



**“HELPING TO CONNECT!” —
WATER, ENERGY, EDUCATION,
AND CLIMATE PROTECTION**

Dear friends of the TOOLS FOR LIFE Foundation,

The past year was once again marked by significant milestones for the TOOLS FOR LIFE Foundation. Our focus was on supporting educational projects, particularly on the targeted development of vocational training for young people. We are especially pleased about the inauguration of our first TOOLS FOR LIFE vocational school for the plumbing trade in Thiès, Senegal, as well as the successful completion of the cafeteria, which includes a school kitchen that can cater for more than 1,000 pupils of St. Augustin School, also in Thiès.

Even though it is becoming increasingly challenging to identify high quality projects, we again succeeded in implementing particularly impactful initiatives. This was made possible only through our dedicated project partners; all undertakings were carried out efficiently, transparently, and reliably. Personal on site support proved invaluable. Over the past year, we conducted several project trips to Africa and India enriching and successful journeys, shaped by meaningful impressions and personal encounters.

Such engagement would be unthinkable without the support of Dr. Helmut Rothenberger Holding GmbH and the employees of the ROTHENBERGER Group.

We thank everyone who accompanied and supported TOOLS FOR LIFE this year and look forward to the next steps together.

Overall, we supported **48 projects** in **21 countries** and funded projects with a total volume of **€336,373.75**. In addition to project work, we expanded our marketing and communications to increase the reach and visibility of TOOLS FOR LIFE. This included our presence at trade fairs, conferences, and client events, the strengthening of existing and new collaborations, and greater use of our social media channels.

We are pleased to present our activity report, which provides a comprehensive overview of our foundation's work and highlights the breadth of our commitment. For more information, we invite you to visit our website, where you will find a detailed presentation of our projects, activities, and thematic priorities.

Thank you for your interest and support. We look forward to achieving sustainable impact together in the coming year.



Dr. Helmut Rothenberger
Foundation Founder



Dr. Sandra Rothenberger
Executive Director

Who We Are

TOOLS FOR LIFE works worldwide to provide people with access to essential resources—from clean water, renewable energy, and basic sanitation to education, training, and vocational instruction in the skilled trades. The foundation also actively promotes climate protection and sustainable development to safeguard the living conditions of future generations. Our goal is to create lasting change and empower people to take their destinies into their own hands, in line with the principle of “helping people help themselves.”

The TOOLS FOR LIFE Foundation was founded in 2008 by Dr. Helmut Rothenberger and his family and is committed to sustainable public good in the spirit of its founder. With a strong network of local partners and organizations, TOOLS FOR LIFE operates globally—with a project focus in developing and emerging countries as well as in Europe.

Our Achievements in 2025

We supported **16,515 people** in **21 countries** through **48 projects**:

- Built the first TOOLS FOR LIFE vocational school and school cafeteria
- Supported 6 vocational schools and introduced 425 young people to skilled trades
- Created access to clean water and sanitation facilities
- Supplied 2,135 people with sustainable energy
- Planted 45,000 trees
- Supported 9 schools with several thousand students

Executive Management

Dr. Sandra Rothenberger

Volunteer Board

Dr. Helmut Rothenberger

Silvia Rothenberger

Dr. Sandra Rothenberger

Dr. Sabine Rothenberger

Team

Felix Gottschlich

Verena Behnisch

“Helping to connect!”—Our four foundation purposes

In 2015, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the “2030 Agenda,” which comprises 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and aims for socially, economically, and environmentally sustainable development. The goals are universal, applying to all UN member states. They range from ending global hunger to promoting sustainable consumption and production and taking action on climate protection.

All actors are called upon to actively contribute to implementing these goals—and it is a key concern of the TOOLS FOR LIFE Foundation to do so.



Through our project work, we advance SDGs 4 (Quality Education), 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation), 7 (Renewable Energy), 13 (Climate Action), and 17 (Partnerships for the Goals).

Below is a selection of projects funded in 2025. Details on all projects and our foundation’s work can be found at: www.toolsforlife-foundation.com

WA.S.H. (Water, Sanitation, Hygiene)



Never Give Up: At Koisaram Primary School in Baringo County, Kenya, a lockable restroom block with running water was built for over 300 girls, providing safety, privacy, and confidence. A water tank ensures a reliable supply. In parallel, workshops on menstruation and hygiene were conducted, reusable cloth pads were distributed, and boys were engaged as respectful allies. Positive effects were seen shortly thereafter: reduced absenteeism, strengthened self-confidence among girls, and an improved school climate.



© Never Give Up Fördervereins e.V.



© Initiative Frieden e. V.

Initiative Frieden: At the Kalule Children Shelter in Buwambo, Uganda, a water well was constructed to provide clean water for drinking, sanitation, cooking, and small agricultural projects. Previously, children and residents had to travel long distances to unsafe water sources. The project was successfully implemented and will be sustained through maintenance and community awareness, improving health, quality of life, and self-sufficiency.

Energy



SONNE-International: In the village of Bakrou in the Indian state of Bihar, access to education is secured through an energy self-sufficient school. The school, with around 320 students, relies entirely on solar power. After a storm in April 2025 destroyed the photovoltaic system, classes came to a halt due to the lack of electricity. As repair was not feasible, a new PV system was installed on short notice. This enabled the rapid resumption of classes and ensured a reliable, long-term power supply for education.



© SONNE-International



© Chimfunshi e. V.

Chimfunshi: At Twampane School in northern Zambia, approximately 240 children are taught. New buildings were constructed to keep pace with rising enrollment. A solar system with a 10.2 kVA inverter and battery storage now reliably supplies the rooms with clean energy and enables modern instruction using digital learning tools. The system improves learning conditions, strengthens educational opportunities, and raises awareness of renewable energy.



Education

In Harmony with Nature: The “SheEmpowers—Solar & CCTV Empowerment for Women” project in Bamenda, Cameroon, empowered young women from resource poor and crisis affected backgrounds through hands on technical vocational training. In a six month program, 15 young women were successfully trained in installing, maintaining, and repairing solar energy and CCTV security systems—fields largely dominated by men in the region. Participants also received foundational training in financial literacy and entrepreneurship to enhance prospects for self employment or formal jobs. The project directly addresses electricity shortages, growing security needs, and high youth unemployment, contributing to gender equality, local resilience, and sustainable economic development.



© In Harmony with Nature e. V.



© Wasser für Senegal e. V.

Wasser für Senegal: St. Augustin School in Thiès educates 1,021 children aged 6 to 12, many of whom previously spent the school day hungry, affecting concentration, health, and well being. On November 13, 2025, the new cafeteria was inaugurated, now providing warm, balanced meals daily. The modern building includes a kitchen area and a small washroom, ensuring reliable provision for the children. In doing so, the school contributes not only to education but also to healthy nutrition and the sustainable development of the children. Dr. Sandra Rothenberger supports this heartfelt initiative with donations from her “Donations Instead of Gifts” campaign and commends Principal Emmanuelle and 18 teachers for their heartfelt dedication to improving learning and living conditions.



Climate Action

Tanzanian Nature: The Tarawe Reforestation Project in Tanga, Tanzania, implemented by the Tanzania Nature Rescue Organization, aims to restore a severely degraded natural forest. Planting 20,000 trees will promote biodiversity and water sources and help sustain approximately 1,000 people. Fruit trees are also being planted in agroforestry systems and at schools to strengthen food security and incomes. A particular focus is on engaging and training women, who share their knowledge in families and communities. The project is accompanied by environmental education to counter the long term effects of climate change. The project runs until July 2026.



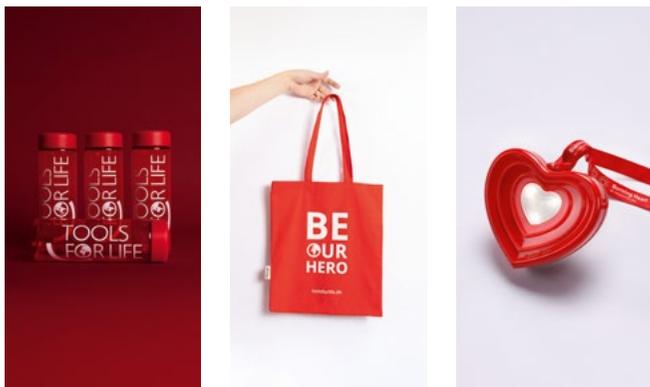
© Tanzania Nature Rescue Organisation



World Cleanup Day: World Cleanup Day took place on September 20, 2025—a global day of action for environmental protection and sustainability. Many citizens in Kelkheim, Frankfurt, and the surrounding area took part. In Kelkheim, nearly 40 people participated—including many children, who playfully learned about waste prevention and proper disposal. Together, they collected a large amount of trash, making a meaningful contribution to a cleaner city. The day was organized by TOOLS FOR LIFE and the City of Kelkheim. Since 2025, TOOLS FOR LIFE has been an official co organizer of World Cleanup Day and actively promotes environmental awareness and sustainable action.



TOOLS FOR LIFE Merchandise



Support our projects with exclusive and sustainable merchandise: 100 % of profits go directly to our work. Our water bottle is made from recycled plastic and stands for sustainability and resource conservation, manufactured using plastic waste collected near coastlines. Our range also includes our everyday hero—a tote bag made from 100 % GRS certified recycled cotton—and the Burning Heart with an integrated solar panel and power bank.

TOOLS FOR LIFE on the Road

This year we undertook numerous trips to support our projects on site and achieve sustainable impact.

Tanzania: Early in the year, four plumbing/HVAC installers and trades influencers traveled with our project manager, Felix Gottschlich, to the Irkisongo School in Monduli. At this school, supported by our partner organization Probono and educating over 1,800 girls, the team laid water pipes at five school buildings and installed ten 5,000 liter water tanks.

Senegal: On two trips in April and October, we visited all supported projects in the country. Our TOOLS FOR LIFE ambassadors Robert Windischmann and Josef Bock gave their full support to completing the interior build out and final construction of the first TOOLS FOR LIFE vocational school in the plumbing trade.



HERO Award 2025

This year, TOOLS FOR LIFE again presents the HERO Award to people and organizations that show outstanding commitment to helping those in challenging life situations. The 2025 HERO Award goes to the Clever Kids Homework Centre in South Africa, which is deeply dedicated to the education of young people.

This nonprofit organization supports children in the Masi-phumelele township through individualized homework support, targeted learning assistance, and access to learning materials and computers after regular school hours. In a region where poverty and educational inequality are part of daily life, the Clever Kids Homework Centre makes a decisive contribution to improving educational opportunities, strengthening self confidence, and opening sustainable future prospects.



Zambia: TOOLS FOR LIFE ambassadors Lee Brown (Peaky Plumber) and Bruno Friedmann (Nample) traveled as trainers to WorldSkills Africa, leading highly engaged workshops in pipework and metalworking with more than 40 participants. Special thanks to our partners IWISH, WPC, WorldSkills Africa, and ROTHENBERGER Tools.

India: In October 2025, the “Mosaics for Life” workshops took place at Jagori Rural Trust in Dharamshala. Led by artist Gala Greenwood and accompanied by our Executive Director, Dr. Sandra Rothenberger, the workshops enabled young women to create their own mosaics, learn artistic techniques, and reflect on personal experiences. The final presentation showcased 24 works; a talk highlighted the importance of creative methods for personal development and new perspectives.

Malawi: As part of the YOUR COMMITMENT trip, three employees from the ROTHENBERGER Group and our Marketing Manager, Verena Behnisch, supported the FACE Education Campus in Zalewa. Workshops, hands on projects, and classroom visits fostered inspiring encounters and demonstrated the power of engagement and education on the ground.

Help Day

Founded in 2022 by Dr. Helmut Rothenberger, the Help Day takes place annually around May 25. It stands for social engagement across all local sites of the corporate group and invites employees from all companies to participate voluntarily. TOOLS FOR LIFE supports companies in organizing the projects and will assume full organization of Help Day starting in 2026.



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Reliability and Transparency

The TOOLS FOR LIFE Foundation is audited annually by the Sanftenberg & Kaul tax advisory partnership. The annual financial statements comply with the foundation's charter and the legal requirements of nonprofit tax law. Donations are tax deductible. Since December 2019, the foundation has been a signatory to the Initiative Transparent Civil Society and is committed to transparency. Since June 2021, it has been a member of the Association of German Foundations and adheres to the principles of good foundation practice, which promote transparency, avoid conflicts of interest, and ensure efficient use of funds.

Key Social Indicators

In 2025, the TOOLS FOR LIFE Foundation received monetary donations totaling €308,065.47 from donors and supporters. In addition, there were in kind donations amounting to €7,785.47 to support the skilled trades in the field of plumbing/HVAC systems mechanics.

Source of Funds in 2025

Monetary Donations	€ 308,065.47
Other Income	€ 27,180.37
Reserves from 2024	€ 80,801.34
Total Available Funds	€ 416,047.18

Use of Funds in 2025

Sustainable Development Goal 4 (Education)	€ 132,263.75
Sustainable Development Goal 6 (WA.S.H.)	€ 79,100.00
Sustainable Development Goal 7 (Energy)	€ 38,790.00
Sustainable Development Goal 13 (Climate Action)	€ 77,160.00
Emergency Relief	€ 1,500.00
HERO Award	€ 7,560.00
Administrative Expenses <small>(100% funded by ROTHENBERGER Holding)</small>	€ 24,469.25
Total Expenditure	€ 360,843.00

We thank all our partners!



Imprint

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