2021–2025
STRATEGIC PLAN
In the world’s toughest places, Engineers Without Borders USA (EWB-USA) is partnering with communities to meet their basic human needs. We’re building footbridges to provide pathways to opportunities. We’re installing solar panels to bring light where it is dark. We’re digging for water so hope can spring from the ground. This commitment has been with us for the past 18 years, and will continue to drive us forward through the next 5 years and beyond.

Our approach is unique and powerful: we work to develop the next generation of globally minded engineers through experiential, life-changing opportunities. Just as important, these experiences are made possible through partnerships with community members, non-profit partners and others, while working across geographic and cultural divides to imagine, design and build critical infrastructure. We like to think of it as a reinforcing loop of value – created, shared, and continuously built upon.

As we look to our next organizational chapter, we will continue to empower our partner communities while investing in our adaptive capacity to deliver value to all of our stakeholders.
MISSION

EWB-USA builds a better world through engineering projects that empower communities to meet their basic human needs and equip leaders to solve the world’s most pressing challenges.

VISION

EWB-USA’s vision is a world in which every community has the capacity to sustainably meet their basic human needs.
GOAL 1

Deepen our impact through focused efforts.

We're refining how and where we work to achieve greater impact for our partner communities and volunteers.

- Our focus is on countries or regions where we can support timely, efficient and impactful project implementation and education efforts, either directly or through trusted partnerships.
- We will use a beneficiary-focused, needs-driven approach while scaling and replicating for efficiency.
- We will utilize country and regional offices to draw on local resources, provide closer management and oversight of projects, and integrate local knowledge.
Establish country and regional priorities based on capacity for efficient project implementation including capable NGO partners, consulting and contract opportunities, and potential to support activities in neighboring countries.

Target project sectors and capacity-building activities based on regionally-identified priorities, aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Align EWB-USA resources (programs and volunteers) with this region-specific, needs driven approach.

Build a core set of partnerships through which we can grow our regional impact.
GOAL 2

Develop human capacity.

Diverse, human capacity is our greatest asset and the key to delivering deeper impact.

- Invest in the people we work with and for, to build their capacity and common understanding.
- Provide opportunity for cross cultural exchange of information and knowledge to identify and deliver solutions that work for communities.
GOAL 2

Strategies

- Train our people and those we serve with to deliver solutions that meet local needs from a local point of view.
- Leverage our pool of expertise to share and exchange knowledge.
- Deliver and demonstrate value for volunteers, sponsors and partners in the EWB-USA ecosystem.
- Integrate our EWB-USA programming into academic and corporate frameworks to augment engineering education.
GOAL 3
Enhance adaptive capacity.

Adapting in an ever-changing world is essential to delivering viable solutions.

- Monitor and adapt to changing circumstances to ensure that our volunteers can continue supporting communities seeking our assistance.
- Build a foundation for long-term growth and sustainability through resilient systems, scalable solutions and transparency.
- Become recognized as a thought leader in humanitarian engineering and the organization of choice for humanitarian engineering volunteers.
GOAL 3

Strategies

- Increase unrestricted revenue generation through new business models while expanding the funding mix.
- Embed climate change considerations into the project and opportunity vetting and planning process.
- Increase brand recognition through presence in publications, speaking, representing EWB in the sector, research, etc.
This Strategic Plan lays the foundation to deepen our impact in the near term while preparing for the future growth of the volunteers we engage, communities we serve and the impact of our work. As we move into this next organizational chapter, we will focus on these goals and strategies to continue our mission of empowering community resilience around the world.