Karlsruhe Institute of Technology

Engineers Without Borders – KIT

Engineering Projects for International Development Cooperation

"Students. Building. Chances." With this motto, the university group Engineers Without Borders (EWB) at KIT has been involved in international development cooperation for 20 years. The aim of the non-profit association is to create new perspectives in economically, socially, or politically disadvantaged regions by implementing engineering projects together with local partner organizations. Individual challenges are met with sustainable solutions that have a chance of long-term success. EWB is currently active in Peru, Haiti, Gambia, Uganda, and Nepal, where it is responsible for the planning, implementation, and funding of projects.

Collaboration is Key

In its international project work, EWB emphasizes the independence of local partner organizations and the full integration of projects into local structures. This creates relationships which are characterized by an exchange on equal terms. This exchange is the starting point for a collaboration that is based on mutual interest and in which all parties can grow together. This way, EWB promotes intercultural understanding in individuals and awareness for the global context of the projects. At the same time, EWB provides participating students with the opportunity of complementing their theoretical knowledge with practical skills.

This is only a small part of the current 200 members of EWB. (EWB, Ebersberg 2023)

Nearly 40 Projects in 13 Countries

EWB was founded in 2005 in response to the severe tsunami in Sri Lanka. Since then, a total of 1,500 members have implemented nearly 40 projects in 13 countries and collected 2.5 million euros in donations. This is all thanks to the great commitment and broad support. With its 148 institutes, KIT is a unique source of knowledge, inspiration, and guidance to EWB. Together with KIT, EWB promotes social commitment worldwide.

From Education to Energy Supply

The projects to date have focused on five areas:

Education, water supply, energy supply, health, and infrastructure. The projects include, for example, the construction of school buildings, the implementation of water and filter systems, the provision of electrical energy through hydropower and solar power, as well as the planning and implementation of sanitary facilities and health stations.

The excavated soil from the toilet pit is used as filling material for the foundations. (EWB, Saba 05/2024)

Saba in Gambia

The EWB project in Gambia is the result of a shared vision with the local partner organization Phanmaggi: Strengthening rural areas, securing the livelihoods of local people, and counteracting the increasing rural exodus. So far, the construction of a reliable and safe water supply and the switch from chemical to organic fertilizers have made work in the fields in the village of Saba safer and more sustainable. A subsequent project now aims to create storage areas for the harvest and fertilizers in addition to sanitary facilities. A market area, a solar-powered cold storage room, and a meeting room for the villagers are also planned and have already been partially implemented.

360-degree Tour

With a 360-degree tour, EWB offers exclusive insights into the work on site and the current project status in Saba: Viewers can stand on the elevated tank of the water system, observe the current construction site of the storage building, and let their gaze wander across the irrigated fields into the distance.

Construction site in Saba: Market area (front right), toilet (front left), meeting and cold storage room (center), and fields (back left). (EWB, 12/2024)

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STUDENTS. BUILDING. CHANCES.

The 360-degree tour is supported by the Center for Media Learning (ZML) at KIT.