



ANNUAL REPORT

2019/2020

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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 (2019/2020) MEMBERS

Sarah Spiker, Board Chair
Roger Bryson, Deputy Chair
Lee Haakmeester, Treasurer
Fred Chilton
Dr Don Van Cooten
Philip Good
Lynton Stacey
Carl Ginger

PROJECT (2019/2020) SUPPORT TEAM

Roger Bryson, Chair
Barbara Madden
Lee Haakmeester
Mudie Howarth
Deb Mugford
Lynton Stacey
Andy Farmer
Stanley Muchiri

Brian Harris
Phil Bunyon
Judy Howie
Kym Lear
Rachel Pynor
John Day
Vikki Booth
Thandeka Mandigora

STAFF TEAM

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

AUDITOR

BDO Audit (SA) Pty Ltd, Adelaide

BANK DETAILS

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

CODE OF CONDUCT ACFID

Bright Futures is a member of the Australian Council for International Development (ACFID) and adheres to the ACFID Code of Conduct.

Cover Photo: The photo of a woman tending her vegetables captures the essence of the year that has been. While Covid-19 hovered like a dark and threatening cloud, our partners have been heroic in sustaining tens of thousands of people facing starvation through food distributions and the like. However, they didn't stop there realising that building capacity and self-reliance was critical, and so the Urban Farming program was born teaching people to grow their own food in the smallest of spaces and even in urban slums.



ACFID
MEMBER



YEAR IN REVIEW

The past year has been unlike any other.

It is easy to feel that COVID-19 has been the only noteworthy part of the year, but upon reflection I am pleased that it's not the case. In the months before we entered a pandemic we started the year with some great events like Uniting Dynamic Women and the Bright Futures annual picnic and we finished the year with record fundraising for Bright Futures projects and a long list of new activities initiated by our partners overseas.

For me, without a doubt, the pandemic has changed things, but through the uncertainty I was able to see very clearly what is important in life; slowing down and finding joy in our everyday lives, connecting with the people we care about even if that was not in person, showing kindness for others and the importance of helping those in need. We have been able to do so much of this through Bright Futures this year.

Our partners in India, Pakistan, Uganda and Kenya have shown their ingenuity by supporting new groups of people in their communities who were left even more vulnerable because of COVID.

But we also saw partners continue to run their existing programs in new and creative ways. BCM has taken school online; Dorcas have helped people establish urban farms for those who had lost their jobs; BOOF maintained safe birthing facilities for pregnant women during lockdowns in Uganda; and teachers supported home learning for children in Pakistan during school closures.

It wasn't just overseas in our projects that we witnessed creative change, our supporters and friends of Bright Futures in Australia did this too. We saw fantastic virtual events like Seeds Uniting 'Christmas In July' dinner and the Inspiring Teens group who collaborated with women in Mararui slums in Kenya to produce face masks to raise funds. While it has been a year of great disruption, it has certainly been one that has resulted in creativity, connection and kindness. Our Bright Futures community, both in Australia and abroad, has shown just how resilient we are.

Thank you to everyone who has continued to support as sponsors, volunteers, donors and advocates for this work. You have shown great kindness, love and generosity in one of the toughest years. And that makes it a remarkable time to be part of Bright Futures.



Sarah Spiker
Chairperson,
Bright Futures Child Aid & Development Fund Australia



Sarah Spiker, Bright Futures Chair



Bright Futures 15th Birthday

At a twilight picnic in Tusmore Park Bright Futures celebrated its 15th birthday with a big cake and an enthusiastic crowd. So much has happened in that time with the work initially expanding from India to Pakistan and then on to Uganda and Kenya touching the lives of hundreds of thousands of people on the way thanks to our amazing development partners.

Uniting Dynamic Women

In its second year Bright Futures 'Uniting Dynamic Women' (UDW) initiative continued to grow to support projects empowering women in Kenya and India through vocational and business skills training. It was a particular delight to have Jane Thuo, leader of our partner group in Kenya, visit Australia and join us at one of the UDW events at the home of project ambassador Deb Hosking.

Gratitude

When Covid-19 struck we decided to close our 'Gratitude' office/shop in the city to work from home like millions of others. Our heartfelt thanks go to Bob, Steve, Mudie, Deb, Judy, Barb who, over several years, went above and beyond in staffing the office/shop and spreading the word on Bright Futures.

In this year of need we saw great generosity from charitable foundations and individual donors. Their kindness made our major pandemic relief efforts possible and sustained the life-saving and life-enhancing work of Bright Futures.

INDIA PARTNER

BANGALORE CITY MISSION



Key project leader:
Jonathan Sinclair Paul,
Executive Director



School based education assistance for 1,000 children.



Health screening and medical referral in partnership with healthcare providers.



BCM Vocational Training Centres provided employment and business skills training for hundreds of women.



Self-help and savings groups in 12 communities.

For the past 15 years Bright Futures has been working with partner group, the Bangalore City Mission (BCM), to support and deliver development projects in a dozen poor and quarry village communities. The project operates with a strong focus on education, healthcare and community development.

Reach and Impact

The first half of the 2019/2020 financial year saw the continued growth and development of education and vocational training programs focused on building individual and community capacity. As happened everywhere, the arrival of Covid-19 brought a dramatic and major change of focus to helping people survive.



School Based and Early Education

In the first half of the year BCM continued to provide schooling and early-years education for nearly 1,000 children daily. Covid-19 meant that teachers and students had to quickly change to online and at-home learning. The creativity and drive of the BCM team meant that children continued to learn throughout the pandemic.

Vocational Training

Operating from seven vocational training centres, nearly 400 women were engaged in employment and business skills training to develop their capacity to provide an income for themselves and their families and to build their confidence to enter the workforce or start small businesses. Training areas include tailoring, weaving, candle and soap making.

Pandemic Response

When the pandemic first broke a call was put out among the BCM teachers and staff to see who would be willing, notwithstanding the danger, to assist with food distribution to the thousands facing starvation. Everyone volunteered! Working with permission from government and at their request, Bangalore City Mission mobilised at large scale to distribute food in marginalised communities of migrants and day labourers which were suffering greatly. Distributions also began from the BCM school under a voucher system to manage demand and ensure safety. Thousands of households have been provided with the means to survive the lockdowns thanks to the efforts of the BCM team and donors.



Health Care

In the second half of the 2019 year and in the first two months of 2020 health screening activities continued to the benefit of more than 2,000 adults and children from the project communities. With the arrival of the pandemic these services could not continue but are likely to resume in 2021.

Savings and Self-help Groups

Savings and self-help groups assisting hundreds of women continued across the project areas until lockdowns prevented their continuation.

Insights to Inform Future Directions

In responding to the immense needs arising in the pandemic BCM discovered much about how to mobilise at scale in the face of a disaster.

PAKISTAN PARTNER

CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP OF PAKISTAN



CFP Founder
Rev Nathaniel Barkat

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. Access to clean water and medical care had also been longstanding challenges.

Reach and Impact

In the pre-pandemic period of 2019/2020 the project focus continued to be on schooling for around 200 children from the Youngson Abad area and the provision of clean water for both students and the wider community.

Pandemic Response

In being in the rural village of Youngson Abad, away from the major population centres, our project partners and their community were spared many of the health ravages of Covid-19. They did not, however, escape the devastating economic impacts of the lockdowns which left many without the means to provide for themselves. Thanks to the generosity of Bright Futures donors and the dedication of the team in Youngson Abad, food distributions helped sustain more than 250 households during the worst periods of the pandemic.



School based education and support for 200 children.



Health screening and medical treatment for school children.



Limited supply of clean water to the community of Youngson Abad.



Clean Water and Health

Thanks to the wonderful support of the 'Love in a Cup' team at Knightsbridge Baptist Church, clean water was made available for the children at the CFP school in Youngson Abad. The installation of a Reverse Osmosis filtration plant (pictured above), capable of producing 12,000 litres of clean water per day, is now providing clean drinking water for students and the community. This will be of huge benefit in reducing the prevalence of illness from water borne disease.

Insights to Guide Future Directions

Over the past year we have learned both in this project and elsewhere the importance of being able to adapt quickly to changing circumstances. While the pandemic brought many difficulties it has also offered many opportunities to connect more deeply with the community and to develop stronger relationships and partnerships.

BISHOP ONONO- ONWENG FOUNDATION



Founder/President:
Bishop Nelson Onono-Onweng

The Bright Futures / Bishop Onono-Onweng Foundation (BOOF) partnership commenced 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.

Reach and Impact

The principal focus of the partnership is on improving health outcomes in the Lukodi region where many still die of preventable illness and the elderly and unborn are particularly vulnerable to mosquito borne disease.



General and maternal health care and birthing services
Lukodi Health Centre



Education support for children of South Sudanese refugees



Prenatal and postnatal support for mothers in the Lukodi area.



Lukodi Health Centre

During the course of the year the Lukodi Health Centre continued to provide primary health care services to address a wide range of health care needs locally. Malaria presentations averaged 100 per month while gastro, respiratory issues, worms and UTIs were also common.

Birthing Services

Despite the pandemic, birthing services continued to be provided at Lukodi Health Centre ensuring the safe arrival of many babies. It is very pleasing that there were no infant or maternal deaths in the pandemic period. Resource constraints have presented a challenge in continuing to support antenatal and postnatal services for mothers. Efforts are being made to improve this situation.

Pandemic Response

The focus of effort during the pandemic for Bright Futures partner group (BOOF) was directed to three key areas. The first challenge involved endeavouring to secure sufficient personal protective equipment to ensure that frontline staff working in the Lukodi Health and Birthing Centre were protected while treating patients. The second area was on providing material support for expectant mothers who needed to remain close to birthing facilities as they awaited the arrival of their babies. The third area involved food distributions to South Sudanese refugee families living in the Lukodi region. When the pandemic struck, these families were particularly vulnerable.

Education

Over the year Bright Futures donors supported 40 children of Sudanese refugees in education with a number of these progressing from primary school to secondary education.

Vaccinations

Vaccination programs delivered not only included children and newborns, but also provided for people living with HIV/AIDS.

Insights to Guide Future Directions:

Ensuring children receive good health and nutritional input in their early years is critical to their life prospects. Establishment of a paediatric unit will be an important next step for Lukodi Health Centre.

DORCAS CREATION



Founder & Project
Leader: Jane Thuo

Established 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 strong focus on building community capacity.

Reach and Impact

Dorcas Creation's empowerment and savings programs are located in Marurui where many live in crowded shanties without even the most basic services. Dorcas programs help empower more than 1,000 women each year while schooling is provided in a similar community in Mathare.



Vocational and business
training for women in the
Marurui slum.



School based education
for children in Mathare.



Vocational & Business Skills Training

In March 2020 the vocational and business skills training programs came to a sudden halt with lockdowns across the Marurui and Mathare communities. Nevertheless, in the eight months leading up to the lockdowns these vital programs continued with hundreds of women receiving training in tailoring, beadwork, breadmaking, food preparation and other small business skills that would enable them to start a micro-business.

Savings & Self-Help Groups

Many hundreds more women continued to engage in savings groups in the pre-lockdown period. The savings groups enabled many women to meet healthcare, education and micro-business start up costs which enhanced the quality of life for themselves and their families.



Womens' empowerment
and savings groups for
women.

Pandemic Response

When the pandemic lockdowns came into force in March 2020, the Dorcas Creation team in Nairobi mobilised at scale to distribute food to thousands of households facing starvation. Marurui and Mathare slums were the focus areas. The team engaged with local schools, Churches and community leaders to facilitate safe and speedy distributions. As the pandemic wore on, it became apparent that other ways to produce food were urgently needed and the Urban Farming program was initiated. The program trains people in how to grow food in very small spaces and in spaces in Church and school grounds. The program is on track to train 1,000 urban farmers by the end of 2021!



Nawiri Mama Project (Flourishing Mother)

Thanks to the Australian High Commission in Kenya and Bright Futures 'Uniting Dynamic Women' support, Dorcas Creation launched the Nawiri Mama program to provide training for mothers of children with disabilities. The program engages an experienced therapist in teaching mothers basic therapy skills 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. The program paused during lockdowns but has resumed..

Insights to Guide Future Directions

While focus on immediate need is important, building capacity and self-reliance for the long term is vital.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Bright Futures Child Aid & Development Fund Australia Ltd ABN 76 803 488 074

Income and Expenditure Statement

	FYE 2020	FYE 2019
Revenue:		
Donations and gifts - monetary	413,368	296,489
Grant Income - Australian Government stimulus	19,001	-
Investment income - interest	159	206
Merchandise sales	11,216	15,667
Total Revenue:	444,014	312,363
Expenditure:		
International programs		
Funds to international programs	294,738	172,608
Program support costs	11,529	13,032
Fundraising costs - Public - newsletters/signage	592	3,737
Commercial Activities - Merchandise purchases	5,304	6,870
Accountability and administration	74,695	61,373
Depreciation	403	1,611
Total Expenditure:	387,261	259,231
Excess/(Shortfall) of revenue over expenditure	\$56,753	\$51,132

*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*

YOUR VIEWS MATTER

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 with Bright Futures contact:

Bright Futures Child Aid and Development Fund Australia Ltd,
PO Box 3071 Rundle Mall, SA 5000. Phone: (618) 7225 7175
Email: office@brightfutures.com.au

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

To lodge a complaint with the Australian Council for International Development please forward your complaint, marked 'confidential', to the Chair, ACFID Code of Conduct Committee, email address: code@acfid.asn.au or by post to Private Bag 3, Deakin ACT 2600



**'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 through giving.

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