

A woman with braided hair, wearing a light pink t-shirt and a blue patterned wrap, carries a young child on her back. The child is wearing a blue patterned wrap and a blue headband. They are standing in front of a rustic structure made of wooden poles and woven materials. The background is slightly blurred, showing more of the structure and some greenery.

TOOLS
FOR LIFE

„HELP TO CONNECT“ –
WATER, ENERGY, EDUCATION

ABOUT US

Clean drinking water and reliable sources of energy still cannot be taken for granted in many parts of the world. Water pipes and power lines are a lot like arteries in the human body. Access to water and energy is fundamental to a life of dignity.

Education is key to development as well. It remains inaccessible to so many and yet education is the only way to create prosperity that will last for generations.

It is with this realization that Dr. Helmut Rothenberger launched TOOLS FOR LIFE in 2008, a foundation dedicated to striving for the common good. We have spent years building partnerships that not only allow us to engage in projects but also to accompany them after completion. The projects we promote are all geared towards improving living conditions in a way that is both sustainable and enduring. The foundation's motto is "helping people to help themselves" and it guides us in everything we do.



Dr. Helmut Rothenberger
Founder



Dr. Sandra Rothenberger
President



Water tower in Diourbel | Senegal

© Sylvain

WATER



Water is the basis of all life on earth. In July 2010, the United Nations General Assembly explicitly recognized access to clean water and sanitation as a human right.

Millions of people still lack a source of clean water nonetheless. The inhabitants of Sub-Saharan Africa are especially susceptible to extreme weather events. Water shortage due to prolonged drought as well as contamination caused by flooding threaten not only people's health but their very lives. Around the globe, problems related to water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) represent some of the most fundamental challenges that international development cooperation actors face in the fight against hunger and poverty. People need clean water for drinking, cooking, and hygiene. Infants, toddlers, and the sick are especially reliant on clean water because of their weaker immune system.

TOOLS FOR LIFE supports projects that supply people with clean water and fulfill their basic sanitation needs.



Installation of a solar panel in Telire | Costa Rica

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ENERGY



There are almost a billion people in the world who do not have access to electricity. More than half of them live in Sub-Saharan Africa. When people run out of firewood, they are often left without light from the early evening onward.

Providing people in that situation with sustainable “green” energy is one of the TOOLS FOR LIFE Foundation’s core missions. Solar energy is particularly well suited to provide “clean” electricity to people in sun-rich countries. Solar batteries keep lights powered particularly after the early sunsets. They give children more time to do their school work and to study. Parents have more time for housework and entrepreneurship.

People who use the “Burning Hearts” solar lamp, which TOOLS FOR LIFE developed, are able to carry their light with them wherever they go.



Training of young women in Himachal Pradesh | Indien © Jagori Grameen

EDUCATION



Education is not only a human right, it is also the key to progress and to prosperity. Nevertheless, millions of children and adolescents are denied this opportunity. To change this, TOOLS FOR LIFE aids in building new school houses and sponsors practical training courses. For TOOLS FOR LIFE it is extremely important to empower people through primary and continuing education to open up new paths through education and training. The resulting new opportunities can improve the standard of living considerably. That is what “helping people to help themselves” is all about.

TOOLS FOR LIFE supports schooling that imparts people with new skills, gives them an awareness of women’s and children’s rights, and teaches how to improve hygiene to fight diseases. To promote the sustainability of our projects people receive instruction in the maintenance and repair of the machines and equipment provided. Machinery and buildings are then administered directly through committees which have been set up for that purpose.

Being designated as a charitable foundation comes with a considerable responsibility towards the public and especially towards our donors. This is why the foundation undergoes an audit by the accounting firm of Sanftenberg & Kaul on a yearly basis.

Additionally, the TOOLS FOR LIFE Foundation signed on to the Initiative Transparent Civil Society in December 2019. We are firmly committed to providing our donors and supporters maximum transparency.

GET INVOLVED!

TOOLS FOR LIFE Foundation

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