



2018

ANNUAL REPORT

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ABOUT HUMAN BRIDGE

Human Bridge is a Swedish aid organisation working for people and the environment. By collecting and delivering phased-out medical equipment, used textiles and supplies, better conditions are created for people in vulnerable countries, as well as a fairer resource allocation. Human Bridge was established in 2001 by Läkarmissionen and Erikshjälpen and has developed a unique business model to finance its aid work through the processing and sale of textiles. A smaller part of the funding comes from the founders and donations from the public.

Front: Awaiting the doctor outside the maternity ward at the old hospital in Gondar, in Ethiopia. In Gondar, Human Bridge has supported both the old and new hospital with medical equipment for many years. **Back:** Old hospital area in Gondar, in Ethiopia.

OUR ACTIVITIES MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN AN UNJUST WORLD

– The meter read 47° C when we stepped out of the car inside the gates of the Kahzir refugee camp in northern Iraq. In a tent, I met a family that some weeks earlier had fled for their lives from Mosul.

– In Ukraine, the war in parts of the country causes many to live as internally displaced persons in an already economically strained country. The lack of financial resources affects everyone, in particular the refugees.

– Europe's poorest country Moldova has a shortage of almost everything, perhaps this is particularly noticeable in healthcare. The elderly and disabled live in unimaginable misery without adequate means.

– Ethiopia, with its 100 million inhabitants, is struggling to develop the healthcare infrastructure, there are rarely funds for the necessary equipment. Falling sick often means suffering and death.

There are daily reports of unimaginable human suffering in our world, mainly caused by conflicts in various forms and natural disasters.

At Human Bridge, we cannot see the distress and misery in our world and not want to be involved and change it. We see that much of the phased-out material in our society still constitutes a resource to the extent that it is functional and useful. People turn to Human Bridge for help as a result of a lack of access to medical equipment and aids for the disabled, as well as a lack of financial resources for the purchase of clothing and shoes.

Even in terms of the environment, it is worth extending the life of equipment and materials instead of just consuming and throwing away. For the people that Human Bridge assists, access to used or surplus materials is usually the only option when they lack the means for purchasing it.

Actions that Human Bridge has implemented in 2018 are presented in this document. Without our donors, both public institutions and companies, individuals and loyal employees, none of this would have been possible. At the inauguration of Bahir Dar University Hospital, Ethiopia, in November 2018, the University's representative announced that, after evaluation, it was found that the equipment and material received by Human Bridge had corresponded to a cost of SEK 160 million for new purchases. These are funds that simply did not exist, and the hospital could not have been opened without the help of Human Bridges. This is just one example of the effect we can achieve together.

Thank you! We count on you to join us in improving people's lives even in 2019.

Robert Bergman, Direktor



”At Human Bridge, we cannot see the distress and misery in our world and not want to be involved and change it.”

THIS IS HUMAN BRIDGE



VISION

We want to develop and create a fairer global resource allocation in an eco-efficient way through needs-based material aid.

MISSION

We use resources associated with reusing and recycling materials for aid. The activities are mainly carried out with collected medical equipment and materials as well as clothing. Training and other related development activities may be included. Our projects are carried out in areas where the vulnerable are benefited.

VALUES

Human Bridge's activities are based on a view of humanity where all people are equal. In other words, our activities are not limited for, for example, ethnic, religious or political reasons. We regard our aid projects as collaboration between us and the recipient. We want the local partner to be active and involved in the planning of the activities. The projects shall support people's opportunity to grow as individuals and to be in a better position to create a functioning existence.



KEY AREA - AID

Human Bridge collects, reconditions and distributes medical equipment as aid for use where the need is great, particularly in Africa, Eastern Europe and the Middle East. We also collect clothing and other materials that are sent as aid and procure supplies to disaster situations.

KEY AREA - SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

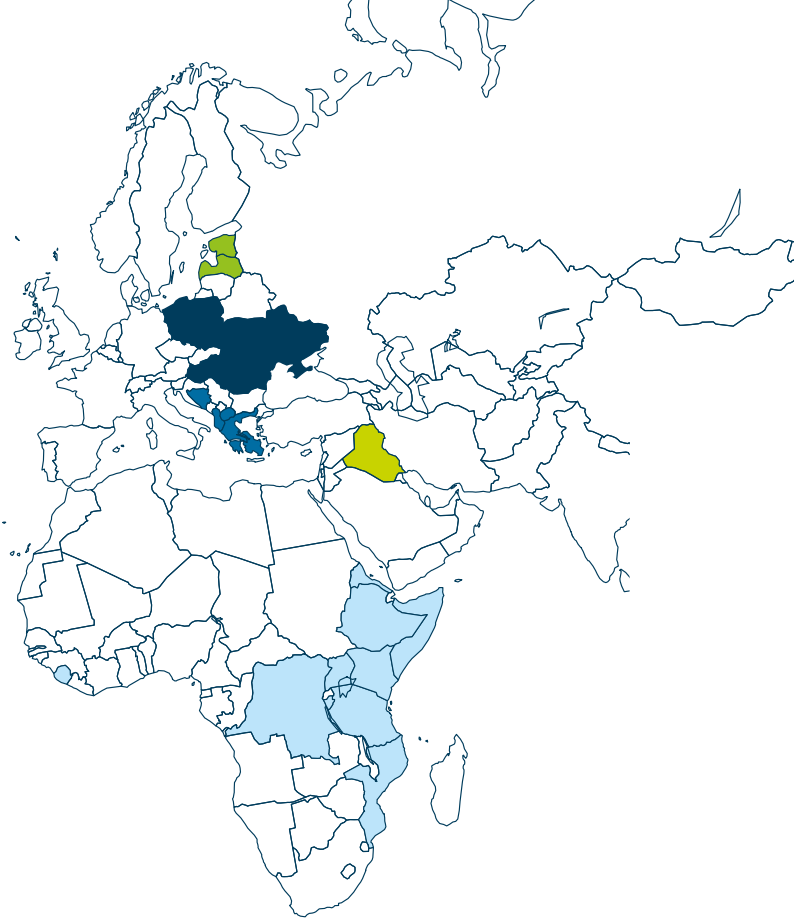
We have the possibility to offer internships to people who need training. This creates employment for job seekers, and our ambition is to offer a meaningful community. Our collaboration takes place mainly with the municipality and employment service in the places where we are located.

KEY AREA - ENVIRONMENT

Reusing and recycling are key words for our activities. Everything from dental chairs to footwear gets new users. Recycling is, from an environmental point of view, the most efficient way of utilising Earth's resources, and by recycling materials, we believe funds can be released to carry out aid projects.

211 SHIPMENTS TO 18 COUNTRIES

In 2018, a total of 2,302 tonnes of medical equipment, disability equipment, clothing and other supplies were delivered to recipients worldwide. 211 shipments have left Human Bridge in Sweden with, in many cases, vital medical equipment to give people better and safer access to health care in vulnerable countries. Below is a summary of how the material has been distributed across different areas.



COMPARISON OVER THREE

AID SHIPMENTS	
YEAR	AMOUNT
2018	211
2017	204
2016	208

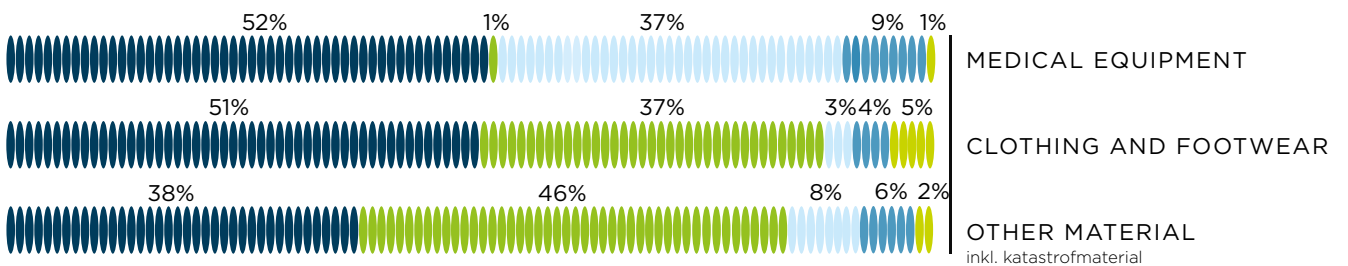
MEDICAL EQUIPMENT	
YEAR	TONNES
2018	549
2017	668
2016	629

CLOTHING AND FOOTWEAR	
YEAR	TONNES
2018	1 052
2017	1 165
2016	1 117

OTHER MATERIAL	
YEAR	TONNES
2018	701
2017	498
2016	482

DISTRIBUTION OF MATERIAL, BY WEIGHT, BY EACH AREA

- EASTERN EUROPE ■
- BALTICS ■
- AFRICA ■
- BALKANS ■
- MIDDLE EAST ■



TOTAL NUMBER OF SHIPMENTS TO THE RESPECTIVE AREA (shipment = 40-foot container/a trailer)



- EASTERN EUROPE: Moldova, Poland, Romania, Ukraine, Hungary
- BALTICS: Estonia, Latvia
- AFRICA: Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Mozambique, Somalia, Tanzania
- BALKANS: Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Greece, Kosovo
- MIDDLE EAST: Iraq



IN LARGER FACILITIES WITH BETTER CONDITIONS

Suitably adapted premises facilitate and streamline the preparation of aid materials for people in need. Human Bridge develops its activities in new larger facilities.

In 2018, Human Bridge renovated and prepared the newly acquired main depot in Holsbybrunn, which is both larger and more practical. Much has been done and little remains to be done. Parts of the existing pallet rack have been adapted or disassembled and new workshops and workplaces are starting to take shape. All the medical equipment comes to the main depot for inspection before delivery to our recipients around the world.

The warehousing and the new workshops for wheelchair and bed technicians are already under way. Now, the completion of the medical workshop, a workshop facility and a new larger work area for sorting of medical equipment remains. In addition, a brand-new top

floor of about 250 m² is being built for storage of aid materials. The total area of the premises is 6,500 m².

– The workshop facility will be fire-resistant. Here we will be able to weld and fix things on our own. Anything to save time and money for the aid activities, says Leif Andersson, who has been property manager at Human Bridge since spring 2018.

Leif is in charge of the renovation; he also works with almost all the steps together with his colleagues. Here, most of the skills needed can be found in-house. It is Human Bridge's own staff, technicians and nurses who, in addition to their regular aid work, have built the interior walls and ceilings and repainted them.

The larger and more adapted premises provide a better working environment. This will create increased efficiency and greater opportunities for Human Bridge to implement aid measures cost-effectively. The premises are expected to be ready for occupancy in spring 2019.



The storage area in the loft is completed. Leif, property manager, on the left in picture and Mats, technician, on the right.

TO THE DEPOT FOR A SECOND CHANCE

The depot in Åbro in Mölndal is one of Human Bridge's five depots across Sweden. Here, aid materials, such as healthcare and disability equipment coexist with clothing, furniture, gadgets and utensils. A Human Bridge depot is a collection centre for things that can do good a second time around – somewhere else in the world.

Aid materials, such as healthcare and disability equipment, are donated from hospitals, nursing homes and health centres in the region. Clothing is collected from nearly 300 collection boxes in the area, as well as furniture, utensils, bicycles, etc. from recycling centres. Human Bridge always thinks about reusing before recycling – this applies to everything we receive.

– We also receive surgical drapes. Twice a week, Alingsåstvätten comes and delivers sheets, blankets and uniforms for healthcare professionals. We fill up our aid shipments with these fabrics, says Eric Agerling, Depot Manager in Åbro.

All healthcare and disability equipment collected at the depot stops at Human Bridge in Holsbybrunn, where it is carefully screened before it is shipped out into the world as aid.

The textiles that are collected are sorted, on site or at another of Human Bridge's textile sortings in Sweden, some are also sold to sorting companies in the EU, where they, in turn, are resold in different second hand stores. The textiles that can be sold in Sweden go, together with furniture and gadgets, to Human Bridge's partner, Lindra Second Hand.

There is a lot of logistics at the depot with collections, journeys and orders, things being loaded and unloaded.



About 6-8 inbound shipments every day, Monday to Friday. Eric is in charge of coordinating the work and ensuring that everything runs smoothly. That things come in, are repackaged, sorted and then sent out again, but in different directions. Eric says that being organised is everything at the depot – here, you have to be structured and be on top of things.

Eric is a relatively new Depot Manager. He took it up on 1 March 2018, and comes from the Sahlgrenska University Hospital in Gothenburg, where he was environmental coordinator and safety advisor for dangerous goods at the department of transport.

The catchment area of the Åbro depo is Borås in the east, Kungsbacka in the south and Vänersborg in the north.



Picture 1: Eric, Depot Manager. Picture 2: Everything is in its place at the depot in Åbro.

CHRISTMAS SPIRIT TO EASTERN EUROPE

The Christmas Present Campaign celebrates 20 years this year (2018). Since its launch, the campaign has brought Christmas spirit to over half a million children in the poorest parts of Europe. In 2018, 18,218 Christmas presents were collected.

Julia, 9 years old, is one of the children who got a Christmas present from Sweden this year. Julia lives with her mum and grandma. It is grandma, 78 years old, who helps Julia in the morning before going to school and in the evening when she comes home. Julia's mum, Oxana, sells food at a bazaar and leaves home before Julia wakes up and gets home late. She works almost 14 hours every day!

After school, Julia goes to the Lviv Child Care Centre – a place where children can come after school to get food,

help with their homework and meet friends. When the Christmas presents from Sweden were handed out, Julia did not want to open hers. She wanted to bring it home to show mum and grandma the nice wrapping paper.

Do you want to join us in sharing the Christmas spirit with children like Julia? Stay tuned at: lakarmissionen.se or at facebook.com/humanbridge.se

The Christmas Present Campaign is a campaign run by the aid organisation Läkarmissionen and where Human Bridge is the partner that delivers Christmas presents to recipient organisations in Romania, Ukraine and Moldova.



Julia is the girl on the far right in the picture. Here, along with her friends at the Lviv Child Care Centre after the handing out of the gifts.

MOLDOVA – A SMALLA COUNTRY WITH GREAT NEEDS

In November last year, Annika Ekholm Fröding, Head of Healthcare and Aid Materials at Human Bridge, visited Moldova. Together with our partners, The Salvation Army and Life and Light, Annika travelled the country to visit hospitals and hospices that need our support.

The visits to our recipients are important, partly to foster and develop relations and partly to follow up and evaluate our aid efforts and to keep us updated on the country's development to meet future needs.

The lack of available healthcare and the low standard of healthcare in the country are major problems, which mainly affect the most vulnerable population. Covering the need here requires great external action. Human Bridge has for years supported and provided hospitals and organisations on the ground with aid in the form of healthcare and disability equipment, clothing and other supplies.



The hospital in Ștefan Vodă, the intensive care unit. Over the years, Human Bridge has provided the hospital with a basic package, such as beds, bunks, etc., but also with more advanced medical equipment.

Getting access to healthcare and aid is even harder in rural areas than in urban. Everyday life is tough here! People live in difficult conditions, typically in non-insulated houses without running water and most below poverty level. Our aid delivery is particularly important here.

Thanks to our successful collaboration with organisations on the ground, we reach out to the small rural villages and the most vulnerable in the country. The contacts and local knowledge that these organisations have are invaluable. Human Bridge has, with their help, also managed to bring Christmas presents to children and aids to the disabled in Transnistria.

Transnistria is a region in eastern Moldova – a very closed society where the situation is even harder than in Moldova. A breakaway republic that declared its independence in 1990, but has not yet been recognised by the outside world.

Sending aid shipments to countries outside the EU requires a lot of administrative work. All documentation takes time and needs to be approved by authorities in the country before a shipment can be made. Moldova's customs system is cumbersome and changes may occur without warning.

Despite the difficulties, Human Bridge sends about 10 aid shipments a year to Moldova. Moldova is a small country, so our efforts make a big difference and everyday life becomes a little easier for many people.





AID TO UKRAINE

OLIVA Foundation in Ukraine, provides care centres, hospitals and other healthcare providers with disability equipment. For example, to a rehabilitation centre in a small town called Baranivka.

It is thanks to the help of Human Bridge, via OLIVA that they could open this centre and start providing assistance and support to people.

– Additional equipment is still needed but Human Bridge has literally breathed life into this centre in a small Ukrainian town, says Stanislav, who is responsible for OLIVA.

The ongoing contact is essential if the right material is to reach the right recipient. Many of Human Bridge's partnerships with recipient organisations have been going on for a long time – the OLIVA organisation in Ukraine is one such example.





REGULAR ACTIVITIES AT LARGE REFUGEE CAMPS IN IRAQ

In 2018, Human Bridge delivered 68 tonnes of material spread over five shipments to internally displaced persons across Iraq. “We own nothing, but I still feel safer and happier here in the camp than inside Mosul,” says nine-year-old Malak Belo Ramadan.

We have left Erbil and it is not long before we are surrounded by the sterile desert landscape. In some places, the sand has blown into drifts across the paved road. We pass Kalek and have a little over 30 kilometres left to the Khazir camp just outside Mosul. During our trip in northern Iraq, we visit some of the 11 camps that accommodate both Iraqi internally displaced persons and Syrian refugees. The car’s temperature gauge reads just over 40° C. – Seeing first-hand the concrete evidence of what our aid efforts are achieving in the field strengthens my belief that our efforts make a difference, says Robert Bergman, Director of Human Bridge, who is now visiting Iraq for the first time.

During the trip, he shared in distributing food and clothing packages from the last shipment from Sweden, including in the camps Qushtapa, U2, Khazir, Debaga and in the rural town of Koyo. We also visit a hospital in Erbil to identify future needs.

– After the battles against IS, a massive reconstruction effort is needed, not least in and around the war-torn city of Mosul. More than two million Iraqis live as internally displaced persons. The needs in the camps are huge, says Robert Bergman.

Human Bridge has for several years been providing materials to the refugees in Iraq, who have mainly fled the former IS controlled areas in and outside Mosul, a city of almost two million inhabitants, which today is wiped out. Over nine thousand of the city’s inhabitants died at the time when the fighting was at its height. Although Iraq is one of the more affluent countries in the region, government-led support to the Kurdish part today is virtually non-existent, a stance escalated by the fact that the Kurds wanted to proclaim the region independent, much to the displeasure of the government in Baghdad. And, as always in political conflicts, it is the most vulnerable who have to pay the price. One and a half million people have been sheltered in the refugee camps around Erbil, not only from Iraq, but also from Syria and Iran.

We visited the camp Kahzir where we met Ahmed Belo Ramadan with his four children.

– During the war and the clashes in Mosul we were in

constant danger. It is a miracle that the whole family is alive today. In the end, we could not stay any longer but had to flee from there. Mosul is a dead city today, says Ahmed and invites us to tea in the tent where the whole family lives.

The heat in the camp is unbearable. The thermometer reads 45° C in the shade and just a few minutes in the sun is what we in the Nordic countries can bear. The tent provides a small shelter and a miserable fan unit lowers the temperature slightly. With her lower lip trembling, nine-year-old daughter Malak says:

– We were constantly afraid, night and day we had to seek shelter from bomb attacks and bullets when it got really bad. I always had to stick my fingers in my ears. My little brother happened to lie down on the floor during one of the attacks. Had he stood up, he would be dead. The bullets went right through the wall right where he was. We own nothing, but I still feel safer and happier here in the camp than inside Mosul.

What she misses most is going to school, which is impossible in the camp.

– I have lost almost two years of school because of the war in Mosul and I do not know when I get to go back to school.

The Kurds are the largest ethnic group without a state of their own, most originally come from the border area between Turkey, Iraq and Iran. None of these states want to renounce any part of their territory and governments do very little to support the Kurds. In 2018, Human Bridge delivered 68 tonnes of material spread over five shipments to mainly internally displaced persons across Iraq. The material has largely consisted of clothing and



Robert Bergman, Director of Human Bridge, distributes food and clothing to refugees in Iraq.

shoes, but also of some medical equipment. The shipments have also included quite a few starter kits for new-born – new-born kits. To make sure that the material sent from Human Bridge's depots in Sweden goes to the right place and in the right context, there have always been recipients on the ground, who have been able to report back. When it comes to Iraq, it is Karzan Aziz Rashid who has that role.



– My job is to make sure that the material is taken care of and gets to our warehouse in Erbil, where it stays until I go down there and am on the ground during the distribution, says Karzan who speaks the language and has the local knowledge. He is originally from this region in Iraq, but has been living in Stockholm for many years.

In the case of medical equipment, the aid goes directly without intermediaries. When we visit the Raparin Teaching Hospital in Erbil, we meet a desperate doctor in the corridor. He throws up his hands in a gesture towards the overcrowded hospital wards.

– We have two children in each bed and need 200 beds just to meet the basic need, says Dr Hoshanc Seeleg, not to mention medications and other equipment. We work with the poorest and most vulnerable. Despite a lack of resources, we do what we can or the children will die before our eyes.

It is constantly being confirmed to us that the needs of the hospitals in Kurdistan are huge, but at the time of writing, a shipment of medical equipment from Human Bridge is on its way.

Here in Erbil, we do not notice that much of the tense and unstable situation prevailing in Iraqi Kurdistan. The city has doubled in size due to the unstable situation in north-eastern Iraq, but as soon as we enter the rural areas, people are more on their guard. We are reminded of it in the small rural town of Koya, where the security guards have a hard time keeping the frustrated people queuing for food and clothing distribution from Human Bridge under control.

A sign that the aid shipments from Sweden at present are not only necessary, but a matter of life or death for many.

Text and picture Jörgen Ulvsgård

AID TO FEMALE STUDENTS IN ETHIOPIA

Human Bridge established a fund some years ago to support female students from very poor backgrounds in Ethiopia.

The government is providing training, food and shelter, besides this, there are no other funds for the student. If you have no support from home, life as a student becomes extremely difficult, in particular for the female students. To pay for simple everyday things, such as sa-

nitary items, study materials, trips to and from the place of study, they are often forced into prostitution.

With the support of Human Bridge's Fund, female students will not have to sell their bodies. Instead, they can focus on their studies and get a good education.

In 2018, Human Bridge was able to support about fifty students at five different universities with SEK 200/month.



AID HAS A RIPPLE EFFECT

Tenguru, Meru District Hospital is a small hospital located outside the city of Arusha in north-eastern Tanzania. When Human Bridge made its first visit here, the hospital had never received aid from any aid organisation before.

The hospital was functioning, but much of the equipment was old and inadequate. Providing the desired care was impossible. What the hospital wanted more than anything was to get more up-to-date equipment for the dental practice.

A container was sent to the hospital from Human Bridge in Sweden, it was filled with medical equipment, something to all departments, and the long-awaited modern dental equipment. Two fully equipped dental chairs, including an x-ray arrived at the hospital on a June day in 2016. It was a boost for the hospital.

However, the new dental chairs were too big to fit through the door to the then very small and worn practice. As a result, the hospital managed to mobilise funding to set up a new dental practice. Now the equipment could come into its own! Patients could get the care they needed – dentists and dental nurses could do their work safely and securely – finally.

Three years after the aid shipment from Human Bridge had arrived, it was time for a return visit. All equipment was being used. The head doctor repeatedly pointed out the value of the aid shipment and welcomed Human

Bridge's follow-up at the hospital. It was a positive return visit.

– It was incredible to see the fine new dental practice. So much added value – really an enhanced effectiveness of our aid. The hospital has now raised the standard of dental care, says Annika head of healthcare and aid at Human Bridge.



One of the dental chairs in place in the newly built dental practice.



The new dental practice that was set up thanks to an aid shipment with dental equipment from Human Bridge and the old small practice.



A NEW HOSPITAL IS COMPLETED

With great fanfare, the new university hospital in Bahir Dar was inaugurated – a hospital that really is a necessary addition in the region. Human Bridge has sent 20 40-foot containers to it with virtually all kinds of equipment a hospital may need.

The hospital was inaugurated on 11 November 2018. The inauguration was widely reported in the country and even abroad. Great leaders like Ethiopian Prime Minister, Br. Abiy Ahmed, Eritrean and Somali presidents, Isaias Afewerki and Mohamed Abdullahi Farmajo, honoured the inauguration of the hospital. Also present was Human Bridge's representative in Ethiopia Ato Adamu Anley, who received an award for Human Bridge's great commitment and support to the hospital since the start. The leaders were given a guided tour of the hospital, together with senior officials and managers at Bahir Dar University, to see the various facilities and the technical medical equipment donated by Human Bridge.

Human Bridge has for a long time implemented aid projects in Ethiopia. Starting the collaboration with Bahir Dar University – to help the new university hospital get started was a matter of course. Agreement was signed in December 2015 and thus the work in Holsbybrunn

in Sweden started on planning and collecting suitable equipment – equipment to fill a hospital with – where there used to be only a house shell.

Last November, the agreement was met and the hospital could open up for patients. The hospital is not yet fully operational, but it is well on its way. There will be more shipments of medical equipment and supplies from Human Bridge.

The older hospital in the city with only 300 beds was very congested – the 1,000 beds in the new hospital are much needed.

The catchment area of Bahir Dar is large, nearly 7 million people. The university hospital, which has been named Tibebe Gihon, will be a so-called “referral hospital” – a specialist hospital. The aim is to see patients on referral from the entire region and the link to the university means that it also will become a teaching hospital for doctors and nurses, etc.

Bahir Dar is the capital of the Amahara region in northern Ethiopia and is beautifully situated on the largest lake of Ethiopia, Tanas.

CONGRATULATIONS DR. MUKWEGE

It was good news when the winner of the 2018 Nobel Peace Prize was announced. Human Bridge congratulates Denis Mukwege on the fine and well-deserved award.

Dr Denis Mukwege, winner of the 2018 Nobel Peace Prize – for his work against rape as a weapon of war and conflict. Dr Mukwege is the head surgeon at the Panzi Hospital in the DRC. Here he has over the years helped over 50,000 raped women and children, both with the physical wounds and with creating a new future for themselves and their children, since they are excluded from society after the abuses.

The hospital also has a maternity ward, offers family planning counselling and other regular healthcare. Here, the lives of premature babies and children suffering from malnutrition are saved on a daily basis.

Human Bridge has collaborated with Dr Mukwege for many years and provided the hospital with medical equipment.



Photo: Liss Persson

MORE RELIABLE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY AT PANZI

A different shipment – medical equipment and clothing does not always make up our aid shipments.

A shipment to the DRC during the year included two diesel generators and carpentry equipment for a vocational training.

The generators were delivered to the Panzi Hospital, located in the South Kivu Province in the eastern DRC. They were very much anticipated by the hospital! The old generator in place was deeply flawed and breakdowns were frequent – now the new diesel generators are creating hopes of an end to power cuts.

The Panzi Hospital was founded by Denis Mukwege, winner of the 2018 Nobel Peace Prize. Human Bridge has for many years collaborated with Dr Mukwege and the Panzi Hospital, by providing the hospital with medical equipment, consumables and other supplies.

The diesel generators in the shipment were donated by Atlas Copco and Rotary in Örebro, the carpentry equipment was donated by Södertälje Rotary.



Photo: Liss Persson

ENVIRONMENT IS ONE OF THE CORNERSTONES

Human Bridge's aid work gained considerable attention at the end of 2018 – with a nomination for the environmental award “WEEE Initiative of the Year”!

At the end of January, the winner was crowned at the Recycling Gala in Stockholm. The biggest trophy went to Begagnade Vitvaror. Congratulations! Winning would of course have been great, but being among the three finalists was an honour.

“WEEE Initiative of the Year” salutes the proper environmental reuse or recycling of electric/electronic products. It is Human Bridge's efforts to collect technical medical equipment that is passed on to the world as aid that was recognised. Equipment that for some reason is no longer used in our Swedish hospitals. Before it is sent, it is carefully reviewed by Human Bridge's own technicians, who prepare and ensure that all equipment works properly.

Human Bridge has been nominated before. In 2012, the foundation was a finalist in the “Entrepreneur of the Year” category at the Recycling Gala.



Want to learn more about the Recycling Gala, browse www.atervinningsgalan.se



LINDRA IN SICKLA BECAME MILJÖNÄR

In February 2018, Nacka's entrepreneur meeting was held, where a number of different prizes were awarded. Lindra Second Hand in Sickla was awarded the Miljönär of the Year prize together with some other companies in similar industries. Reusing already-produced clothing and gadgets is the largest environmental saving.

Visit Lindra Second Hand the next time you need a pair of jeans or maybe a dining table and your deed will be a good one.

Lindra is a support association for Human Bridge. All proceeds will go to co-financing Human Bridge's aid efforts.

REUSE OF MEDICAL EQUIPMENT

By reusing equipment, Human Bridge helps people get the proper local help and healthcare – while we make a commitment to the environment. Our aid projects are primarily about equipping hospitals and creating the conditions for a safer care through the reuse of medical equipment.

Human Bridge's collaboration with medical wards of hospitals is an indispensable prerequisite for us to be able to conduct good aid.

Human Bridge function-tests and provides the phased-out medical equipment with a user manual in English, possibly also in French. All tested equipment is quality assured and labelled. Then it is ready to be sent out as aid.

We often face challenges as there are many different manufacturers and brands and the products are replaced faster. Completing, holding stocks or sourcing parts is not possible for Human Bridge. It is therefore of great importance that the equipment we receive is as complete as possible and preferably operational.

We have a constant demand for surgical instruments, hospital beds, medical furniture, wheelchairs, aid, diagnostic instruments.



We appreciate if:

- the material we receive is operational and complete
- the product “speaks English” or the option of language selection is provided
- the manuals and spare parts, as well as supplier information are provided with the product
- a transformer is included and switches and sockets can be reused when the product is phased out or dismantled
- we can provide feedback or contact the technician who donated material



Thank you!

TEXTILE COLLECTION INCREASINGLY IMPORTANT

The large climate impact of textile production and consumption is today a recurring theme in the media. According to EU directives, municipalities shall by 2025 have systems in place for the collection of textiles separated from other fractions. Already today, many municipalities are looking for partners to be able to meet future requirements. For Human Bridge's part, this has led to an increased number of agreements with municipalities and waste and property companies, and the collection volumes have thus risen sharply.

According to the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency, the total amount of textiles collected has reached about 38,000 tonnes/year, while consumption is about 130,000 tonnes/year. However, the national waste management plan's objective for collection is considerably higher. This means that we still need to improve and intensify the collection activities in the coming years. Collectors who want to be involved in this development are faced with completely new requirements and challenges. When all textiles are to be received, for both reuse and recycling, new collection methods and equipments need to be tested, which involves significant investment costs. Human Bridge is open to new solutions and is involved in several ambitious projects aimed at offering consumers a high level of service when taking back textiles, both near properties and at recycling centres.

According to the EU and the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency's definition, textiles for reuse and recycling are legally a waste category. In order to properly manage the value of end of life textiles, whether for reuse or recycling, collection and transport must be done in a different way than for other materials, such as paper or plastic. Textiles must be packaged to protect them from dirt and moisture, and the proportion of "misplaced" products (other than textiles) shall not exceed a few percent. These are requirements from the sorting industries in the EU, which are also the guarantors of the disposal of textiles. To meet these requirements, Human Bridge's instructions to staff emptying collection containers are clear. When collecting textiles, everything must be bagged, and items that are not textiles must be removed and treated separately. When collecting at recycling centres, the public is informed about the importance of only placing materials fitting the fraction textiles in the containers. When loading into the sorting industry, the staff is directed to pay attention to and remove foreign fractions from the textiles.

Most textiles are shipped abroad for sorting and waste legislation also applies for cross-border transports. As a

collector, we find ourselves in a field of tension between calls for increased collection volumes, which means a rising proportion of textile for recycling, and unclear definitions of what textile waste may actually contain.

Like we said, the challenges we face are many, but Human Bridge believes in constant and close dialogue with authorities and industry players to find common solutions, so that we can help each other achieve the ambitious objectives.

Sweden is, in terms of population, a small EU country, but in the textile context, a country that distinguishes itself through ambitious commitment from researchers, NGOs, decision makers and producer companies that drive the development forward. Human Bridge is proud of being a part of this process.



Part of Human Bridge's clothing collection goes to humanitarian aid efforts.

COURSE OF THE TEXTILES

MUNICIPALITIES,
COMPANIES, HOUSING
AND WASTE COMPANIES

PRIVATE PERSONS



SALES TO
SORTING COMPANIES

SORTING
HUMAN BRIDGE

SORTING FOR
REUSE

GENERATES SURPLUSES
FOR THE FUNDING OF
AID EFFORTS



SORTING FOR
SECOND HAND STORE

SORTING FOR
AID

SORTING
FOR RECYCLING



SORTING
FOR RECYCLING



INCINERATION WITH
ENERGY RECOVERY

INCINERATION WITH
ENERGY RECOVERY

GENERATES SURPLUSES
FOR THE FUNDING OF
AID EFFORTS

MATERIAL AID EFFORTS: MEDICAL EQUIPMENT,
CLOTHING, EMERGENCY SUPPLIES





Yvonne, Marie and Carina, three happy workplace ambassadors at the Textile Return in Ullared.

HERE THERE IS ALWAYS ROOM

At the Textile Return we should always feel that we belong – however great the difference may be between us people. It is precisely these differences that we must exploit and see as a potential for developing and being a “Good Workplace” for everyone.

The Textile Return is a certified “Good Workplace.” Here, the employees have been trained to provide the best treatment to all new staff and interns – a workplace ambassador training.

Receiving and helping people into active life properly is a big part of being a workplace ambassador. A workplace ambassador inspires, brings unity and security, is responsive and always puts the welfare of colleagues first to create a good working environment. – It was Falkenberg municipality that invited us to the training. A splendid initiative. We want to create as good a workplace as possible here to be able to help people who need a little push and support to take on a job. Everyone has different potential and comes from different backgrounds. The training has now given us many tools to use, says Marie Johansson, supervisor at the Textile Return.

The Textile Return is a collection centre for textiles, a joint venture between Human Bridge, Falkenberg municipality and the department store, Gekås, in Ullared. At present, 16 people from the municipality are doing internships at the Textile Return, but there is room for a total of 25 people.

Large amounts of textiles keep coming in to the Textile Return. They are collected from collection boxes and recycling centres in the vicinity of Ullared, but also from Falkenberg municipality and all textile surplus materials from Gekås department store go directly to the Textile Return. In one week, about 3.5 tons are sorted. The textiles are carefully sorted and then shipped out into the world to various aid projects or are placed on the second hand market here in Sweden and in Eastern Europe.

As a private person, you are also very welcome with your textiles. There are collection boxes both outside the Textile Return and Gekås department store. Please clear out your wardrobe before visiting Gekås in Ullared next time!

TEXTILES IN GOOD HANDS

Grogrunden is a company that Human Bridge is delighted to employ – a social enterprise that takes responsibility for its employees, wants to develop the local community and engages primarily in environmentally sustainable projects.

The company hires people who have been outside the labour market for a long time and who need to establish themselves. They undertake cleaning work, gardening, transports and deliveries of food, etc.

Grogrunden is responsible for emptying most of Human Bridge’s textile collection boxes in the Gothenburg area, which is where they are based. These textiles are later collected at the depot in Åbro.

– Collecting textiles is fully in line with the company, it is very much protecting the environment, says Helen Nordenhult, Director.

It takes a lot of round trips per week to collect the textiles. The collection boxes are often full, depending on the time of year.

– This year, the collection boxes were filled up to capacity in early February, says Timmie Lövgren, who is one of those who empties Human Bridge’s boxes. Usually, the distribution of textiles decreases slightly at this time.



This year’s Christmas present 2018 – the recycled garment probably contributed, gave people something to think about.

The collaboration between Human Bridge and Grogrunden has been going on since 2017 and we look forward to developing our collaboration.



Collection boxes can be found out in the street and at recycling centres, but also near properties on farms and in garbage rooms.

REUSING WITH FINESSE

Lindra at Wieselgrensplatsen in Gothenburg is the latest addition of Lindra Second Hand. Here, the staff is passionate about reusing and it shows in the store.

The store opened its doors on 11 November 2018. It was a successful opening – a long line of expectant customers ready to bargain-hunt snaked its way outside. The store was spiced up and full of gadgets and clothes!

Long before the summer, work started on selecting the range for the opening. After that, it was up with everything in a week in the newly renovated premises, beautifully situated in a square environment.

– People did a lot of shopping and we received a lot of praise from the customers, says Catharina Samuelsson, Regional Manager at Lindra. Yes, we still get that often. The customers think it is a nice store with a good selection and the right prices. Pricing is important, it must not be too cheap and not too expensive. You must always feel that you have made a good buy, a bargain when you have bought something here.

The shop is more a “city store,” always well-stocked with selected clothing, accessories and small furniture, all nicely styled with different themes. If you are looking for larger furniture, such as beds, sofas or dining tables, you will mainly find it at Lindra in Gårdsten, which opens in spring 2019.

The most popular in the store is the vintage corner. Everything is retro from the 50s, 60s and 70s, both clothing and gadgets. Catharina is involved in selecting what to sell in the store.

– Yes, that is almost the best part of the job – going through received items and sorting out what I believe fits into the store. My main interest in private is to check out garage sales, so that is fitting. Every year, I also take a couple of turns around selected auctions, says Catharina. But I just cannot fit a single thing more into my home, both the basement and attic are full.

Catharina has previously worked in the municipality as a treatment assistant, but also with the homeless.

– I am good at understanding and working with different types of people, I have gained great experience of this in my previous professional life, says Catharina.

– It is a very important skill to have as a manager in a Lindra store, as we want to provide the best conditions to anyone who comes here and does an internship or work training, says Catharina.



Lindra is a support association for Human Bridge. All proceeds will go to co-financing Human Bridge's aid efforts.

www.lindra.se

A SPRINGBOARD BACK TO WORKING LIFE

Coffee, warmth and kindness – here people care about each other and I feel so welcome every day, says Maria. Three days after Lindra Second Hand opened at Wieselgrensplatsen, Maria started her work training in the store.

After a difficult time in life, Maria needed help getting started and venturing into working life again. It was through the contact with the employment agency that she got the opportunity to come to Lindra.

Now, after just a few months, Maria can carry out all the steps in the store and she immediately sees when things need to be done. She is very orderly and careful.

– In the beginning I just worked behind the scenes, sorting clothes and pricing products. But now I enjoy going out into the store and meeting the customers. I am strong enough for that now, says Maria.

Maria recommends Lindra Second Hand to anyone who needs a fresh start in their working life.

– Getting work training here has really helped me back and I am starting to feel that self-esteem again. We will see, but soon I might be able to apply for a “real job,” it really feels that way, says Maria.



All Lindra Second Hand stores offer internships and work training opportunities. For example, if you need to make a safe comeback to working life – at your own pace. Upon completion of the internship or work training, you will get references and a certificate of your time at Lindra that can be used when looking for new challenges.



THE HOSPITAL IN KRISTIANSTAD MAKES AN IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTION TO GOOD AID

Everything is carefully packed – on pallets, in most cases, in the original packaging. This greatly facilitates the continued efforts to collect and forward to the main depot in Holsbybrunn. Human Bridge has a long-standing and exemplary collaboration with Health Technology at the Central Hospital Kristianstad.

The Central Hospital Kristianstad is one of many important partners for Human Bridge. The collaboration goes way back and started with an agreement when the hospital was going to dismantle and replace the entire fleet of surgical lamps. These lights have, for a while now, been used in a hospital in Ethiopia. Nowadays, Human Bridge gets everything from advanced medical equipment to basic supplies, such as beds and bunks.

Decommissioned medical equipment from health-care services is primarily redeployed within the hospital or Region Skåne, or used for spare parts removal. The medical equipment that will not be used any more within Region Skåne goes to Human Bridge – to do good a second time around elsewhere in the world.

– That our equipment is taken care of and passed on to countries that really need it provides great added value, of course, says Stefan Nilsson, who is Human Bridge's contact at the hospital.

Stefan assesses which of the phased-out, but operational equipment will go to Human Bridge. About twice a year, he gives us a call, letting us know that there are materials for pick up that fill a truck.

– There are exceptions to medical equipment that Human Bridge mostly does not receive, despite the fact that it is well-functioning, such as lab equipment or analytical instruments, where the consumables can be very expensive, difficult to obtain or because the equipment is simply too advanced and complicated to use, says Stefan.

Materials that usually roll out of the hospital and into Human Bridge are: operating tables, examination couches, gynaecologist chairs, ECG, electrical suction (for liquids), infusion pumps and ultrasonic devices.

INCONTINENCE PADS PROVIDE GREATER DIGNITY

Attends – a company with the heart in the right place. Last year, Human Bridge received over 132 tons of incontinence pads from Attends.

Incontinence pads lend added value to Human Bridge's aid shipments and fill the spaces where nothing else fits – between beds, wheelchairs and other medical equipment.

Gaining access to incontinence pads provides security and freedom to the needy. In many countries they are very expensive and, for the less well-off, almost impossible to buy. For example, a package may cost one third of a monthly income for a poor pensioner in Moldova.

Most often, the incontinence pads that are donated to Human Bridge are just cosmetically blemished, which has contributed to the fact that they have not met Attend's high-quality control standards.



Here, Björn at Human Bridge fills every centimetre of an aid shipment with Attend's incontinence pads.



NEW BOARD MEMBERS

LARS ARRHENIUS

Hi Lars, who are you?

I live in Nacka in Stockholm. I am married and have three children. I am a trained lawyer with a particular focus on human rights and children's rights.

Where do you work and what is your role?

Since September last year, I have worked as General Secretary at Läkarmissionen.

How did you end up on the board of Human Bridge?

When I took office as General Secretary of Läkarmissionen, which is one of the founders of Human Bridge, I was asked by the nomination committee if I was interested in joining Human Bridge's board.

What do you hope to add that was missing before?

I hope to contribute with my board work experience. I have been active in a large number of boards. I also hope to contribute with my knowledge of the subject of human rights and, in particular, the rights of the child.

What do you look forward to most about being a part of Human Bridge?

I look forward to further developing Human Bridge's activities. Human Bridge is quite timely. Bearing in mind that we are depleting Earth's resources, Human Bridge's activities are extremely relevant. Reusing and recycling materials for aid is an effective way of utilising our resources.

What are your hopes for Human Bridge as an activity?

I believe that Human Bridge's activities can be further developed and that this can be done through various collaborations with other organisations.

Finally – is there anything else worth knowing about you?

A great interest in boats. I have a wooden boat built in 1930 at Möja. I spend much of my free time maintaining this boat. Chugging out with it to sea is very relaxing.

ANNE WOLF

Hi Anne, who are you?

Anne Wolf, Smålander, who has been living in Stockholm for 30 years, has worked in the financial industry for 25 years, but for 7 years has worked in her own businesses in leadership, organisational and business development.

Where do you work and what is your role?

I work with leadership development and recruitment, which means that I get to be involved in finding good managers for important positions, as well as in the development of these leaders and their management bodies.

How did you end up on the board of Human Bridge?

I think maybe they saw that I have more perspectives to contribute, with my many years in the industry combined with my work on recruiting leaders to associations, which I hope will benefit Human Bridge!

What do you hope to add that was missing before?

I hope to be able to contribute with other perspectives, based on my roles in the industry.

What do you look forward to most about being a part of Human Bridge?

It is great to be involved in influencing this remarkable activity that does so much good!

What are your hopes for Human Bridge as an activity?

That Human Bridge will be even more recognised for the tremendous work it is doing!

Finally – is there anything else worth knowing about you?

I love being out in the archipelago outside Stockholm, just being, watching the boats pass by!

BOOK TIP: THE STRANGER BY ALBERT CAMUS. A CLASSIC THAT IS AS RELEVANT TODAY AS WHEN IT WAS WRITTEN 75 YEARS AGO.

FILM TIP: THE REMAINS OF THE DAY, IT TEACHES US HOW IMPORTANT IT IS TO LISTEN TO OUR HEART AND STOP MAKING DETOURS...



Lars Arrhenius



Anne Wolf



Thomas Bergdahl

THOMAS BERGDAHL

Hi Thomas, who are you?

Hi, I am from Vetlanda, and this is where I live with my wife and my three children, Axel 18 years, John 15 years and Klara 11 years. In my spare time you could say that my interests are my children's activities. In the summer, we play soccer and, in the winter, we go skiing. It is alpine downhill skiing and we love to go to Åre.

Where do you work and what is your role?

I am CEO of Herenco Industry Group. I am an economist by training and have many years of international experience, including as European Director for Sherwin-Williams/Becker Acroma.

How did you end up on the board of Human Bridge?

I was approached by Lars Råsberg who is head of administration and who sits on Human Bridge's nomination committee. For some time, I had been looking for an opportunity to engage in international relief work and then the opportunity came.

What will be your contribution as a board member?

In addition to the commitment to helping vulnerable people, I hope that my industry, trade and business background will be put to good use when needed.

What do you look forward to most about being a part of Human Bridge?

To seeing the results of implemented relief missions.

What are your hopes for Human Bridge as an activity?

To build on the excellent work that has been done over the years.

Finally, you want to tell us something more about yourself?

I love challenges. I cycled Vätternrundan 8-10 years ago and will be cycling it this year again. Me and some friends are challenging each other. Let us see how it goes, if I can beat my old time.

BOOK TIP: HAFTIME - CHANGING YOUR GAME PLAN BY BOB BUFORD.



THE WORK OF HUMAN BRIDGE IN LINE WITH THE GLOBAL GOALS

With core areas such as aid, environment and social activities, and a presence in both Sweden and other countries, Human Bridge is working towards ensuring that the Global goals are reasonably achievable.

In 2015, UN member states adopted the Agenda 2030 to jointly promote sustainable development. It includes the Global goals. Sustainable development incorporates both the social, economic and environmental dimension. "With the Global goals, the world's leaders have committed themselves to achieving three amazing things by the year 2030: eliminating extreme poverty, reducing global inequalities and injustice and solving the climate crisis" (globalamalen.se). Companies and organisations throughout the world are now working to achieve these goals, the goals that Human Bridge essentially works towards are set out here.



ERADICATING POVERTY IN ALL ITS FORMS EVERYWHERE.

Through material aid activities, such as deliveries of clothing and supplies, some of the basic needs of vulnerable people are met. This does not eradicate poverty, but allows people living in difficult economic circumstances to gain access to certain necessities. In Eastern Europe, Human Bridge supplies second-hand stores with materials that create opportunities for the disadvantaged in two ways: people of modest means are

able to buy stuff at lower costs, while non-profit organisations use the proceeds for activities targeted at the disadvantaged and vulnerable.



ENSURING HEALTHY LIVES AND PROMOTING WELL-BEING FOR ALL AT ALL AGES.

Human Bridge collects phased-out but functional medical equipment, such as incubators and surgical instruments, which are reconditioned, tested, and supplemented by manuals. By delivering this material to some 20 countries, hospitals are equipped and access to close and safe care increases. Clothing, shoes, toys and assistive devices are sent to refugee camps to help people and facilitate their everyday lives. This means a somewhat more tolerable life in a difficult situation.



BUILDING RESILIENT INFRASTRUCTURE, PROMOTING INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE INDUSTRIALISATION AND FOSTERING INNOVATION.

Human Bridge is building infrastructure by equipping hospitals and clinics. Functional health care is often

essential to keeping qualified staff from leaving their country. By training medical technicians, chances are that both the equipment provided by Human Bridge, but also other hospital equipment, will last longer.

Human Bridge participates in development projects aimed at reducing the negative impacts of textiles on the environment. For example, Human Bridge participates in the Vinnova project "SIPtex," the purpose of which is to develop automated sorting of textiles in preparation for recycling. Human Bridge also cooperates with municipalities in various attempts to increase the collection of household textiles.



REDUCING INEQUALITY WITHIN AND AMONG COUNTRIES.

Human Bridge's social activities in Sweden provide long-term unemployed, new arrivals and other groups the opportunity to get a foothold in the labour market. It is also an opportunity for togetherness and financial security, and reduces social exclusion and inequality.

Aid is awarded to female students at universities in Ethiopia. This prevents them from earning a living in other risky ways and allows them to access education on the same terms as male students. Female students were also encouraged to apply to Human Bridge Biomedical College in Ethiopia. The fact that women train to be medical technicians contributes to more equality on the labour market, dominated by men.

By redeploing resources through delivery of materials and equipment from Sweden, more countries are given access to necessary features and materials, allowing standards to be raised.



ENSURING SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION PATTERNS.

Reusing manufactured products and extending their lifespan saves the earth's resources.

Human Bridge collects used material, most of which are textiles – and contributes to the fact that this material primarily is reused for its original purpose. Thanks to the work, the importance of reusing instead of going for new production, and the awareness of environmental impacts, is emphasised.



STRENGTHENING THE MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION AND REVITALISING THE GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT.

In Sweden, Human Bridge contributes to knowledge of the potential and benefits of reusing and creates conditions to act from a sustainability perspective by redeploing resources. Through clear agreements with recipient partners who, to a certain extent, contribute to the cost recovery of aid deliveries, conditions for dialogue on equal terms are created. This ensures that the right equipment/material ends up in the right place, and reduces the risk of unnecessary shipping, etc.

Human Bridge interacts with county councils, hospitals, municipalities and companies in Sweden. Through thousands of collection vessels, the importance of taking care of materials for reuse is communicated to the public, while the drop off of materials is facilitated. In other countries, Human Bridge interacts with authorities, health ministries, institutions and local organisations in implementing aid and development projects.



COLLABORATION FOR PEOPLE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Collaboration with companies, municipalities, county councils and organisations is a prerequisite for the activities of Human Bridge. Collaboration may take many different forms and may involve aid in the form of either financial or material donations. Or both.

SJUKHUS OCH LANDSTINGHOSPITALS AND COUNTY COUNCILS

Human Bridge has agreements with several hospitals and county councils in Sweden, requiring all phased-out equipment to go to our activities. Even in cases where there is no agreement, deliveries of phased-out equipment can be made.

Examples of collaborations with hospitals and county councils:

Västra Götalandsregionen
Karolinska Universitetssjukhuset
Landstinget Uppsala Län
Region Norrbotten
Hallands Läns Landsting
Flertal av Skånes sjukhus och kommuner

COMPANIES

There are a number of collaborations with, for example, clothing chains as well as companies selling supplies to the healthcare sector in Sweden where, for example, complaint items and remaining stocks are delivered to Human Bridge. Based on agreements on how the donations may be used, we make sure that clothing is reused or recycled and that the material enables aid shipments of medical equipment as well as clothing and footwear.

Examples of collaborations with companies:

Stadium
Gekås
Nelly
Peak Performance
Attends
VWR
Scorett
Kontorsspecial

MUNICIPALITIES, WASTE AND HOUSING COMPANIES

Human Bridge's textile collection (collection of clothing, footwear and accessories) takes place mainly through more than 2,400 collection containers (boxes and containers) in Sweden in collaboration with municipal waste companies and private housing companies. There are also collaborations with municipalities on the sorting of textiles.

Examples of collaborations with municipalities and waste companies:

VafabMiljö Kommunalförbund
SÖRAB (Söderhalls Renhållningsverk Aktiebolag)
SRV (Södertörn Renhållningsverk)
NSR (Norra Skåne Regionen)
Högsby kommun
Kretslopp och Vatten Göteborg
KSRR (Kalmarsundsregionens renhållningsverk)
LRV (Lunds renhållningsverk)
Gästrike återvinnare
ÖGRAB (Östra Göinge Renhållnings AB)
Hässleholm Miljö
VIVAB (Vatten och Miljö i Väst AB)
Jönköpings Kommun

Exampels of collaborations with housing companies:

Vätterhem, Jönköping
Bostads AB Poseidon, Göteborg
Bostadsbolaget, Göteborg
Bostads AB Mimer, Västerås
Svenska Bostäder, Stockholm
Lunds kommunala fastigheter

ORGANISATIONS

Projects and shipments can be carried out with organisations in Sweden.

Examples of collaborations with organisations:

Läkarmissionen
Erikshjälpen

TACK FÖR ATT NI, TILLSAMMANS MED ALLA ANDRA AV VÅRA PARTNERS, ÄR MED OCH BIDRAR TILL VÅRT ARBETE!





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