

Clowns Without Borders International

Annual report 2015

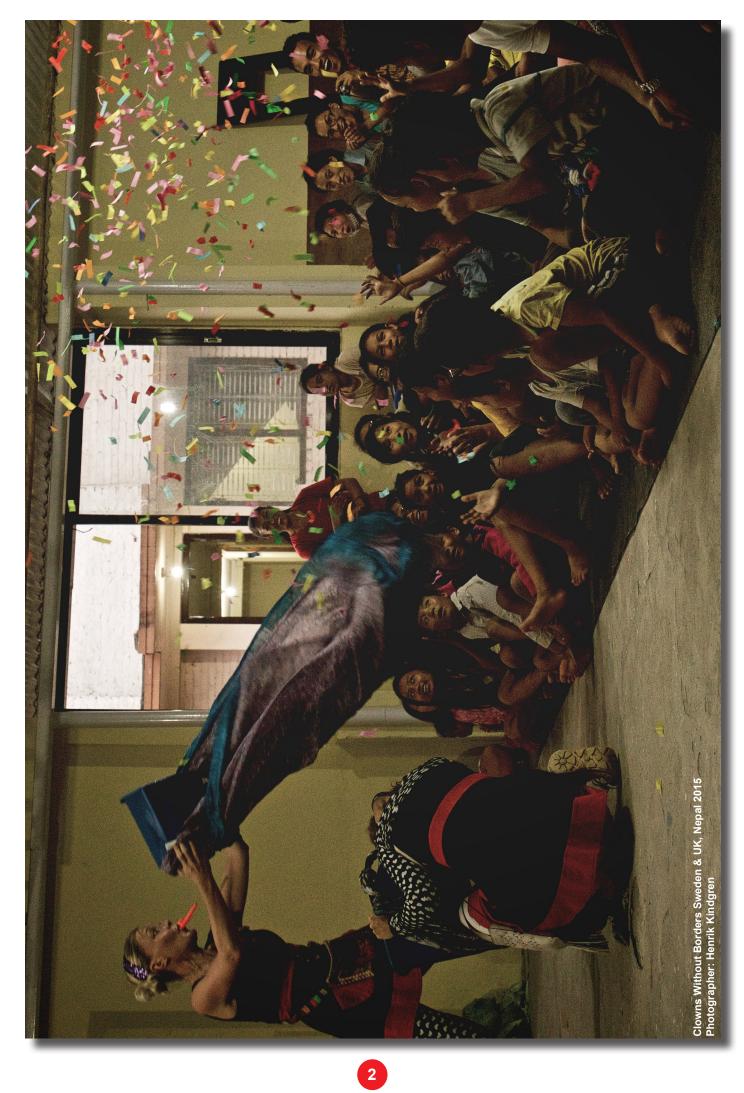
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Table of content

1. Introduction	3	5. Organisational Structure and Team	20
1.1 Vision and Approach	3	5.1 Introduction of the participating individuals	20
1.2 Subject of the report	4	5.2 Partnerships, Cooperations and Networks	23
2. The social problem and its approach	6	6. Organisational Profile	25
2.1 The social problem	6	6.1 General Information	25
2.2 Mainstream approaches to humanitaria ai	d 6	6.2 Governance of the organisation	
2.3 Clowns Without Borders Internation	nal's	6.2.1 Management and management body	26
approach	7	6.2.2 Board of supervisors	26
2.3.1 Clowns Without Borders International: Work and	Direct	6.3 Ownership structure, memberships	and
Target Groups		associated organizations	26
2.3.2 Intended Impact of our Work on Indirect and	Direct	6.4 Environmental and social profile	26
Target Groups	8		
2.3.3 Impacts and the Reasons Behind Them	9	7. Finance and Accounting Practice	28
		7.1 Bookkeeping and Accounting	28
3. Resources, work and results during	the	7.2 Asset Statement	28
reporting period	11		
3.1 Resources Used	11	Ethical code	30
3.2 Work Performed	11	Olasson Without Bandon Internatio	
3.3 Results Achieved	13	Clowns Without Borders Internation chapters' project 2015	ona 31
3.3.1 Indirect Result Indicators	13	chapters project 2010	
3.3.2 Direct Result Indicators	14	Press and Films	32
3.4 Measures for Evaluation and Quality M	ana-	Projects during 0045	0.0
gement	16	Projects during 2015	33
		Information from each chapter	34
4. Planning and forecast	18		
4.1 Planning and Goals	18	Chosen partners	35
4.2 Influential Factors: Opportunities	and		
Risks	18		



Read more: www.cwb-international.org



1. INTRODUCTION

The year 2015 was abundantly successful for Clowns Without Borders International (CWB International) and marks a growing worldwide recognition of our organization: the signing of a Memorandum Of Understanding with PLAN International, as well as UNESCO's acceptance of CWB International as a "consultative member," prove the increasing importance of our work and contribution to humanitarian aid. Irina Bokova, the General Director of UNESCO says:

Clowns Without Borders' commitment to the promotion of peace, tolerance and cultural diversity joins UNESCO's efforts in matters of intercultural dialogue and speaks specifically to the objectives of the International Decade for the Rapprochement of Cultures (2013-2022). This partnership between both our organizations is likely to increase our respective actions and impact on these fields.

In 2015, CWB International completed numerous projects, and worked on welcoming two new chapters, CWB Brazil and CWB Austria, which will join CWB International in 2016. We continued working towards our objective - to increase collaboration between national CWB chapters. To this end, we organized six projects involving partnerships between CWB chapters and coordinated the efforts of five different chapters performing for Syrian refugees and internally displaced people in Turkey, Lebanon, Iraq and Jordan.

As we look ahead to 2016, collaborations between CWB International and other international non-profit organizations, especially PLAN International, are on the horizon. We are looking forward to opportunities to share testimony from our projects around the world.

1.1 Vision and Approach

Clowns Without Borders International is comprised of clowns, acrobats and musicians who donate their time and travel the world to perform for people in need of laughter. Our vision is a free and open-minded world of play, laughter and dreams, where all people have the opportunity to develop and express themselves free from cultural boundaries and feel hope even in vulnerable situations.

Our mission is to provide psychological relief and bring back joy and hope to people's lives. With the arts of clowning and circus we create an environment free of pain and prejudice; through sharing experts betting tips experiences between people, we strive to foster understanding between diverse cultures and ideologies.

CWB International is responsible for communicating and coordinating between all 12 national chapters to ensure that we can provide assistance to any region worldwide in the best and fastest possible way. It also represents the entity of Clowns Without Borders to the public. CWB International offers humanitarian help in areas affected by crisis, through artistic encounters and the cultivation of cultural understanding between people. Politically, ethnically and religiously neutral, CWB International sends actors, artists and musicians all over the world to support children and their communities to fulfill their right to live a cultural life full of laughter. All Clowns Without Borders projects around the world foster the joy of living and the desire for freedom and peaceful coexistence which connect all human beings.



Clowns Without Borders International believes that every child, regardless of their situation, should have the right to simply be a child. Due to the devastating circumstances of war, political unrest, poverty or natural disaster millions of children lose this right. In such challenging situations, it can be extremely difficult to create positive scenarios where children can just be themselves. In response, Clowns Without Borders are dedicated to creating unique opportunities for children to play, laugh and express themselves. Our performances and clown-based activities use laughter as a tool for recovery and as a way to provide emotional release and respite from the challenges of daily life. Our partners describe our work as "psychosocial first-aid for kids." For us, our aim is always to encourage children to simply be children, even if only for an hour or two.



Scope of Report

This report examines all activities of the non-profit organisation Clowns Without Borders International, which dispatches clowns, actors, performing artists and musicians to areas affected by crisis all over the world.

Reporting Period and Reporting Cycle

All information in the report is current as of 25.5.2016, as long as it doesn't explicitly/specifically refer to the financial year 2015. The last report as of 30.5.2015 was not yet created in line with the SRS-standard and was referring to the financial year 2014.

Application of Social Reporting Standard This report was prepared completely implementing the "reporting-standard for social organisations 2014" on May 25th, 2016. The reporting standard template was provided by the association Social Reporting Initiative e.V. under the license Creative Commons BY-ND 3.0.





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2. The social problem and its approach

2.1 The social problem

Not only physical harm affects the vitality of a person: non-visible factors such as psychic abuse or hopelessness greatly affect one's well-being. In the long run, ignoring these issues will lead to violence, and a higher mortality rate.

Worldwide, hundreds of millions of people, among them about a hundred million children, are affected by crisis due to natural disaster, war and acute poverty. More than 65 million people are currently fleeing from war and conflict. Half of them are children and 80 % have had to leave their home countries and have lost their homes (read more).

According to fluctuating estimates by large organisations such as UNESCO, about 1.5 billion people live in severe poverty (<u>read more</u>).

Children and their communities can survive within such affected areas. Due to difficult circumstances and the traumas they have experienced, however, these children often lack joy in life and reason to laugh. Many of these people don't have the ability to overcome crisis by drawing on their inner strength and resources, their so-called resilience.

Therefore, humanitarian aid must not end when food, water and medication for physical well-being are provided for. Joy of living, humour and hope are essential as well, as psychological resources. The lack of these elements endangers survival, but in unseen and insidious ways. With lack of soulfulness, vitality sinks measurably. The cohesion of social groups which are affected by crisis are under high stress and more likely to fall apart. This might lead to a loss of perspective and orientation toward the future, which leads again to a loss of vitality, in a vicious cycle. In the worst case this may lead to a cycle of violence. Yet this human need of joy and connection often goes unrecognized, with only a few projects dedicating themselves to this problem.

Some people told me they had not seen their children laugh since they left Syria. They gain so much strength from it. Food and shelter will keep you alive but it will not give you the power to fight for life.

(Linn Holm, artist from Clowns Without Borders Sweden, working with refugees in Greece 2015.)

2.2 Mainstream approaches to humanitarian aid

There is a wide range of projects existing in our target areas which are devoted to children's needs but only a few which are able to provide support in line with Clowns Without Borders' approach. Governmental and private initiatives address scholastic education and the supply of food and water, Médecins du Monde provide medical aid for the population, UNHCR provides emergency assistance in the form of clean water, healthcare, transport etc.

In limited ways, some cultural exchange can be offered as part of scholastic education in affected areas. Occasionally, there are artistic initiatives in our target areas, with which we have been able to collaborate within the scope of our activities on-site. One example is the Gisenyi Acrobats in Rwanda, which partners with Clowns Without Borders Sweden: a group of acrobats who themselves lived on the street as children after losing their families during the 1994 genocide and now work with vulnerable children.

While a number of organizations and citizens are committed to refugee relief, they mainly provide translation services, help with legal issues, and other logistical support, and do not address the psychosocial needs of children and their communities. All of these organisations acknowledge the need for psychosocial support and cultural exchange, but due to a lack of resources and artistic know-how they are not able to provide it. This is where Clowns Without Borders comes in.



2.3 Clowns Without Borders International's approach

Clowns Without Borders International's member associations send out actors, performing artists and musicians to refugee camps and areas around the world in which people are affected by natural disaster, war, poverty or other crises and their side-effects. The purpose is to spread laughter, hope and joy to children and their families living under difficult circumstances.

CWB International have two objectives to improve the living conditions for people in areas of crisis. First, we provide "local aid," which is direct assistance through performances, workshops and circus schools in the affected areas. Secondly, we promote awareness of these situations in the countries where the different national CWB chapters are based.

CWB International provides communication, planning and representation for all member associations.

2.3.1 Clowns Without Borders International: Work and Direct Target Groups

Our direct intended audience (of our 1st objective, "local aid") consists of children in crisis situations; refugees, orphans (caused by war, civil war or natural disasters), street children, children, adolescents, adults and families trau matised by domestic and political violence and

people with disabilities (in many countries, people who have disabilities are excluded from public life).

In addition, prison inmates and their families, socially disadvantaged children and their families, children and their families who have no access to cultural events and stimuli, as well as patients and staff of hospitals in crisis regions.

Since the founding of Clowns Without Borders in 1993 in Spain, national CWB chapters have been able to carry out almost 1500 projects in more than 100 countries in the world. In doing so, we focus on people affected by poverty and natural disasters, as well as people fleeing from war and conflict. In 2015, our 12 national chapters completed more than 80 projects in 43 countries. Almost 410,000 children participated in over 1000 shows and 480 workshops.

1 YEAR DOING
1000 SHOWS IN
43 COUNTRIES
LAUGING WITH
410 000
CHILDREN

2. Concerning our indirect target group (of our 2nd objective of promoting awareness), the main goal of our activity is communication with the general public, in order to inform people in the national CWB chapters home countries, about the situation of people in crisis regions. Our projects contribute to mutual understanding between peoples and foster a better understanding of the necessity of international and national projects fostering joy of living and laughter in crisis regions. Additionally, we aim to reach people who are willing to support the organisation's goals as volunteers or financial donors.

During the seven years since CWBI was founded, we were able to reach 3 million people with our projects worldwide, and several million people through the media. CWB Germany was presented in a TV-show with 1,2 million spectators; CWB Sweden was represented in the media 146 times in 2015.

This public representation is increasingly leading to contacts with other organisations in the field of development aid. They recognise our ability to make a meaningful contribution to humanitarian aid even in highly delicate crisis regions (such as Syria, Iran and Ukraine), which complements and extends logistical aid in a meaningful way.

2.3.2 Intended Impact of our Work on Indirect and Direct Target Groups

The goal of Clowns Without Borders is to bring laughter, hope and joy to children and families in difficult living conditions and to foster their vitality. Many of the people we visit have little or no contact with governmental aid programmes and never appear on the media or in politics: they are left alone completely. Our goals are to contribute to an improvement of their situation, allow them and their communities to be amazed, and encourage the development of new ideas and foster solidarity within the communities.

The underlying principles of our work are: the moments of mutual friendship, respect and joy during a visit from Clowns Without Borders, the strengthening impact we have on the people we contact, our desire to help them to find new courage in difficult situations and to remain in balance.

The communities we visit very often include a variety of social levels and ethnic groups. Through facilitating a common positive and joyful experience, we can help to reduce potential tensions. The goal of Clowns Without Borders is to enable the children and their communities to exercise their right to attend and participate in cultural activities (Article 31.2 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child).

Children in particular are able to be affected and influenced in a positive way. We make it our goal to protect children from solely internalizing their horrible experiences. We also want to provide them with resources in the form of positive feelings and memories, so that in times of crisis and hardship these can become lifeboats.

Our action often results in a successful change of consciousness in the local people, especially when we are able to impact them several times. Indeed, whenever a CWB member chapters' financial situations permit, crisis regions are visited multiple times. The joy of meeting again is enormous.

In a Syrian refugee camp, the team was welcomed back with a song from the show which they performed half a year ago. In Sri Lanka, children performed the tricks and scenes from a show which took place the year before. In the refugee camps in Greece the children often wanted to show the artists tricks that other Clowns Without Borders groups had taught them weeks or months earlier. In Mumbai, India, our partner at a center for children living in the red light district told us that the children asked for the clowns every day and when we came back after one year the children asked if their mothers could come too: the children wanted their mums to laugh and feel good just like the clowns had made them feel the year before. This makes it obvious how a single show can provide children with enough resources of creativity, joy of playing and future-oriented thinking for at least a whole year. Joyful memories can provide strength over the course of a whole life and can be an anchor in order to be better prepared to face crises. The sustainability of positive experiences is especially high during crises.

The organisation's activities also include educational tools in the form of workshops for

the children and facilitator workshops for the employees of the institutions we visit during our travels.

We specifically make use of our impact on the media in our chapters' home countries to expand social awareness of the fact that helping people in crisis regions is not only about supplying food, but also strengthening them with joy of life and new hope. [Links are given in the Annex of this report]

2.3.3 Impacts and the Reasons Behind Them

Before you came here, the children played war - now they play clown.

This is a quote from one of the relief organisations of the Za'atari refugee camp in Jordan where our Swedish chapter carried out several projects. It shows the effect the clowns have. All our partner associations have experienced the same or similar effects. Our team in Syria was told by inhabitants of the camps that they had seen their children laugh again for the first time in a year. And it is equally important for the children to see their parents laugh.

In Sri Lanka, the team was asked by a local spectator if we purposely built our juggling clubs to resemble the bombs that used to fall from the sky. He thought that this was a great therapeutic approach on our part.

The long-term impact becomes visible when the children still remember the clowns' names or re-enact parts of the show one year later. CWB International was able to observe this effect in various places around the world.

The general question is whether the effect of the work of Clowns Without Borders can be assessed in the same way as other types of projects. The assessment of the effects is simpler when the results are quantifiable.

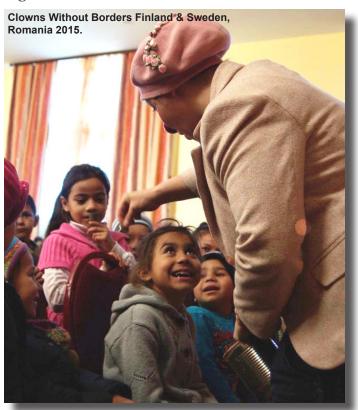
As our projects are mainly focused on immaterial aid, the Clowns Without Borders associations rely on exchanges with local organisations and their feedback. We come as strangers and leave as friends. The children's direct feedback

becomes visible when they want to share their world with us right after the show: they show us their toys, tricks, schools and their homes.

Through contact with children and all their impressions, sentiments, experiences, new knowledge and stories, the artists who travel for Clowns Without Borders become important ambassadors and advocates for these people in need. In this way, they can give a voice to those who otherwise wouldn't have one.

Feedback from caretakers and adults clearly states how important humour is to the children. In the Syrian refugee camp Atmeh, inhabitants told us that although food and blankets are provided, there is a complete lack of help like ours, which is just as important.

It is also mentioned quite often in the feedback we receive how important the shows' aspects of friendship, respect and healthy self-confidence are. This is one of the major concerns of our partners that is stated regularly before the projects: in crisis situations, these issues are of paramount importance. During the stage plays, for example, a fair and healthy emphasis is put on women and their skills and knowledge. We also emphasise this matter by including the women as workshop leaders. The high effectiveness of our project even after its completion is confirmed by our partner organisations on a regular basis.





3. Resources, work and results during the reporting period

3.1. Resources Used

During the financial year 2015, donors contributed with 1500 € to finance Clowns Without Borders International activities.

Our members, supporters and board donated a lot of their time as well as pro bono equipment. The equipment includes numerous personal belongings such as laptops, phones, camera equipment and instruments, as well as materials needed for artistic shows.

Approximately 1500 working hours were donated pro bono to CWB International in 2015.

The artistic competence and logistic expertise of members and partner organizations are important resources to CWB International. This includes expertise in specialized areas such as movie production, emergency management, and many others. CWB International's chapters create a pool of knowledge which draws on information from our partner organisations and networks.

3.2. Work Performed

In 2015 the national chapters of CWB International conducted over 80 projects in 43 countries addressing humanitarian crises, natural disasters as well as territories affected by war. Usually the projects last one to four weeks and include up to seven people (the planning involves up to ten people). During projects, teams are able to visit 3,000 - 10,000 children. Almost 400 artists participated in the projects. 410,000 children attended more than 1000 shows and 480 workshops. In part 4, Annex, we give an overview of the national chapters' projects.

Target communities of our projects include children on the move, communities affected by very poor living conditions and people who face severe environmental problems such as natural disasters or diseases like HIV or Ebola.

CWB International conducts a variety of types of projects: of particular note are collaborations with outside organizations, and joint projects.

Collaboration with PLAN

One example of a CWB International collaboration with an outside organization was our work with PLAN International in Myanmar. The project was planned in late 2015 and conducted in February, 2016 by our national chapters from Ireland and South Africa. The "subject of the collaboration" was the conflict in Myanmar, which caused approx. 2.5 million refugees and internally displaced people.

The CWB team was made up of artists from the South African and Irish chapters. The beneficiaries were PLAN staff, community mobilisers, township authorities, Child Friendly Spaces animators, teachers and children in the IDP camp outside Sittwe. There were also two translators who joined the team for the whole project.

During the project, the team trained approximately 57 staff members and led sessions with approximately 80 children in the Internally Displaced Persons camp.

Plan Myanmar requested that the training focus on the following deliverables:

- Participants to improve their interpersonal communication skills and to gain confidence in facilitation skills, especially being playful and creative.
- Participants to learn more participatory tools and approaches to strengthen interaction and activities with children and youth as well as gain new tools to build trust, release stress and sadness, boost self-esteem, build connection, encourage laughter and teamwork.
- Participants to explore the role and impact of creativity and play on children and to learn techniques to help children express emotions to increase connection and support while sharing opportunities to explore the psychosocial impact of every tool and approach.
- The CWB team did a thorough training that touched on all of these deliverables. The team designed the training to prioritise sharing newtools and child-friendly approaches, exploring how to create a safe, positive environment, and practicing facilitation skills.

Put simply, the CWB team shared what to do to provide psychosocial support for children, explored why it's important to do it, practiced how to do it and when to do it. On the first day, the CWB team invited participants to share their challenges, as well as what they felt they needed or wanted from the training. This led to an illuminating discussion, which influenced the training and enabled the CWB team to design a programme that met everyone's needs. Together with the participants, the CWB team created a manual or 'first aid kit' with 'remedies' such as songs, games, stories and trust exercises. The participants were very keen to have this resource.

Overall, all of the activities were very successful and the feedback from the Plan staff and participants confirmed this. The lessons learned from the logistical planning stage will hopefully make the next collaboration even smoother. Once the team was in the field, the project went very smoothly and the CWB team created a strong impression and foundation for future collaborations.

Joint Projects of Clowns Without Borders National Organisations

Secondly, Clowns Without Borders International is conducting joint projects on a regular basis. This year, a number of national chapters worked together on projects to help victims from an earthquake in Nepal as well as to address the European refugee crisis in Dunkerque (France), Nuremberg and Berlin (Germany).

In Nepal, our national associations Clowns Without Borders UK and Clowns Without Borders Sweden conducted a joint project in which 1512 children were engaged through 9 performances and 16 young adults took part in a child-centered workshop training. All of them experienced laughter and lightness while the clowns performed shows for them, and the skills and expertise of youth workers to continue play-based relief with children were developed.

Human trafficking in Nepal remains an issue: up to 10,000 women and children are being trafficked across the border each year. In April, an earthquake registering 7.8 on the Richter scale hit Nepal, killing over 8000 people and injuring over 21,000 people. The UN states over 8,000,000 people were affected.



In France, a joint project by CWB UK, CWB France, and CWB Belgium was conducted in winter 2015. In this project, 565 children engaged with our performances in and around the camps in Dunkerque and Calais.

In Calais and Dunkerque this year, between 2000 and 5000 refugees and migrants have arrived, fleeing war and poverty in the Middle East, Afghanistan and Africa in what is being described as "the world's biggest refugee crisis since the second world war." As stated by UNHCR, half of all refugees are children. The effects of trauma created by fleeing from home, and the hardship and hostility experienced on their journeys, can hit children the hardest.

Valuable opportunities were provided for the children to experience laughter and playfulness – to come together and enjoy being children. Our performances, over the New Year period, provided a valuable opportunity for kids to experience laughter and playfulness at this difficult time.

In 2015 there were also 476,000 people seeking asylum throughout Germany. Many of them live in refugee shelters and despite not having to fear effects of war or natural disasters, they are still highly affected by trauma. Due to experiences in their home countries and their current situation they are overexerted and exposed to enormous amounts of stress.

In a joint project by the CWB chapters Germany, Ireland, Belgium and USA and in collaboration with artists of the Palazzo Nuremberg, a huge welcome was given to refugees in Nuremberg. The artists provided a big show and conducted workshops to prepare other artists, musicians, etc. for future operations. Also in Berlin, in a joint project of Clowns Without Borders Germany and Clowns Without Borders USA, artists played shows for children in asylum seeking centers.

Representing Clowns Without Borders International at the UNESCO General Assembly - Paris - November 2015

3.3 Results Achieved

3.3.1 Indirect Result Indicators

1. Continuous growth - without fundraising

In the three years since the founding of CWB International we have been able to achieve continuous growth of our publicity and our activities. Due to lack of resources we accomplished this without any fundraising or advertising. We were able to incorporate four new chapters/member associations and start collaborations with other humanitarian organizations.

Late in 2015 we became a Consultative Member of UNESCO, which puts us in a position to actively join UNESCO's participation program, fostering the diversity of cultural and artistic expressions by supporting networking and cooperation between clowns and circus-related artists.

One of the main objectives of Clowns Without Borders International is to pool knowledge from all of the CWB chapters working all around the world. CWB International started to work on a handbook of good practices for artists going to the field, and is interested in going further with this work, to create tools for educators, artists and logicians. Through social networks and blogs we share these objectives and communicate with as many people as possible.

2. Continuous growth through collaborations with other organisations

All of our chapters conceive their projects in collaboration with national and local partners as well as with international organisations like UNHCR. The growing publicity of CWB International has resulted in numerous contacts with other aid agencies and a first Memorandum of Understanding with PLAN International.

3. Spreading knowledge and awareness through lectures and collaborations

CWB International as well as our national chapters are asked frequently by others to share our knowledge collected in the field. Clowns Without Borders associations give lectures worldwide

in our national organisations' home countries, sharing our experiences and raising public awareness of the value of psychosocial support in humanitarian aid.

Another very important objective of CWB International is sharing knowledge with artistic organisations all over the world. National chapters were able to collaborate with Sarakasi in Nairobi, Kenia, Mofid Theatre Group in Teheran, Djarama Theatre Group in Senegal, Themacult Theatre Group in Chad, Pascal Ngarigari in Burundi, Yoneco group in Malawi, the acrobat group Gisenyi Acrobats in Rwanda which gives trainings to children living in the streets in DR Congo and artists at Nablus Circus School in Palestine as well as Her Yerde Sanat Circus School in Mardin/Turkey and Faso Demé AFDAC in Burkina Faso.

Several CWB International chapters were able to launch projects together with local artists while touring the target countries. CWB USA did so in Nepal: after a three-day workshop in Kathmandu with Circus artists, they travelled with a core team of US and Nepalese artists to seven displacement sites within the Kathmandu Valley, reaching several thousand children to provide creative relief amongst people who have lost their homes, livelihoods, sense of security and families and friends. CWB Belgium organized a joint project with local artists in collaboration with Yoneco and CWB South Africa in 2016. Also we were able to share our knowledge with a group of Turkish artists who visit refugees in Istanbul every week and put on shows and do workshops for the children who live in the camps.

Clowns Without Borders Spain joined a project with a local group of artists in Bobo Dioulasso (Burkina Faso). The local association is called Faso Demé AFDAC, and with them the clowns did sensitization shows related with prevention of malnutrition in babies.

Several chapters were able to organize "Train the Trainer" workshops. CWB Belgium did so in Malawi and with PLAN in Nepal, CWB Germany conducted workshops for Syrian - Aleppo based psychologists and NGO-workers with GIZ in Gaziantep - Turkey. Within Europe, some of our national organisations set up projects in refugee centers, CWB Belgium started the project "La Caravane des Reves" collaborating with Red Cross, CWB Germany launched several projects throughout the whole country, giving workshops to children on the move and their caretakers, especially in Berlin and Munich area.

3.3.2 Direct Result Indicators

Feedback from our partner organisations confirms that our performances as well as the way we interact with and teach the children have a deep impact on the children's behavior and the way caretakers and teachers interact with the children.

In many countries we visit, the European contemporary standards of teaching in an interactive and pupil-oriented way are very unfamiliar. Children's needs regularly cannot be addressed well because many of the teachers do not have appropriate pedagogic knowledge. Countless times, those responsible in partner organisations have described the impact of Clowns Without Borders' visits on teachers and adults taking care of the children. They emphasized in particular that teachers' frequently-held opinion that discipline and austerity guarantee learning success has been significantly altered in cases when the teachers and caretakers witness the impact of interactive and personal teaching styles during the clowns' workshops: the teachers agree that these methods have an equal or even higher learning effect.

Based on feedback of our project partners, it is also clear that Clown Without Borders' visits cause significant and sustainable changes in the behavior of the visited children, who were facing trauma or other psychosocial problems.

Such examples as those in chapter **2.3.3** provide more and more evidence that children are impacted by and gain valuable resources from the clowns visits; they are strengthened by gaining positive memories which help them to overcome traumatic experiences.

Below are some specific examples of the kind of feedback Clowns Without Borders chapters receive from partner organizations. These were collected by CWB Sweden, and are representative of the content of feedback all chapters receive.

From Terre des Hommes in South Sudan:

- Children who have been through trauma and have had a hard time interacting with others have, after visits from the clowns, step by step started to participate in the program and now have longer moments of play and laughter. The caretakers see how the circus reduces stress in the children.
- Employees from Terre des Hommes themselves also expressed how much the trainings and laughter have helped them to handle their own frustration over their situation.
- The partner told us how they have seen relations between children and adults (sometimes parents, sometime others) change through CWB's activities, how trust and affection have developed through the physical activities.
- And most important they say that thanks to CWB and our activities, these children can be the children they are, even in their very difficult situation.

From Gisenyi Acrobats in Rwanda:

- Clowns Without Borders and our work is peace work - because you can't laugh and make war at the same time. In India, NGO workers were deeply impressed that the clowns managed to get the children to focus for 50 minutes with their shows. They described in their feedback how the children usually cannot concentrate for more than two minutes, and that this practice focusing is important so that the children will be able to focus better on their own needs and regain self-confidence.

CWB Germany conducted workshops in a Syrian school in Turkey - in one of these workshops, out of 16 kids not a single one was able to do a somersault - after 14 days all of them were able to do it, and gained other circus tools as well - so they achieved new physical abilities and self-confidence.

CWB Germany also conducted workshops with Syrian psychologists and worked to evaluate how clown exercises can be developed and adapted specifically for the needs of children in Aleppo's war zone. The outcome and feedback was amazing when the psychologists were able to transform some of the exercises; games involving hierarchy and obedience were particularly successful. The psychologists mentioned that children in war lose their natural ability and willingness for structures and hierarchies and have to learn to obey again. In a situation when helicopters drop barrel bombs such obedience can be a life-saving skill.



3.4 Measures for Evaluation and Quality Management

Clowns Without Borders International is committed to ensuring that all the children we work with have inclusive, joyful experiences characterised by laughter, play and positive interactions with our artists. We achieve this by delivering high-quality, non-verbal performances that are highly visual and created by professional artists. We recognise, however, that in order to ensure the experiences we offer and the workshops we deliver are of the highest standard, are as meaningful as possible, and represent best practices, monitoring and evaluation is an essential element of our work which enables us to be accountable to all stakeholders. Our current project evaluation, shared by all national organisations, includes:

- End of Project Report

This is written by the Project Leaders and includes an assessment of the performances/workshops we delivered, team and partnership dynamics and logistics with recommendations for future tours.

- Gathering direct feedback from beneficiaries

After each performance, the performers speak with children, partners and community members to gather information. We document this in writing and review it at the end of the day to assess how effective each performance is and whether or not it needs to be adapted or altered.

- Gathering and assessing nonverbal feedback

We do this via photography and film and evaluate whether the children and teachers/community have been engaging positively.

To improve our shows, workshops and activities we also implement the following tools, if they are needed:

- Standardise all procedures within our projects and include descriptions of these procedures in handbooks.
- Evaluation meetings in the Board, targeting visions and missions of the national organisations.
- Mentorship for artists and board accountability for all our missions and continuous coaching of our teams.
- Collaboration with crisis managers and informal meetings with their psychosocial networks.
- Internal quality management in collaboration with national association members.
- Advanced training for our artistic teams.





4. Planning and forecast

4.1 Planning and Goals

In order to ensure Clowns Without Borders International can reach its key beneficiaries and deliver high-quality work we want to further develop sustainable processes that are characterised by good governance and business practices.

In 2016 we aim to:

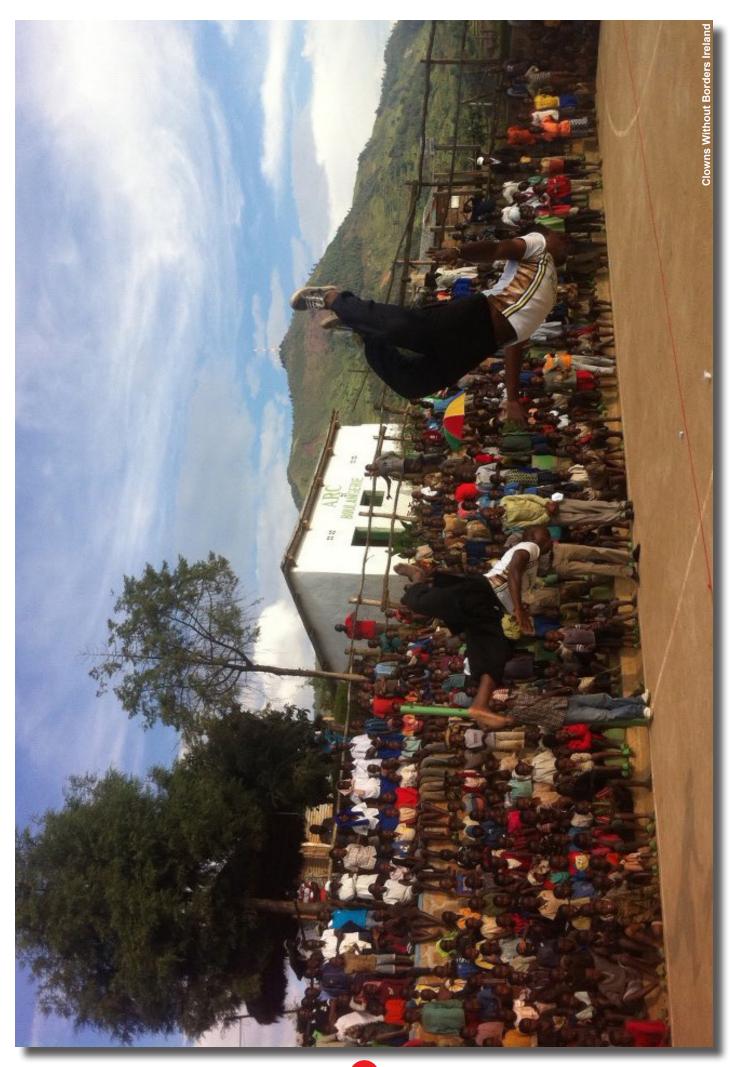
- Further develop the expertise of our Board and strengthen the communication between our national chapters.
- Welcome two new national chapters to CWB International: Clowns Without Borders Brazil and Clowns Without Borders Austria.
- Evaluate our first joint project with PLAN International to Myanmar and improve our Memorandum of Understanding with PLAN International.
- Continue to develop our administrative and operational protocols as well as our evaluation practices associated with collection of quantitative and qualitative data.
- Join UNESCO'S participation program, applying with a project proposal to foster the diversity of cultural and artistic expressions by supporting the networking and international cooperation between clowns and circus-related artists.
- Focus on the European Refugee situation, providing shows and workshops for children in collaboration with other humanitarian organisations and municipal authorities. Linked to this, we will also strive to embed the value of cultural humanitarian help within the collective consciousness.
- Develop better and longer-term relationships with our partner organisations. Besides bringing artistic shows to children affected by crisis, this focus moves towards workshops transferring knowledge to crisis helpers on-site.

4.2 Influential Factors: Opportunities and Risks

The refugee crisis in Europe is a moment when Clowns Without Borders chapters may have a strong impact within their home countries as they collaborate with municipal authorities and raise public funds to serve refugee populations and work to sensitize the public to the needs and cultures of refugees.

Clowns Without Borders chapters have received many requests from refugee centres to share capacity and knowledge. There is currently a strong need to bring refugees and local populations together, to tear down walls and prejudices.

Risks: Safety issues on-site (civil war etc.) which, despite good preparation and cautious implementation can never be completely preempted.



5. Organisational Structure and Team

5.1 Introduction of the participating individuals

CWB Internationals's Board is composed of twelve national delegates representing their respective chapters.

On CWB projects, teams of up to approximately six members are put together from various national chapters. In one case, for an international Gala at Circus Roncalli in Munich, about 50 artists from more than ten countries came together.

The CWB International Board members are responsible for the following tasks:

- General management, representation and planning.
- Coordination and communication between our international chapters.
- Administration of finances.
- Knowledge of law of associations.
- Public Relations.
- External Communication with field partners and other organisations
- Conception and implementation of joint projects.

Current Board Members are:

President and German Representative Alexander Strauß

alex.strauss@clownsohnegrenzen.org

Africanistic and Arabistic Studies at Vienna University; study visits in East Africa; apprenticeship in contemporary dance; numerous dance and theatre performances within Europe, Russia and Egypt since 1992; assistance for choreographies, company training and coaching; Hospital Clown for KlinikClowns Bayern e.V. since 2008; projects in Georgia, India, Nepal and Turkey with Clowns Without Borders Germany.

Secretary and US Representative Sarah Liane Foster

sarah@clownswithoutborders.org

Studied English and American literature with honors in creative writing at Brown University, studied physical theatre at Dell'Arte International, and trained in theatre pedagogy at Scuola Internazionale di Creazione Teatrale Helikos, where she then joined the faculty for several years. Now based in Seattle, Sarah performs as an actress, clown, mime, and stilt walker, and teaches theatre and circus to adults and children. She also performs with Room Circus Medical Clowning as Seattle Children's Hospital. Sarah has served on the board of CWB USA since 2007, and has been on CWB projects in Haiti, South Africa, Swaziland, Colombia, and Turkey.

Treasurer and South African Representative **Annabel Morgan**

annabel@cwbsa.org

Theatre Studies at Royal Holloway University, London; Physical theatre performer for InForm Theatre Company, London; Founder and director of Creative Beans arts company, Swaziland; Clown, storyteller, performing and facilitating artist for Clowns Without Borders in South Africa, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Kenya, Lithuania, Sweden, India, South Sudan, Malawi, Turkey, Greece and Myanmar since 2010; Hospital clown for Kissing It Better, London; Wilderness guide and vision quest apprentice since 2016.

Spanish Representative Tortell Poltrona (Jaume Mateu Bullich) tortell@circcric.com

A Catalan clown born Barcelona on April 7, 1955. He is the most recognized circus performer in Catalonia, and the founder of Clowns Without Borders. He is an authentic reference both for his personal career as by creating his own circus, the Circ Cric, which is considered a benchmark for the European renewal of clown. Since the foundating of Clowns Without Borders he has participated in more than 30 CWB projects in countries such as the former ex-Yugoslavia, Kosovo, Congo, Sierra Leone, Colombia, Guatemala, Brazil, Haiti, Lebanon, and Iraq.

Belgian Representative Bertrand Landhauser aboumaia@gmail.com

Comedian, clown and a circus musician. Bertrand learned his skills in the conservatories, in the streets and at the Philippe Gaulier theatre School. He has toured five continents with many contemporary circus and street theater companies, including "Collectif AOC", "Cheptel Aleikoum", "Les Colporteurs", "Des Equilibres" and "A Ship of Fools". He has also composed music for many circus shows. His first mission in Lebanon with CWB France was in 2006 and he has been an active member of CWB Belgium since 2013.

French Representative Marik Wagner marik@marik.biz

Has been involved in Street Theatre activities since 1989, working with festival organisations as well as managing street theatre and circus companies that are still touring all over the world. Marik's usual and principal duty is to identify and promote live artistic initiatives and then guide them through a sinuous way until their shows can reach the appropriate audiences. Has been a part of Clowns Without Borders France, as an active member of the board since 1999, and was the "project leader" for tours in Albania, Mongolia, Madagascar, Rwanda, South Africa and Burma.

Irish Representative Arran Towers arrantowers@gmail.com

An environmentalist and youth worker who belatedly discovered circus and clown in his 20's at Belfast Circus School. Set up Cork Community Circus Project in 2001 focused on using circus as a youth work and educational tool. Volunteered for a year in India and Nepal teaching circus and came back with a love of Indian string puppetry. Presently performing in schools across Ireland with puppetry, circus and storytelling shows often collaborating on show themes with humanitarian and development NGO's such as; Trocaire, Fairtrade and Concern Worldwide. Has toured with Clowns Without Borders Ireland in Somalia, Rwanda and Kosovo.

Australian Representative Briar Seyb-Hayden briarseybhayden@gmail.com

Studied circus at New Zealand's national circus school specialising clown and comic character, performed professionally throughout Australia, New Zealand, England and Ghana. Taught social circus for over 10 years to indigenous youth, at risk young people, refugee and asylum seeker communities. Studied intensively in African, Latin and Caribbean dance styles. Toured as a professional clown and Hula Hoop artists as part of Circus Aotearoa, New Zealand's leading touring circus company. Works as a youth worker in the Royal Children's Hospital Melbourne. Founded and directs CWB Australia. CWB tours throughout remote Indigenous Australian communities, South Africa, and Philippines.

UK Representative Samantha Holdsworth sam@clownswithoutborders.org.uk

Co-Founder of Nimble Fish, an arts company founded in 2006. Since it's inception she has devised and/or delivered 30+ theatre based projects with communities that have little experience of the arts. The production, The Container, set in a 40ft metal container, exploring migration received an Amnesty International Award and an Edinburgh Fringe First. Sam is also an experience facilitator and workshop leader specialising in delivering and developing drama workshops for "at risk" children. She founded Clowns Without Borders UK in June 2014. Sam is also a Clore Leadership and Winston Churchill Travel Fellow. Sam trained at the Royal Central School of Speech and Drama where she received an MA Distinction in Advanced Theatre Practice and also trained for a year with international clown teacher, Philippe Gaulier.

Finnish Representative Pipsa Toikka pipsatoi@gmail.com

A singing clown with background in classical music, loves combining operatic elements to clownery. Studies in music, theatre, pedagogy and social science. Comic since birth. President of Clowns Without Borders Finland since 2015.

Canadian Representative

Swedish Representative Karin Svensson

karin@skratt.nu

Artist, clown and project leader for Clowns Without Borders Sweden in projects in following countries: Myanmar, Bangladesh, Moldova, Palestine, Jordan, Lebanon, Burundi, Rwanda, Uganda, South Sudan and different projects in Sweden. Educated at Bont's International clown school in Spain and have a master degree from STDH, Sweden, in "A year of physical comedy". Work as a solo artist and with different teams, touring around Sweden and as a hospital clown.



5.2 Partnerships, Cooperations and Networks

Within the scope of our services we work to implement long-term partnerships with humanitarian organizations which operate worldwide. The national chapters of CWB International collaborate with UNHCR, UNICEF, PLAN, Red Cross, Don Bosco, Terre des Hommes, Medecins du Monde, Caritas, Save the Children, MoH of Burkina Faso, IEDA, Welthungerhilfe, FDL-Bosnia, Smiles for Children, Action contre la Faim, Planètes Enfants, CPCS (Child Protection Centers and Services), KamForSud, NAG, Triangle, Sourires d'Enfants and many others.





6. Organisational Profile

6.1 General Information

Organisation name	Clowns Without Borders International
Organisation location	Placa Margarida Xirgu 1, 08004 Barcelona Spain
Ourselis eties Faredine	2012
Organisation Founding	International
Legal form	
Contact details Address	Placa Margarida Xirgu 1, 08004 Barcelona Spain
Telephone	+49 -163-7344793
E-mail	cwbi.coordination@gmail.com
Website (URL)	www.cwb-international.org
Link to Statutes of the CWBI	https://goo.gl/F3RZCt
Registration Registering Court Registering Number Date of Entry	Ministerio del Interior del Reino de España 601606 8th of January, 2013

Employee headcount (in brackets calculated as full-time equivalent):	2014	2015
Total number of workers	15 (3)	15 (3)
thereof on full-time basis	0	0
thereof on freelance basis	1	1
thereof on voluntary basis	14 (2,5)	14 (2,5)

6.2 Governance of the organisation

6.2.1 Management and management body

Clowns Without Borders International's board, composed of twelve national representatives, acts as an executive institution on behalf of the General Assembly. Both current business and the planning and representation of all operations of the organization are executed on a voluntary basis. The board is assisted by an international coordinator who is paid on a freelance basis.

The Board members stay continuously in touch with each other and hold/conduct regular board meetings quarterly. CWB International's administration is conducted predominantly online.

6.2.2 Board of supervisors

The General Assembly is the governing body of Clowns Without Borders International and convenes once a year. The General Assembly is comprised of all the member associations of the organization. Every member is entitled to vote.

The General Assembly, according to the statutes, is responsible for approving an Annual Plan, Annual Budget and Annual Report for CWB International as well as electing a President, a Secretary and a Treasurer and changing the statutes of CWB International by resolution.

The internal control of the cost-effectiveness of resources is conducted annually by cash auditing. Every project of the organization is to be decided by the entire Board.

6.3 Ownership structure, memberships and associated organizations

The non-profit organization Clowns Without Borders International, CWB International, does not have any owners.

CWB International is a consultative member of the UNESCO since 2015.

CWB International is associated with Plan International, according to an MOU, signed in 2015. The first joint project between CWB International and PLAN was carried out in Myanmar in February 2016.

6.4 Environmental and social profile

The gender ratio of the Board is balanced, likewise is the gender ratio of artists who are involved in Clowns Without Borders International projects or joint projects of its national chapters.

Spain: 17 % Women on Board, 40 % Artists women in projects.

Belgium: Board 60 % male, 40 % female -> Active members 54 % female, 46 % male

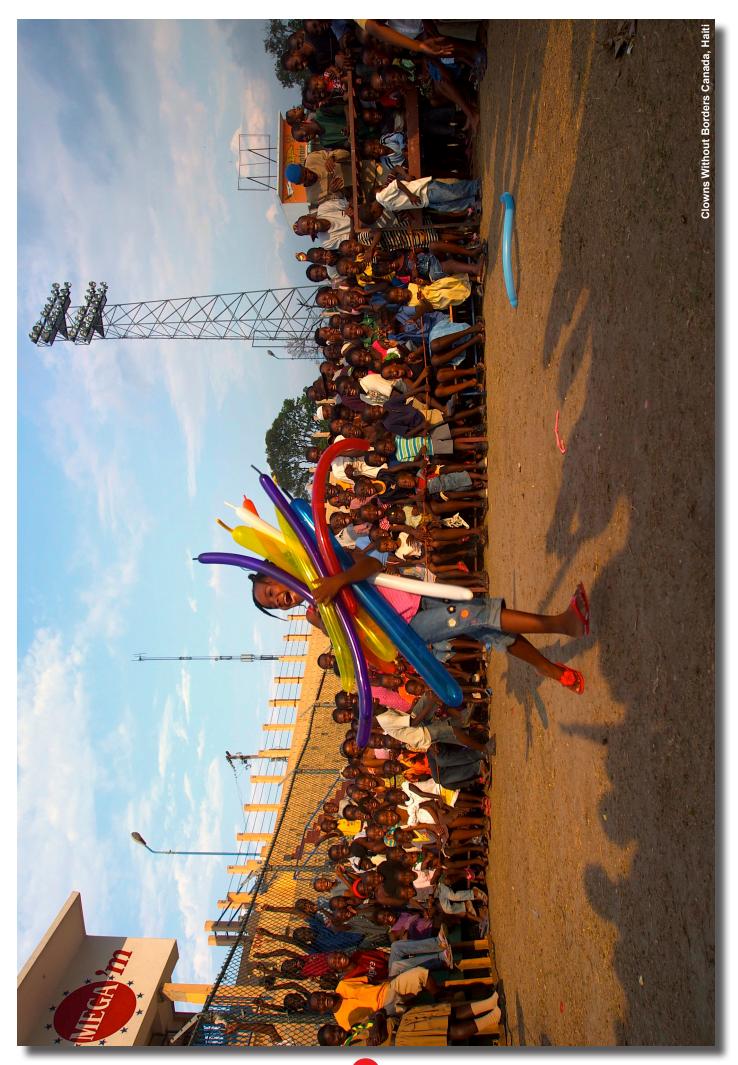
Germany: Board 40 % male, 60 % female active members 55 % female, 45 % male

Ireland: Board 50 % male, 50 % female

Many of CWB Internationals's honorary collaborating persons do have children. Therefore, in scheduling the time they volunteer with CWB International, family interests and the ability to earn a regular income take precedence.

Fundamentally, CWB International operates in such a way to minimize use of environmental resources. Due to the board members living all over the world, meetings are held via Skype. As much as possible, we use environmentally sustainable materials in our projects.

- juggling workshops with plastic bags
- teaching puppet techniques with socks, plastic bottles etc.
- adapting and re-using props multiple times (some stage set pieces, props, and wigs have traveled to many countries).
- the team sent on projects is frequently reduced to minimum (two or three clowns maximum, who do logistic work themselves), thus reducing travelling pollution.



7. Finance and Accounting Practice

7.1 Bookkeeping and Accounting

Clowns Without Borders International compiles an Annual Budget. Bookkeeping and accounting are conducted by our Treasurer and our Coordinator. The internal control of the cost-effectiveness of resources is conducted annually by cash auditing.

7.2 Asset Statement

Currency, Unit	2013	2014	201
D (D			
Ressources/Revenue	20.00	1207.01	2242.4
1. Account Balance January 1st Receipts	-38,88	1307,91	2312,1
2. Donations	20	586,76	150
Membership Fees	8427	14637,93	16793,3
			, , , , ,
Total	8408,12	16532,60	20605,4
Expenses			
B1. Personnel Costs (Employees)	4800	7200	720
B2. Material costs/Administration cost	912,37	649,73	798,5
Travel Costs	887,84	5018,51	6257,9
Advertising - Fundraising	500	538,25	688,2
6. Other costs	000	814	000,2
Total	7100,21	14220,49	14944,7
Annual Result	1307,91	2312,11	5660,7

7.3 Income and expenditures

Clowns Without Borders International's financial situation is stable. CWB International is funded by membership dues and private or public funding. The membership fees are paid by the national associations which are members of the organisation.

Right now the need for our expertise and the requests coming in to our national chapters are increasing rapidly. At the same time, more and more collaborative partners and artists are willing to volunteer their time for CWB.

This increasing demand for our work combined with a lack of resources to meet the demand require planning for the long-term growth of the organization.

Improved fundraising strategies will help CWB International to fund itself by donations and public funding.



Ethical Code

- **1.** Performances are the principal activity of Clowns Without Borders. Other artistic activities may be undertaken.
- **2.** The principal beneficiaries of Clowns Without Borders will be the children who live in crisis situations and their respective communities.
- **3.** Clowns Without Borders interventions shall always be free for the audience and/or participants.
- **4.** When performing the artists shall not discriminate against members of the public on the grounds of ethnicity, gender, age, religion, culture, social situation or any other differentiating category.
- **5.** Participating artists shall be volunteers and they may be paid when performing for Clowns Without Borders within their own country. In countries where basic living needs are not provided for by this work and/or governmental support, the chapter may provide the artist with a stipend.
- **6.** Participating artists shall not use the humanitarian activities of Clowns Without Borders to promote their professional careers.
- **7.** Participating artists shall not use Clowns Without Borders activities to impose personal points of view upon audiences. Artists will not attempt to educate the population, and shall refrain from proselytism of any type.
- **8.** Participating artists shall take into account the sensibility of the public, as well as their culture and the delicate situation in which they are living, when choosing the contents of their performances and workshops.
- **9.** Participating artists, when working with Clowns Without Borders projects, see and share difficult situations throughout the world. As Clowns Without Borders is not a political organization, if artists would like to give public testimonies of their experiences, they must always make it explicitly clear that Clowns Without Borders does not express any political views, nor takes any side in a conflict, and that the opinions given are personal and are based on personal experiences.
- **10.** As representatives of Clowns Without Borders in the field, during performances and when in contact with the public, participating artists shall remain clowns and performing artists, and this is our principal method of intervention.
- **11.** The artists of Clowns Without Borders shall respect laws, norms and cultural customs in the countries that they visit.
- **12.** In order to obtain economic support Clowns Without Borders shall remain attentive to the ethical values and to the respect for human rights of our sponsors and partners.

Clowns Without Borders International chapters' project 2015

12 Clowns Without Borders International Chapters completed more than 80 projects in 43 countries and almost 410,000 children and their communities participated in more than 1000 shows and 480 workshops

The countries where joint projects took place in 2015 are Nepal, Haiti, Greece Turkey, Germany and France (Calais).

Clowns Without Borders International chapters collaborated in order to respond together to the refugee crisis in Europe and to respond to the crisis in Nepal after the earthquake. Clowns Without Borders Sweden shared its funding and logistical resources with all the chapters who wanted to work in Greece.

Joint projects:

- CWB Sweden and CWB Finland: Romania
- CWB Sweden and CWB-UK: Nepal
- CWB Canada and CWB Spain: Haiti
- CWB France and CWB UK and CWB Belgium: France (Calais)
- CWB Germany, CWB USA, CWB Belgium and CWB Ireland Germany (Nuremberg and Berlin)



Press

- https://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/may/05/first-laughs-since-syria-the-clowns-getting-refugee-children-smiling
- http://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/peter-fonagy/comedy-mental-health_b_11262496.html
- http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2015/11/clowns-refugees-greece-151106114538129.html
- http://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/en/originals/2015/11/lesbos-syrian-refugees-clowns-without-borders.html
- http://awoko.org/2015/03/02/sierra-leone-news-clowns-without-borders-thrills-ebola-affected-sierra-leone/
- http://www.middleeasteye.net/in-depth/features/clown-troupe-entertains-refugee-children-stuck-greek-macedonian-border-975926081
- http://www.lavenir.net/cnt/dmf20160113 00763198

Films:

- Caravane des Rêves https://youtu.be/FJUe3dN7PyM
- Video Testbeelde Bulgaria https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mf4ssb_ByFQ
- PSF: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCJ6iOmJDya3z1k542u LCcg
- CWB US: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCDn2LG2LZv45ozUUvVA3onw
- CSF France: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC6d6VeSwt5L0O9bDehGFi0Q
- CSF Belgique: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCg9x9SracyFygGAsTSA9YZg
- CWB Sweden: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U9wRed6Qg70
- CWB Sweden: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vUwA3YiwJXI
- CWB Sweden: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HSJIUztQVtg
- CWB Sweden: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h29z8GpUE4Y
- CWB Sweden: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MtH0uNUtMO8

TV from Sweden:

- http://www.svt.se/kultur/de-gladjer-flyktingbarnen & http://www.svtplay.se/klipp/2645045/pa-resa-med-clowner-utan-granser
- http://www.svtplay.se/video/3195233/landgang/landgang-sasong-7-avsnitt-1
- http://tv.aftonbladet.se/abtv/articles/91440
- http://www.svt.se/gokvall/clownen-susanne-reuter-besoker-hemlosa-barn
- http://www.tv4.se/nyhetsmorgon/klipp/j%C3%A4ttejobbigt-men-helt-fantastiskt-3214052
- http://www.svt.se/nyheter/utrikes/rohingyafolket-lever-sina-liv-bakom-galler
- http://www.svt.se/nyheter/inrikes/har-dansar-clownerna-for-att-fa-flyktingbarnen-att-skratta

List of the countries where Clowns Without Borders International chapters worked during 2015 and number of projects

Albania	1
Bangladesh	1
Bosnia	2
Burkina Faso	1
Burma	2
Cambodia	1
Cameroon	1
Canada	1
Colombia	3
DR Congo	1
Ecuador	1
Egypt	1
Ethiopia	2
Finland	
France	6
Germany	2
Greece	6
Haiti	1
India	3
Ireland	
Iraq	2
Jordan	3

Kenya	1
Lebanon	2
Liberia	1
Macedonia	1 project with 5 expeditions
Madagascar	2
Mexico	1
Nepal	4
Peru	1
Romania	1
Rwanda	3
Sierra Leone	2
South Africa	3
South Sudan	3
Spain	1
Sri Lanka	1
Tanzania	1
Turkey	6
UK	2
Ukraine	1
Uruguay	1
USA	2

Information by chapter

Clowns Without Borders Sweden

- -21 projects in: Jordan, Greece, Lebanon, Bangladesh, Myanmar, DRC, Rwanda, Kurdistan, India, Nepal, South Sudan, Romania, Cambodia, China, Ukraine and Sweden.
- 365 shows for 124,386 audience members
- 143 workshops with 4587 participants
- 3 circus schools with 816 participants
- 14 trainings of trainers with 362 participants

Clowns Without Borders Spain

- **16 projects in:** Colombia, Ethiopia, Sierra Leone, Ecuador, Burkina Faso, Bosnia, Haiti, Jordan, Liberia, Nepal, Iraq, Macedonia
- 414 shows for 158,721 audience members

Clowns Without Borders France

- 11 projects in: Madagascar, Egypt, Uruguay, Tanzania, France (Calais)
- 51 shows for 27,140 audience members
- 52 workshops with 1497 participants

Clowns Without Borders Germany

- 10 projects in: Sri Lanka, Germany, Albania, India, Turkey, Peru
- 120 shows for 28,072 audience members
- 3 workshops with 160 participants

Clowns Without Borders USA

- 9 projects in: Mexico, Turkey, Nepal, Colombia, Grecia, Kenya, USA, Turkey
- 103 shows for 23,281 audience members
- 2 workshops with 60 participants

Clowns Without Borders UK

- 5 projects in: Nepal, India, Francia, UK
- 31 shows for 7502 audience members
- 5 workshops with 178 participants

Clowns Without Borders South Africa

- 4 projects in: South Africa, South Sudan
- Shows for 5084 audience members
- 282 workshops with 1336 participants

Clowns Without Borders Belgium

- 3 projects in: Cameroon, Nepal, France (Calais)
- 45 shows for 29,100 audience members
- 2 workshops with 60 participants

Clowns Without Borders Canada

- 3 projects in: Canada, Burma, Haiti
- 9 shows for 20,300 audience members
- 16 workshops with 1615 participants

Clowns Without Borders Ireland

- 2 projects in: Rwanda, Jordan
- 26 shows for 7400 audience members
- 19 workshops with 600 participants

Clowns Without Borders Finland

- projects in:
- shows for audience members
- workshops with participants

Clowns Without Borders Australia

2015 was a year of internal work on the organization.

Chosen partners

UNHCR Bangladesh, Camroon, Egypt, Kenya, Lebanon and Rwanda

UNICEF Myanmar and Ukraine

Plan International Myanmar, Tanzania and Nepal

War Child UK Democratic Republic Congo

Terre des Hommes Egypt and South Sudan

Medecins du Monde France (Calaise)

Caritas Sri Lanka

Don Bosco Albania, Madagascar and Rwanda

Save the Children Albania and Mexico

IRD Jordan



