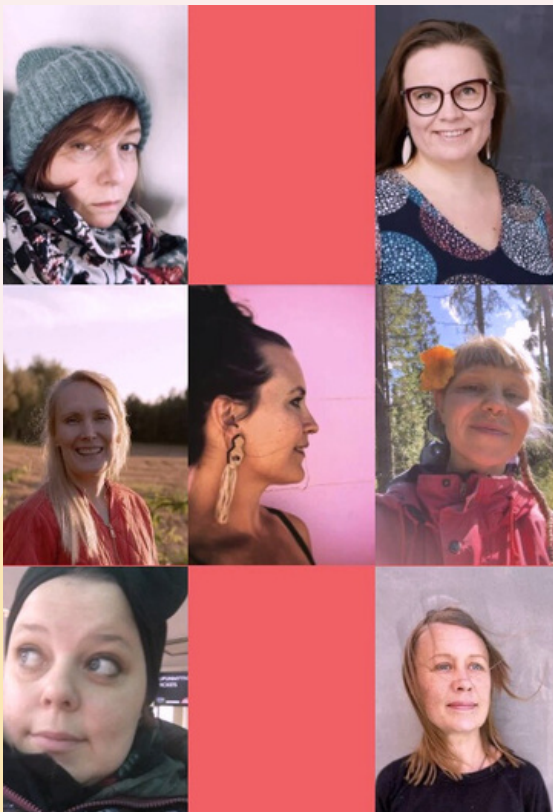
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Strategic Vision & General Assembly Recap

Strategic Vision & Objectives

In 2023, CWBI representatives have been focusing on building up a new strategic vision and shared objectives for action planning.

Several online workshops took place to start identifying areas of development for the organisation, with the aim of setting up a base for discussion during the in-person GA.



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In-Person General Assembly in Spain

From the 19th to the 22nd of September, representatives of Clowns Without Borders International chapters met in Spain for the annual General Assembly of the organization.

Due to the pandemic, the GA took place online during the last three years, so this edition had a particular taste and was an opportunity for members to meet in-person, to reconnect and reflect on a shared collective vision and goals for the years to come. We were happy to welcome 3 representatives of our new chapter : Clowns Without Borders India.



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Key Outcomes & Strategic Planning

During the General Assembly, CWBI's members defined 4 main development areas, which will structure CWBI strategic planning for the years to come :

- Organisational development
- Project coordination
- Formation and dissolution of chapters
- Diversity policy

CWBI CHAPTERS ACTIVITIES

IN 2023



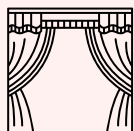
62
projects



36
countries



15
joint-projects



876
shows



130 400 +
children and adults
attending shows



2116
workshops



21 300 +
children and adults
participating in
workshops



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CWBI CHAPTERS COUNTRIES VISITED IN 2023

North & Central America

Colombia
Costa Rica
Mexico
Nicaragua

Europe

Albania	Poland
Belgium	Romania
France	Moldavia
Germany	Turkey
Greece	Finland
Kosovo	Ukraine

South America

Brazil
Peru

Africa

Madagascar
Morocco
Rwanda
Senegal
Sierra Leone
South Africa
South Sudan
Tunisia
Zimbabwe

Middle East

Iraq
Israel
Palestine
Jordan
Lebanon
Yemen

Asia

Cambodia
India
Myanmar
India
Nepal

STEERING COMMITTEE & GOVERNANCE

CWBI's board is composed of representatives from CWB chapters and the steering committee is elected once a year. During the General Assembly 2023, a new steering committee was elected.

Three Board meetings took place during the year on the 2nd of February 2023, 22nd of June 2023 and 14th of November 2023. The General Assembly happened between the 19th and 22nd of September in Barcelona, Spain.

CWBI had one part-time employee (Claire ROZIER), as international coordinator working 8 hours per week, and one volunteer (Aziza SAMTI) working as a civic service volunteer based in France, 14 hours per week from November 2022 until June 2023.

In 2023, following the closure of CWB Ireland and CWB Australia, we continued to operate with 13 active chapters.

The new steering committee:



PRESIDENT

Anneli De Wahl - CWB Sweden

anneli.dewahl@clownerutangranser.se

SECRETARY

Samantha Holdsworth - CWB UK

sam@clownswithoutborders.org.uk



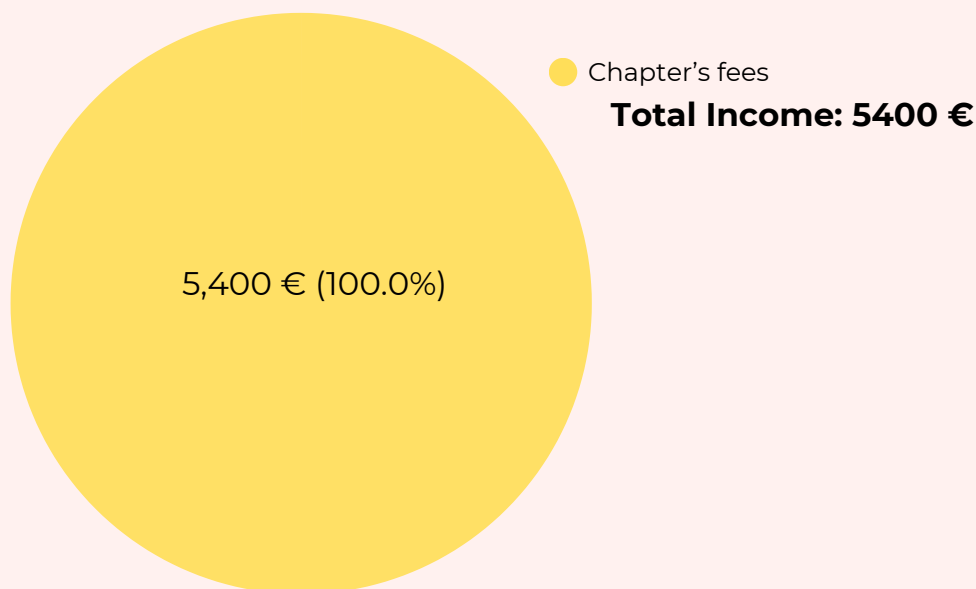
TREASURER

Naomi Shafer - CWB USA

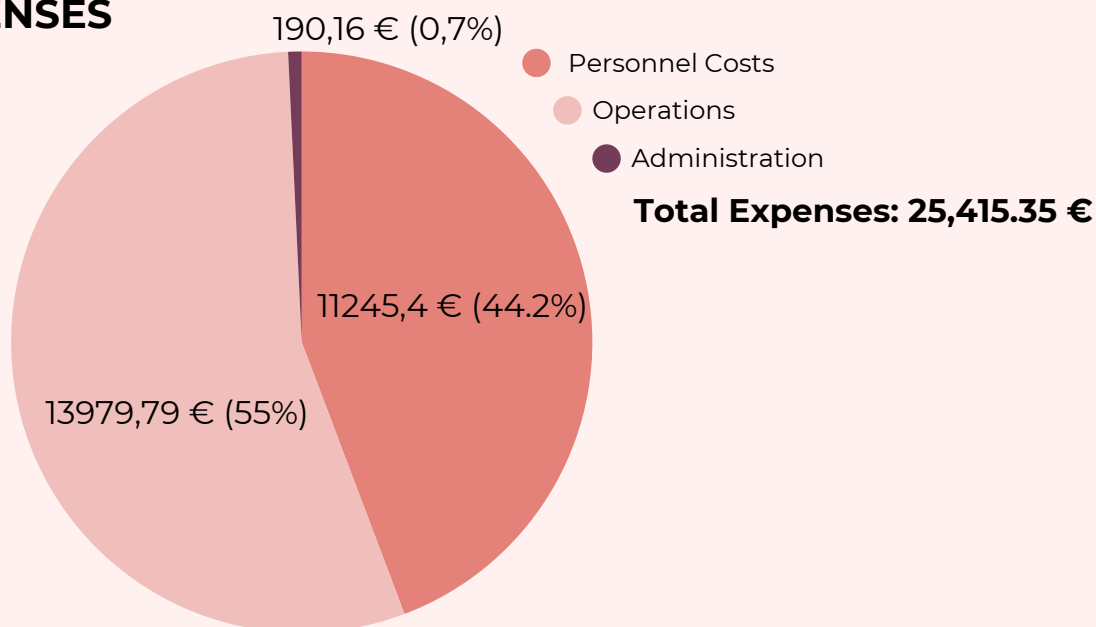
naomi@clownswithoutborders.org

FINANCIAL REPORT

INCOME



EXPENSES



Balance between income and expenses: - 20015,35 € *

*The deficit is due to the late payment of chapter fees to CWBI the year of 2023.
This amount will be reflected in the balance of the upcoming 2024 annual report.



THANK YOU

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