

Clowns Without Borders International

Annual Report 2024





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FOREWORD

A Year of Resilience, Collaboration and Hope

2024 was a year that tested our world. Armed conflicts, climate disasters, and rising inequality continued to shape the daily lives of millions of children. In the face of these challenges, our Clowns Without Borders chapters kept showing up—creating spaces where joy can grow, imagination can flourish and hope can spark.

The moments we share with children may be brief, but their impact is lasting. A shared laugh, a spark of connection, a moment of play, it provides a break from the crises but is also a form of resistance. It is a way to reclaim the children's right to a childhood. The clowns invite the children to play—and then the children invite the clowns. What unfolds is a world on the children's terms, led by curiosity, joy, and imagination, often beyond what adults have decided is possible.

This work is only possible through collaboration. It relies on the dedication of people all over the world: artists, coordinators, international organizations and local partners.



The clowns invite the children to play—and then the children invite the clowns.

Many of this year's projects brought together Clowns Without Borders chapters from different countries, working side by side. These collaborations are at the heart of Clowns Without Borders International. When we share knowledge, build on each other's work, and learn together, we become more stronger, more resilient and more connected.

Behind the scenes, we also made important progress in strengthening our shared systems and structures. I want to give special thanks to Valentina Bravo Jara, Clowns Without Borders Coordinator. With great care, skill, and enthusiasm, she has played a key role in the administrative development and strengthening the network as a whole.

FOREWORD



Clowner Utan Gränser project in Palestine, 2014.

As both president and artist this work is close to my heart. This year I experienced a full-circle moment that reminded me why I do what I do. Ten years ago, I joined my first Clowns Without Borders project - a collaboration with a circus school in Palestine.

There I met a funny, acrobatic teenage boy. Years later I learned he had become a hospital clown. This year we met again in a Clowns Without Borders project, only this time we were colleagues standing together, holding hands and sharing joy with children in vulnerable situations.

(...) even in the most difficult circumstances, hope can take root—and joy can lead the way.

It's the human connections, built through presence and joy, that make the world around us meaningful. Thank you to everyone who made 2024 possible. And to the children that reminds us that even in the most difficult circumstances, hope can take root—and joy can lead the way.

With deep gratitude,

Anneli De Wahl

Anneli De Wahl,
President

Clowns Without Borders International



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GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2024



Reflecting, Welcoming, and Growing: GA 2024

The 2024 General Assembly of Clowns Without Borders International took place online on May 27–28. Over the course of two days, representatives from the national chapters gathered to reflect on the past year and make key decisions to move the organization forward.

A highlight of the assembly was the joyful introduction of Valentina Bravo Jara as the newly appointed Coordinator of Clowns Without Borders International. Her role will be central to the administrative development of the organization and strengthening the network as a whole.

We also extend our heartfelt thanks to Claire Rozier, who stepped down as Coordinator earlier this year after more than five years with Clowns Without Borders International. Her outstanding work, dedication, and positive, can-do spirit have played a big role in developing and supporting the network. We are deeply grateful for everything she has contributed.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2024

Another moment of celebration came with the approval of an application from a group of clowns in Portugal, who are now entering the mentoring and onboarding phase—an important milestone on the path toward becoming a full chapter of Clowns Without Borders International. We are excited to accompany them in this next step and look forward to the collaboration ahead.

The General Assembly continues to be a vital space for collective governance, exchange, and solidarity within our global network. Even when meeting across screens, the spirit of shared purpose and joy was clearly felt.

STRATEGIC VISION & OBJECTIVE

In May 2024, during the General Assembly, CWBI members formally voted to adopt Strategic Planning Framework 2024–2027, building on the foundational work carried out in 2023. The strategic plan is structured around four key pillars:

1. *Organizational Development*
2. *Project Coordination*
3. *Formation & Dissolution of Chapters*
4. *Diversity Policy*

Since its adoption, implementation efforts have primarily been made under Pillar 1: Organisational Development and Pillar 4: Formation and Dissolution of Chapters.

Under Pillar 1, significant progress has been made in clarifying CWBI's internal structures and practices. This includes drafting internal guides that explain how CWBI operates, who is responsible for what, and why our structure is set up this way, and better visualize and communicate internal roles and relationships.

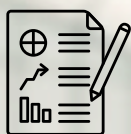
In parallel, a comprehensive review and restructuring of CWBI's shared digital workspace was carried out to enhance clarity, accessibility, and security.

Under Pillar 4, CWBI has initiated the development of a clear and transparent process for chapters to apply for membership. This process is being co-created with input from existing chapters through a series of workshops, with the goal of reaching a collaborative input and agreement.

A final version of the updated policy is expected to be voted on in 2025. The goals and implementation of the 2024–2027 Strategic Plan were reviewed at the end of 2024 and are scheduled for further review during the 2025 Annual General Meeting.

CWBI CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

IN 2024



78
projects



43
countries



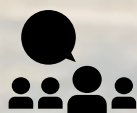
25
joint-projects



2229
shows



154 837
children and adults
attending shows



1885
workshops



12 105
children and adults
participating in
workshops



CWBI CHAPTER COUNTRIES

VISITED IN 2024

North & Central America

Canada
Mexico
USA

Europe

Armenia
Belgium
Bulgaria
Cyprus
Finland
France
Georgia
Germany
Kosovo
Moldova
Slovakia
Spain
Sweden
Ukraine
UK

South America

Brazil
Chile
Colombia

Africa

Benin
Chad
DRC
Egypt
Ethiopia
Ghana
Madagascar
Morocco
Mozambique
Rwanda
Senegal
Tunisia
Uganda
Zimbabwe

Middle East

Yemen
Jordan
Lebanon
Palestine
Turkey

Asia

Cambodia
India

STEERING COMMITTEE & GOVERNANCE

CWBI's board is made up of representatives from the CWB chapters and the steering committee is elected annually. During the Digital General Assembly of 2024, a new steering committee was chosen.

The board held three meetings throughout the year, on February 28, 2024; September 17, 2024; and December 12, 2024. The General Assembly was held virtually on May 27 and 28, 2024.

In 2024, CWBI had one part-time international coordinator, Claire Rozier, who worked 8 hours a week. Claire resigned in July 2024 and Valentina Bravo Jara stepped in as the new coordinator starting in June 2024.

At the beginning of 2024, the part-time international coordinator Claire Rozier decided to leave her position. In June 2024, Valentina Bravo Jara was welcomed as the new international coordinator. Throughout 2024, CWBI operated with a total of 13 active chapters.



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VICE PRESIDENT

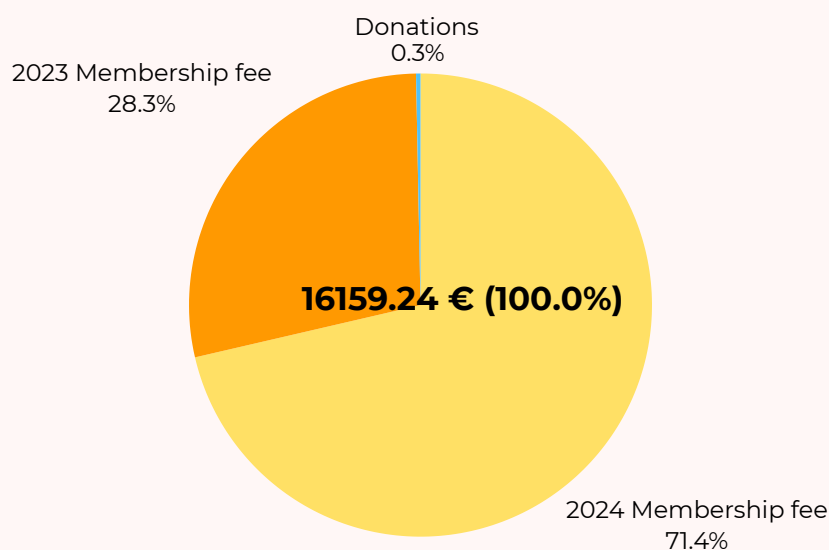
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FINANCIAL REPORT

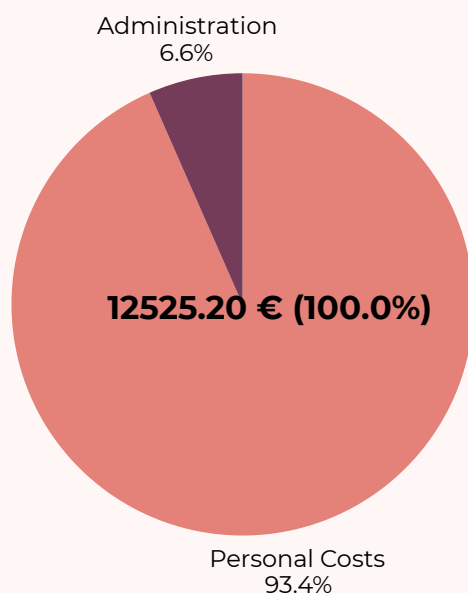
INCOME



Total Income: 16159.24 €

- 2024 Membership fees
- 2023 Membership fees
- Donations

EXPENSES



Total Income: 12525.20 €

- Personnel costs
- Operations
- Administration

FINANCIAL REPORT

Net movement of funds

(Income-Expenses)

TOTAL FUNDS AT 01 Jan 2024: 10585.73

TOTAL FUNDS AT 31 Dec 2024: 13305.93

Balance Sheet as of 31 Dec 2024:

Assets: Amount

Cash in bank: € 13305.93 (Paypal and Credit Mutuel)

Outstanding income (Debtors): € 3 900

Other assets: € 0

Total Assets Add up numbers

Liabilities:

Outstanding expenses (Creditors): £0

Other liabilities: € 0

Net Assets

(Total Funds at year end including the money owed to us)



THANK YOU

Follow us!



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