



2019: A Year in Review

**Engineers Without Borders Washington DC Professional Chapter
(EWB-DC)**

50+

Active volunteers

45

Days in-country over 5
trips

25

Volunteers traveled

12

Trainings & workshops

7

Fundraising events

6

NGO partner trips

5

Episodes launched on
our new podcast

INTRODUCTION

Over the course of 2019, we achieved tremendous progress, including advancing implementation in Panama and continued assessment in Peru. In Panama, our Chapter successfully completed the preliminary construction of the community center, leaving the community with a functioning meeting space. In Peru, we used a drone for the first time to improve efficiency of data collection for a water project assessment trip. As a Chapter, we are proud of have launched a new podcast—[Laying the Foundation](#)—and increased our fundraising activities, including hosting our most successful Annual Gala to date. We would, however, be remiss not to acknowledge that our projects in Burkina Faso and Cameroon had more challenging years due to political instability and travel restrictions.

TRAININGS & WORKSHOPS

Over the course of the year, EWB-DC hosted 12 trainings for our members to learn, but also for our members to share skills and knowledge with the community:

- 5 concrete workshops to prepare for construction for the Panama project
- 2 trainings for using drones on EWB project sites
- 2 pre-trip health and safety trainings and 2 cultural awareness trainings

ENGAGEMENT & FUNDRAISING

Engaging with our local community in DC and our partner communities around the world is important to the sustainability of the Chapter. This year included:

- 6 trips to project communities by in-country non-governmental organization (NGO) partners
- 2 co-hosted events with other mission-aligned organizations in DC
- Presentations at 2 conferences—University of Maryland SASE and the 2019 EWB-USA Conference

Our projects are entirely volunteer led and executed. Fundraising is essential to our work. This year included more diverse fundraisers than ever before. In addition to our Annual Gala, events included Panama Night featuring a diplomat from the Panamanian Embassy and food from a local Panamanian restaurant and a benefit show at Pie Shop DC to support the Peru project.



5th ANNUAL GALA

This year's 5th Annual Gala at the Josephine Butler Parks Center was the most successful to date, with 150+ attendees raising more than \$18,000. The event was sponsored by Michael Baker International, MITRE, RK&K, and Walter P Moore. Join us on March 14, 2020 for the [6th Annual Gala](#).



2019: Project Progress

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SHIRINGAMAZU, PERU

initiated 2018 | post-assessment design

The project team successfully completed the [second assessment trip](#) to Shiringamazu. Three travelers spent 2 weeks in the community gathering data (topographical data collected by aerial drone survey and well yield testing), understanding the community's water demand through household surveys, and coordinating with community leaders. The community leaders agreed to sustainability commitments, including the EWB cost-sharing structure, and a decision was made to move forward with the project. The team spent the last months of the year beginning the design alternatives analysis.



HATO RINCÓN, PANAMA

initiated 2013 | implementation phase

In collaboration with the EWB Montgomery College Student Chapter, 22 volunteers spent 4 weeks in the community this summer. [Implementation progress](#) began with the construction of concrete masonry unit (CMU) walls; installing glass blocks as windows; pouring concrete columns, windows headers, and lintels; and culminated with the installation of the roof. The building will ultimately serve as a library and community and technology center, but this progress allows the building to begin to be used as a meeting space.



MBOKOP, CAMEROON

initiated 2012 | travel suspended

Over the last few years, Cameroon has faced political unrest. While the instability in the country continues, the decision was made to suspend travel to our partner community for EWB-DC and our partner NGO (HEDECS), until individuals and materials can travel safely and effectively to the community.



DIERMA, BURKINA FASO

initiated 2018 | closed

This year, the difficult decision was made to close this project due to increasing political instability. Our in-country NGO partner, Pull for Progress, communicated the message to the community. The project team has been prioritizing new project opportunities and will apply to adopt a new project.



LOOKING AHEAD TO 2020

As the Chapter prepares for 2020, we're looking forward to continuing to increase our local engagement, adopting a new project, completing construction on the community center in Panama, and finishing assessment activities in Peru. We encourage you to join us in March 14, 2020 for our [Annual Gala](#), our premiere event to meet our teams and learn about and support our work around the world.