

# Our Principles

---

## We are truly local

Our team of local staff in Ghana design and run all of our life-changing programmes from start to finish. Qualified, experienced professionals, they have a deep, personal commitment to improving life for children in their communities, and being known and trusted by the communities they work in is what makes them so effective, especially with some of our most complex work changing traditional beliefs. Fundraising and donor due diligence is led from the UK, but all to support local people delivering the right solutions in their own communities.

## We are transparent and accountable

We are fiercely committed to 100% accountability for all of the money we receive and spend in the UK and Ghana. We maintain robust governance policies and procedures including regular internal and external audits to ensure this. We publish independently audited accounts annually and encourage donors to ask us anything, anytime.

## We Say No to Pity

We will not trivialise the injustice of poverty or compromise the dignity of anyone we work with through pity advertising or by using inappropriate images or language when discussing sensitive issues. We hope sharing the positive stories of how our work is making a difference will inspire people to help us do more.

## We listen

Our programmes are developed by listening to what local people tell us they really need. Our exceptional stakeholder consultation gives every level of society a say on what we do, and gives us a clear view on what the government and other actors are doing. This ensures our projects are always truly needed, wanted and bought into by everyone it takes to make them work.

## We empower

Our approach is always to help children, families and communities help themselves. Our projects bring people together, equip them with knowledge and show them how to make and demand the changes needed for all children to have a better life in northern Ghana.

## We sustain

If it's not sustainable, it's not development. For us, this means two things:

### Addressing the root causes of issues as well as the symptoms

As well as providing direct support to children at risk now, we are also improving the education, child protection and healthcare systems of northern Ghana, to stop suffering in the first place, and improve every child's start in life.

### Creating changes that are sustainable without ongoing aid

All of our projects create change by educating local people and empowering them to make changes themselves. This way the changes we help make with each new project become permanently embedded, and continue to benefit children long after our involvement ends. While there is a lot of work to be done and making permanent changes take time, our projects will evolve and move, rather than create dependence on us and aid funding for changes to be sustained.

This is how we are helping people secure better futures for children that ultimately don't rely on aid.

## We respect people and planet

We work together with communities to end harmful traditional practices and protect children, while respecting local culture, heritage and environment.

We are conscious to minimise the impact of our operations on the environment and employ a reduce, reuse and recycle approach.

## We always want to do better

An ethos of learning and improving is ingrained in everything we do, from supporting training for all of our staff to continuously developing our Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning tools to measure our impact and inform our strategy. We welcome feedback from all of our stakeholders.

# Our Fundraising Values

Our four fundraising values are the qualities and standards that guide our conduct (how we “behave”) in raising funds. Underpinning our Integrity value is our registration with the Fundraising Regulator and compliance with its Code of Fundraising Practice.

## Integrity

We aspire to deliver the best in class; to be impactful, to be honest, to be respectful and to be accountable for all we do. We always act in the best interests of the children and communities we serve and we never compromise their dignity.

Specifically:

- We will never do anything we are not proud of
- We treat others with compassion
- We set clear expectations and systematically account for them

## Community

We nurture a culture of openness and listening, providing inspirational donor experiences and building quality, long-lasting relationships.

Specifically:

- We build a community that is as equitable, diverse and inclusive as possible
- We are friendly, polite and positive to everyone
- We skilfully and respectfully challenge and resolve issues
- We work together united in passionate service to our mission
- We invite people in and make them feel welcome and valued for their unique contribution

## Agility

We are responsive to our environment and we adopt adaptive approaches that enable us to secure sustainable long-term funding.

Specifically:

- We commit to continuously analyse our internal and external environment to inform our decisions
- We follow lean processes to innovate new products, systems and ways of working
- We will regularly ask ourselves if we are operating in the most efficient and impactful way

## Ambition

We are bold in our approach and will always find creative solutions to broaden our reach. We will always challenge ourselves, so our supporters remain engaged to ensure our lasting impact on the lives of more children in Ghana.

Specifically:

- We will set and deliver ambitious goals
- We take measured risks
- We commit time to finding inspiration to enable creative solutions

