

Start Somewhere end-of-year review 2024

Dear Start Somewhere community,

The year 2024 was a year full of challenges, but also accompanied by important progress and close collaboration. Together with our team in Kenya, we were able to achieve significant progress and evolve further and without your tireless support, many obstacles would have been difficult to overcome. We have implemented significant projects and set crucial milestones to bring us closer to our vision: *driving change from inside* by creating jobs and sustainable housing. A heartfelt thank you also to everyone who has supported Start Somewhere with their time, commitment, and valuable expertise!



We have taken on a major task and are continuously working to implement projects with nonprofit organizations and partners. **Private donations remain crucial** for us to sustain our mission as **a non-profit-oriented social business**.

Every donation counts and makes an impact!

Account: Start Somewhere gGmbH | IBAN: DE53 5003 1000 1056 6310 00 | BIC: TRODDDEF1XXX

Or using PayPal: [Link](#)

You can also support us by using your network. Maybe you know **companies** looking for a sustainable and **impactful** and **effective CSR** (Corporate Social Responsibility) **project**? Or perhaps you could suggest Start Somewhere as a **project for a fundraising event** at for e.g. a school?

On the following pages, you can find out more about our activities in each month of the past year, 2024. We also love keeping you updated through social media and our website.

Thank you for being part of our journey!

Oliver, Silvia and Kristina

January

Planning of the Bethany Joy School 2 with an orphanage for former street children.

After opening the first part of the Bethany Joy School in 2023, we worked on to securing funding for the second part, including the orphanage. Thanks to your generous donations, Start Somewhere is fortunately able to finance the orphanage for 15 former street boys. The second school building is being funded by the American foundation that operates the school. Some of the children are still being taught in the old huts we visited during our trip to Nairobi (see image on the left). We are very excited about this construction project!



February

Construction and Opening of the Bethel Kibera School

Our fastest built project to date is now ready for its students. The Bethel School in Kibera was fully completed in just three months using 5 585 TwistBlocks® from our local manufacturing facilities. The school was sponsored by the 7 Hills Foundation and provides space for 400 children in ten classrooms to learn, read, and share experiences. We are especially thrilled about the rapid completion and would like to extend our heartfelt thanks once again to the entire team for their outstanding and efficient work. We are incredibly proud of this result, which sets the standard for our future projects.



Classrooms for schools of the Nonprofit Organization Nyendo.

For the Sweet Angel Self Help School, TwistBlocks® were used to construct a small building, which now serves as a school office and storage space. Three classrooms at the Happy Hour Self Help School were in very poor condition due to a fire. Now, the classrooms have a solid roof, windows, and doors, as well as a concrete floor. We are delighted that our TwistBlocks® can help create a safe learning environment.



Opening ceremony Global One School

The Global One Primary School in Kibera is a three-story school building covering 300 square meters and providing space for 225 students. The school was constructed using 7,000 TwistBlocks® and sponsored by PERI.



A particularly impressive feature is the rooftop terrace, offering a wide view over Kibera, where the new school is officially inaugurated in February 2024. We extend our heartfelt thank you to everyone involved for their dedicated support.

The TwistBlocks® at the Sankalp Africa Summit

Oliver traveled to Nairobi with our colleague Sigurd Rothe to attend the [Sankalp Africa Summit](#), Africa's largest forum for entrepreneurs and investors. Habitat for Humanity presents Start Somewhere as one of the few startups focused on affordable housing. The agenda also includes a presentation at a symposium hosted by TU Kenya, visits to the two newly opened schools in Kibera, a workshop with the team, and numerous meetings with potential partners and clients.



March

Women in Real Estate Legend and Leaders

Female representatives from our Start Somewhere Kenya team participate in the *Women Engineering Students Summit 2.0* and the 'Women in Real Estate: Legends and Leaders' event in Nairobi. Our goal is to empower the women in our team while also strengthening our local network.



Update of our Start Somewhere Logo

We are introducing an updated version of our Start Somewhere logo, which incorporates the outline of the TwistBlock®.



Centre for Science and Technology Innovation

Oliver is invited to present Start Somewhere at a hackathon online event hosted by CSTI, the Centre for Science and Technology Innovation, a UNESCO-affiliated research center and registered scientific foundation in Kenya.

----- April -----



Transfer event of the Bethel Schule in Kibera

A significant milestone for us: We are officially handing over the Bethel School Kibera to the community. To celebrate this occasion, parents, board members, and the Start Somewhere team are gathering for a formal ceremony on the school grounds.

Benches for the Upper Hill Green Park Garden Project

In collaboration with the Upper Hill District Association, we are budding 14 benches made from TwistBlocks® in Upper Hill Green Park. Upper Hill Green Park is a model recreational area in Nairobi, designed as a sustainable and eco-friendly urban oasis. It provides the community with green spaces for relaxation while actively addressing the challenges of climate change



Flood disaster in East Africa and Kenya

Thousands of families lose their homes due to severe flooding, including two of our team members. Our TwistBlock® manufacturing facility is damaged, but thanks to generous donations, we are able to repair everything, bridge the production downtime, and secure all jobs. Our buildings and schools have withstood the disaster - a testament to the importance of stable constructions in times of crisis.

----- May -----



KICC Green Jobs Forum

We present our TwistBlock® technology at the KICC Green Jobs Forum (Kenya International Convention Center). Our approach combines job creation, material reuse, and CO₂ reduction - an important step toward sustainable construction.

A special thank you to Habitat for Humanity and ANDE for the

opportunity to share our vision. To better demonstrate the advantages of the TwistBlock® technology to customers, our team is constructing a 1m² wall using TwistBlocks® in front of the manufacturing facility, alongside a comparison wall made of conventional bricks.



June



Inauguration of the Bethel Kibera School

A milestone was the ceremonial inauguration of the new Bethel Kibera School, a two-story building made of 5 000 TwistBlocks®. After just three months of construction, the project was completed in February. On June 23, donors visited the school for the first time since its completion and took part in the ceremony. Ten new classrooms and improved infrastructure now provide students with an ideal learning environment.



Construction of a Prototype for Slum Upgrading:

In June, our team began building a prototype for affordable housing in collaboration with Global Property Advice for the Livelihood Impact Fund (LIF). The TwistBlock® walls were assembled in just five days. The project also includes testing the dismantlability of the technology, aiming for almost 100% reusability.

Consulting voucher from the *Business Network Africa* for Start Somewhere

Start Somewhere receives an *Africa Consulting Voucher* from the German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action (BMWK) to support our activities in Kenya.

This funding enables us to access external consulting services to promote economic projects in Africa. We are grateful for this valuable support!

July



We are preparing a **grant application for the construction of the KISUG School** in Kibera. As part of this process, we are designing the building, presenting it to the school administration, and gathering their feedback. We are very hopeful that we will be able to realize this great project in 2025.



CFK Africa Community Awards

On July 13, we participate in the CFK Africa Community Awards at Olympic High School in Kibera, where the inspiring Kibera Women's Football Club will be honored.

Our sales representative, Caro, attends the event, meets the founder of CFK Africa, and presents our innovative TwistBlock® technology— a promising contribution to community development.



Good Vibrations Event

In the middle of July, we are participating in *FairStärkung*, an event which gathers people in and around Munich who are committed to better opportunities and collaboration in society. Our founder, Oliver, gives a presentation and provide insights into our projects.

----- August -----

In August, the second episode of a four-part YouTube series by **Property Noma** will be released, showcasing our TwistBlock® system and our latest projects. This helped to make our innovative construction method accessible to a wider audience and to spark interest in sustainable building:

[LINK](#)

----- September -----

Construction start Children Garden Centre – Five classrooms across 180m²; the client purchased the TwistBlocks and is independently implementing the project.



Agricultural Society Kenya Expo in Nairobi

In the Affordable Housing Arena, we showcase our innovative TwistBlocks®. A special highlight is the prototype, constructed in just four hours, demonstrating the impressive speed of the system. The expo provides a valuable opportunity to present the benefits of TwistBlocks® for construction projects to a wide professional audience.



Visit Oliver in Nairobi

Oliver spends two weeks in Nairobi, meeting partners and exchanging ideas with the Start Somewhere team.

One highlight of the visit is guiding architecture students from the University of Innsbruck through Kibera. They tour the TwistBlock® projects and donate 700 TwistBlocks® for a new building on the Oseki Farm, where they also lend a hand in the construction.

----- October -----

Bayerischer Rundfunk reports on Start Somewhere:

We are thrilled that the BR is featuring our innovative construction system, our mission, and our collaboration with PERI. Additionally, a short video and audio segment provide an exciting glimpse into our projects. Check it out: [LINK](#)

November



Attendance of Start Somewhere at the *Building Expo*

Start Somewhere participates in the *Building Expo* from October 23rd to 25th, 2024. The event provides students with insights into innovative solutions and opens up career opportunities.



Completion of the 2nd Prototype in Kibera

The second TwistBlock® prototype in Kibera is completed.

In collaboration with a construction partner, an innovative building with eight units was developed for the Livelihood Impact Fund (LIF), demonstrating the potential of TwistBlock® technology for affordable housing. The building has been further optimized for disassembly and affordability.

Our Publication in Springer Nature!

We are thrilled to present our scientific publication with Springer Nature. The article entails how the TwistBlock®-approach is creating affordable housing in Nairobi while simultaneously strengthening the local economy - viewed through the lens of the Sustainable Development Goals SDG 8 and SDG 11. The publication is part of the *Global Goals for Sustainable Development (GZNE)* series: [LINK](#)



Welcome to the Team, Manoa Murunga!

We welcome Manoa Murunga to the TwistBlock® production team! After several months of dedicated work, Manoa is now officially a full-time member of Start Somewhere Kenya. Coming from the challenging environment of Kibera, Manoa brings valuable experience and perspectives to the team. Chriss, the workshop leader, was very pleased with this decision and shared: 'This is truly the essence of *Bringing Change from Inside*. It is just as much a personal success as it is a success for the entire team. Together, we are stronger.'

December

Groundbreaking ceremony for the PATRIZIA KinderHaus Syangeni

At the end of December, construction begins on the expansion of the PATRIZIA KinderHaus Syangeni in Kenya. Funded by PERI, the project is primarily implemented by Welthungerhilfe. Start Somewhere is responsible for on-site technical support and the production of TwistBlocks®.



End-of-year team event. Our team is taking a trip to Ngong Forest - a perfect opportunity for team building and to celebrate our shared successes of 2024. We are proud and grateful to be part of this amazing team and to have provided stable employment and a sustainable perspective to people from Kibera for up to five years.

Thank you for being part of our journey! We look forward to everything we will achieve together in 2025!

Oliver, Silvia, and Kristina, together with the entire Start Somewhere Team