

ANNUAL REPORT 2021

OUR MISSION

Bright Futures Child Aid and Development Fund Australia is an Australian based Christian aid and development agency committed to providing a simple, direct and effective means for Australians to contribute to the sustainable alleviation of poverty. Bright Futures works in partnership with established community-based agencies in developing countries in providing vital education and development programs which address the causes of poverty and offer prospects of a better life.

GOVERNANCE AND LEGAL

Bright Futures Child Aid & Development Fund Australia Ltd ABN 76 803 488 074 is a company limited by guarantee and an ATO approved Deductible Gift Recipient – Item 1 (DGR1) under the Overseas Aid Gift Deduction Scheme. Bright Futures is registered and a reporting entity with the ACNC – www.acnc.gov.au

BOARD (2020/2021) MEMBERS

Sarah Spiker, Board Chair
Roger Bryson, Deputy Chair
Lee Haakmeester, Treasurer
Fred Chilton
Dr Don Van Cooten (to 26 Nov 2020)
Philip Good
Lynton Stacey
Carl Ginger
Sherree Hughes (from 28 Jan 2021)

PROJECT (2020/2021) SUPPORT TEAM

Roger Bryson, Chair	Brian Harris
Barbara Madden	Isabella Bracco
Lee Haakmeester	Judy Howie
Mudie Howarth	Kym Lear
Deb Mugford	Rachel Pynor
Lynton Stacey	Fabio Boniardi
Andy Farmer	Alexandra Segura
Thandeka Mandigora	Tiziana D'Angelo
Vikki Booth	

STAFF TEAM

Paul Madden AM, Executive Officer
Deb Mugford, Community Engagement Coordinator
Judy Howie, Communications

BANK DETAILS

Acc: Bright Futures Australia - Overseas Aid Fund
Westpac BSB: 035-002
Acc: 392116

AUDITOR

BDO Audit (SA) Pty Ltd, Adelaide

CODE OF CONDUCT WORLD RELIEF AUSTRALIA

Bright Futures is committed to transparency, good development practice and the protection of children and vulnerable people. As a signatory to the World Relief Australia (WRA) Code of Conduct we undertake WRA annual review of activities and practice.



World Relief Australia
Code of Conduct

THE YEAR IN REVIEW



"... I want to thank each of you for the part you play in helping make this world a fairer, kinder place through Bright Futures."

I am delighted to report that it has been another strong year for Bright Futures driven by the generosity of supporters during a particularly difficult time for our partners overseas and those they serve.

The devastating impact of Covid in India mid-year resulted not only in wonderful generosity on the part of donors but an extraordinary response by our partners at the Bangalore City Mission, as they provided food, access to vaccinations, oxygen supply and much more to assist those affected. We were pleased to be able to also support both the significant Covid response and ongoing work of our partners in Kenya, Uganda and Pakistan as they each faced unique challenges. The purchase of land for a new Womens' Empowerment Centre in Nairobi was a particularly significant step forward.

As a Board and team we were able to maintain regular connection through Zoom and this proved vital as we considered each new challenge and how we might respond. Don Van Cooten, a longstanding Board member who has made an extraordinary contribution to the life and work of Bright Futures, retired from the Board during the year to further pursue his passion for agricultural development that breaks the hunger cycle. While sorry to see Don leave we were delighted to welcome Sherree Hughes to the Board. Sherree brings to the Board valuable experience in in development, particularly the empowerment of women through social enterprise.

A review of our corporate governance led us to adopt the World Relief Australia (WRA) Code of Conduct as the most appropriate compliance framework for our needs. Income for the 2020/2021 financial year was strong at \$366,423 and funding to our international development partners of more than \$290,000.

On the succession planning front, our search for a part-time CEO continues and we are very hopeful that we will be able to bring that search to conclusion in 2022. The Project Support Team continues to operate well and we were thrilled to be able to share some great nights hearing from our partner groups overseas on Zoom link ups.

While the challenges of Covid, and the poverty that afflicts many of those we serve, are constant we are strengthened, encouraged and sustained by our faith in God and belief that those we are called to serve can have lives free of poverty and distress. In closing I want to thank each of you for the part you play in helping make this world a fairer, kinder place through Bright Futures.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sarah".

Sarah Spiker
Chair - Bright Futures

INDIA PARTNER BANGALORE CITY MISSION



Jonathan Sinclair Paul,
BCM Executive Director

*'Education
is the key to
development .
it creates an even
playing ground
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become anything
the child wants.'*

Commencing in 2005, Bright Futures has been working in partnership with Bangalore City Mission (BCM), to support and deliver development projects in more than a dozen poor and quarry village communities. The project, which has a focus on education, healthcare and community development touches the lives of tens of thousands of people each year.



Pandemic Response

In May and June 2021 the Delta strain of Covid struck with great ferocity resulting in devastating sickness and loss of life in India. As they have been doing throughout the pandemic, the team at BCM mobilised with great determination providing thousands with food relief, access to vaccinations and other critical assistance.

School Based and Early Education

Understanding that education is the key to development, BCM provided education for 600 students from poor communities in project areas through its Sinclairs School. Many students are from families in granite quarries where conditions are harsh and often inhumane. During the pandemic many children dropped out of schooling as parents sought refuge in their traditional villages. BCM acted quickly to provide online learning and scaled up support for children whose family incomes were insecure.

Vocational Training

Despite Covid interruptions, 144 women & girls received training in five Vocational Training Centres across project areas. On graduation many started their own micro enterprises in tailoring & embroidery with 30% finding job in the garment industry and 43% started their own home business.

Health Care

BCM in partnership with government hospitals delivered awareness programs and medical camps that reached over 4000 individuals from the quarry communities. Along with regular health care initiatives, BCM conducted COVID screening camps in five villages that supported mass testing to stop the spread of the virus.

Child Care

Over the past 8 years the BCM Child Care Centre has nurtured and developed 1197 girls and 1060 boys with the help of three devoted staff. This year all activities were moved to the child's house due to the pandemic. The lockdown required innovation to keep 52 kids enrolled and teachers spent 45 minutes a week with each child during which there were lessons, songs and activities.



PAKISTAN PARTNER CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP OF PAKISTAN

In 2009, the Bright Futures / Christian Fellowship of Pakistan (CFP) partnership came into being in response to the need to support education for children in the village of Youngson Abad. Access to education had long been a problem in this area and historically the education of girls had been limited. Security challenges are ever present and access to clean water and medical care is difficult.



Project Leader,
Cecil Barkat



"As we look for life to return to normal we find our community has many needs. We have been working with Bright Futures to develop a Vocational Training Centre to provide jobskills training for young women who might otherwise be drawn into domestic service."

Pandemic Impact

In the course of 2021 the impact of the pandemic continued to be felt in Youngson Abad and the wider area, however the impacts were significantly related to the economic impact more so than the disease. The village of Youngson Abad is in a rural area where there is limited access to internet and other technologies. Food assistance was provided through some of the critical periods.

School-based Education

The school was closed for significant periods of time and to the extent possible children received support for home based education. Toward the end of the year, with the easing of Covid, schooling resumed with 200+ students in attendance in years 1-9. Girls comprise 60% of the student population and this is particularly pleasing in this area where girls often lack access to education.

Clean Water and Health

Provision of clean water continues to be a significant aspect of the activity of the partnership and the water filtration unit installed, thanks to the support of Bright Futures donors, continues to supply both school students and the wider community with up to 12,000 litres of clean water per day. Access to clean, potable water is an essential means of reducing the incidence of sickness from water borne disease and enhances quality of life.

Vocational Training Planning

Over the past year there has been a focus on developing plans for a Vocational Training Centre in Youngson Abad to provide young women with the means to gain skills to secure jobs or self-generated income. Young women without these skills risk being drawn into domestic service where conditions are harsh and abuse is prevalent.



KENYA PARTNER

DORCAS CREATION KENYA

Founded in 2012, the Bright Futures / Dorcas Creation partnership focuses on empowering women, men and children living in impoverished communities in Nairobi through access to vocational and business skills training and education for children. The partnership has a focus on building community capacity.



Founder & Project Leader: Jane Thuo



"We thank God for the kindness of those who make our work of empowering women and families in great need possible. It lifts them up, giving skills to break free of poverty, and brings hope for the future."

Vocational & Business Skills Training

Vocational and business skills training programs continue to be central to the empowerment initiatives of the partnership. More than 1,000 women and young people are each year engaged in training and development activities focused on building capacity and self-reliance. Key training areas for the past year have included training in tailoring, urban farming, baking, food preparation and business skills to prepare people for jobs or to start micro-businesses.

Savings & Self-Help Groups

Hundreds of women continue to be engaged in table banking and self-help groups. Comprising groups of 20, the mutual support and economic empowerment found in the groups leads to improved quality of life for the women and their families and greater opportunity.

Urban Farming

Following food relief efforts during the pandemic the focus moved to building sustainability by training hundreds of people in micro farming.

School-based Education

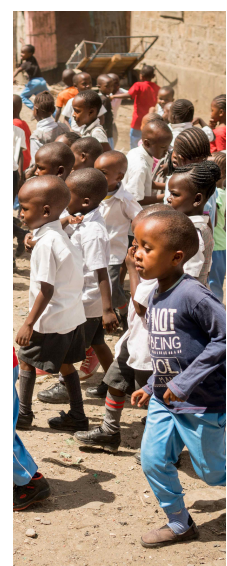
Support for school-based education continues in many forms. At WestWood School in Mathare slum a lunch program ensures 170 young minds are both nourished and educated. Youth programs and a period-poverty project aimed at school retention is delivered in many schools.

Nawiri Mama Project

Thanks to support from the Australian High Commission and 'Uniting Dynamic Women' project 182 mothers of children with disabilities received basic therapy skills training so they can help develop their child's physical and cognitive capacity. Mothers also received vocational and business skills training as their children received care and development support.

Focus for the Future

An important project for the year ahead will be the building of the Dorcas Creation Empowerment Centre as a base for programs and a hub for outreach into the community.



UGANDA PARTNER

BISHOP ONONO-ONWENG FOUNDATION



Founder/President:
Bishop Nelson
Onono-Onweng



Opiro Onono
CEO, BOOF

The Bright Futures / Bishop Onono-Onweng Foundation (BOOF) partnership was formed in 2010 at a time when people were returning to areas in Northern Uganda following the end of the civil war. The Lukodi region is the primary area from which the partnership operates. The village of Lukodi was an unofficial displacement camp during the war and the scene of a terrible terrorist attack in May 2004.



'It is exciting to see big improvements in survival rates for mothers and babies.'

Lukodi Health Centre

The Lukodi Health Centre (LHC) is led by a Clinical Officer and supported by midwives and ancillary staff. The centre provides primary health services in this area where historically many people die of preventable disease. Malaria, dengue, gastro and respiratory issues are prevalent. Presentations average more than 300 per month with some requiring admission.

Birthing Services

The maternity and birthing unit at LHC averages 20 births a month and mothers receive both antenatal and postnatal support. Babies receive vaccinations at birth. It is exciting to see big gains in survival rates for birthing mothers and babies.

Vaccinations

Vaccination programs through Lukodi Health Centre reach hundreds of adults, children and newborns each year. Medications are also provided for HIV/AIDS patients.

Pandemic Impact

A significant impact of the pandemic has been the closure of schools with Uganda having one of the longest mandated school closures in the world. The danger presented by the pandemic has been great due to poor medical infrastructure and resources. Provision of personal protective equipment to health centre staff and food distributions were the primary responses of the program.

Education

The support of Bright Futures donors continues to enable 24 children of South Sudanese refugees to receive secondary school education, clearly assisting their future life prospects.

Focus for the Future

Establishment of a paediatric unit and expansion of health services at Lukodi Health Centre is the next step in improving health outcomes.



2020/2021

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Bright Futures Child Aid & Development Fund Australia Ltd

ABN 76 803 488 074

Income and Expenditure Statement	FYE 2021	FYE 2020
Revenue		
Donations and gifts - monetary	322,271	413,368
Grant Income - Australian Government stimulus	38,800	19,001
Investment income - interest	48	159
Other Income	5304	11,216
Total Revenue	366,423	444,014
Expenditure		
International programs		
Funds to international programs	291,050	294,738
Program support costs	-	11,529
Fundraising costs - Public - newsletters/signage	1,964	592
Commercial Activities - Merchandise purchases	60	5,304
Accountability and administration	71,557	74,695
Depreciation	205	403
Total Expenditure	364,836	387,261
Excess of revenue over expenditure	\$1,587	\$56,753

*The full audited financial report prepared by BDO Audit (SA) is publicly available on the Bright Futures website - www.brightfutures.com.au - and on the Australian Charities and Not for Profit Commission (ACNC) charity portal at www.acnc.gov.au
Copies also available by request to Bright Futures Office - P: 08 7225 7175 E: office@brightfutures.com.au*

WE WELCOME FEEDBACK

Bright Futures invites your feedback about any matters concerning our governance or operations. If there is a matter of concern to you our Complaints Policy can be found under "Policies" on the Bright Futures website. To lodge a complaint or provide other feedback, please contact Bright Futures Board Chair, Sarah Spiker M: +61 (0) 423 027 912 or Executive Officer: Paul Madden M: +61 (0) 411 740 549 E: paul.madden@brightfutures.com.au



'Carry each other's burdens ...'

Galatians 6:2

At Bright Futures we know only too well that the work we share with our partners can only be achieved thanks to the kindness of those who care and express that care.

We journey together.

God bless you for your compassion and care which brings hope and opportunity to many in need.