



FAQs

Here are our responses to some of the questions we are often asked. We hope you find them useful, but if your particular query is not addressed here, you are more than welcome to contact us.

Where does my money go if I give to Bright Tomorrows?

Bright Tomorrows is a small organisation, which allows us a large amount of flexibility and frees us from expensive overheads and running costs. Our admin costs are either met by the trustees themselves or through donations given specifically for that purpose. Eg: Our newly produced t-shirts were sponsored by a company called Just Engines. When visiting projects all trustees and volunteers fund the trips themselves. Bright Tomorrows is totally committed to the children we support and so we believe that every penny given to them should go directly to improving their lives.

How do you choose the projects you support?

Bright Tomorrows has a responsibility to account for how we spend your money and we take that responsibility seriously. The charity focuses its efforts on projects that do not already have large or recurrent funding streams as we believe that here we can utilise our resources for maximum impact. We therefore support small scale, community based projects that have at their core the values of Bright Tomorrows (see below). As the body of trustees has a strong network of international connections, we have the ability to focus on projects that we know and led by individuals we trust. Our aim is to increase the long term effectiveness and sustainability of our partners' capacity to transform the lives of vulnerable children. To this end, we make a point of visiting all the projects ourselves and we ask our partners to give us regular and honest updates on the progress of the children, so that if necessary, we are able to intervene quickly. Our long term goal is always to see children's lives changed for the better, which will in turn impact on families and communities.

What about the countries you work in?

To date we have supported projects in Mozambique, India, Venezuela, Zimbabwe and most recently Haiti. As stated previously, our priority is to ensure accountability and strong communication, which usually influences how we select projects. However, we also have to consider whether we will be able to make a significant contribution to a community through our work and obviously the greatest needs are in the areas affected by extreme poverty or crisis. We do not believe that it is our role to judge the political landscape of a country, but instead we are concerned with how individual children's lives can be impacted. We focus on educational based projects, because we believe that this is a strong factor in personal and



social transformation. In the words of Nelson Mandela;

“Education is the great engine of personal development. It is through education that the daughter of a peasant can become a doctor, that the son of a mine worker can become the head of the mine, that the child of a farm worker can become the president of a great nation.”

Do you work in the UK?

We have finite resources which are all utilised as fully as possible with our current overseas projects. However, all our trustees are involved in improving the lives of children in the UK in their roles as teachers, health visitors, youth workers, and leaders of holiday clubs. We are aware that poverty affects the lives of children here as well as overseas and we are committed to keeping informed and networking with other charities to advocate for children wherever they live. We will also be involved in the BBC debate to start the European Year of Combating Poverty.

Who are you accountable to?

Bright Tomorrows is firstly accountable to the individuals, corporate organisations, community groups and trusts that fund our work. We are a UK registered charity and company and so we are additionally responsible for keeping our accounts in order and producing annual reports in line with charity law. We are also accountable to our partners; to provide them with the support and input that they require to do their very best for the children they serve.

How can I get involved?

We know that at times it can seem quite difficult to know how to really do something to make a difference to a child that lives far away. However, there are many ways you can get involved. Being informed and opening your eyes to the very real challenges that children face on a day to day basis, provides a desire to do more and equips you to take further action. Consider campaigning on behalf of children by writing to the government, join the Global Campaign for Education, or decide to tell your friends what you know. Or you could make a small change in your life that will in turn impact upon the life of a vulnerable child. Our supporters have managed to do this in a number of simple but imaginative ways. For example, one couple gave to Bright Tomorrows instead of buying Christmas gifts and a new mum who wanted to celebrate her baby's birth, held a baby shower and made a collection for Bright Tomorrows. Visit the “Getting Involved” page on our website for lots more ideas.



How can I donate to Bright Tomorrows?

The online facility at www.justgiving.com/brighttomorrows is both easy and completely secure. It is currently used by thousands of charities within the UK as a main source of fundraising. One of the benefits of using this site is that it automatically reclaims 25% tax on UK taxpayers giving, making your generosity go that bit further. When you give online you will automatically receive an acknowledgement and you can also send a message or specify a particular country/project you would like to give to. If you are looking to support Jeannie Sinclair, please mark your giving "for Jeannie in Zimbabwe". We take great care in making sure that all specific donations reach the requested recipient/location as we understand that many people are passionate about a particular country or project.

We also welcome donors who are able to commit to a regular gift. This is especially helpful in ensuring that we can allocate our funding to particular projects on an ongoing basis. A standing order form is available to download on the "Friends" page of our website, or we can post one to you. Alternatively, you can send a cheque payable to Bright Tomorrows to us at:

PO Box 3169
Marlow
SL7 2WY

Do you arrange overseas trips to projects?

At present we do not have general places available on overseas trips as we have found that the organisation involved in ensuring that the trip is successful for all concerned can sometimes detract from the main purpose. However, this may be reviewed as circumstances change. We know from our own experience that getting involved in the lives of children and seeing first hand how they face challenging circumstances, often with such dignity and cheerfulness, is both incredibly rewarding and extremely humbling.

We value....

In our work with vulnerable children we place high value on the following:

Integrity

We are committed to pursuing the highest standards in our work by communicating our purposes openly and conducting our operations with integrity.

Learning

We look to continuously improve our work through a process of reflection, evaluation and by learning from others.



Accountability

Staff and volunteers are accountable to Bright Tomorrows trustees, who in turn are accountable to governments, supporters and partners by employing all resources in the most efficient and honest manner.

Relationship

We are committed to working in partnership and co-operation and we value the work of other organisations

We are passionate about...

The Value of Children

We believe that every child is of immense worth and significance, regardless of his or her social, cultural or religious background. We believe that all children have the right to an education, a secure place to live, free from abuse or exploitation. We see children as individuals who are able to make positive contributions to their families and communities and we seek their participation in our work and that of our partners.

Justice

We are called to be advocates for children by speaking and acting on their behalf and influencing those in power to do accordingly.

Development as an inclusive process

We work towards personal development, in addition to positive communal and global transformation

Cultural Sensitivity

Cultural diversity is to be valued and as such we aim to work sensitively and with due respect for the knowledge and resources of every community, rather than imposing our own.

A holistic approach

The issues surrounding vulnerable children are often complex and inter-related. They require an approach that is flexible enough to meet immediate needs, but also works to ascertain root causes. We believe in enabling children to grow with dignity. Our goal is for them to become empowered; to take their place in their communities as those who have a voice and are able to make choices.