

# The Dreams in A F R I C A *Foundation*

## Policy 2025

*The Dreams in Africa Foundation*

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## Foreword

The Dreams in Africa Foundation was established in September 2010 by Noor van Hout. After living and working in Ghana for a year, this country and Noor's unique experiences have taken on a special and important meaning in her life. In the underdeveloped communities of Ghana, the people have shown her that there is always hope, strength, and confidence, no matter how bleak, distressing, and without prospects for the future. Therefore, Noor is determined not only to contribute personally but also to raise awareness among as many others as possible about the needs and wants in Ghana. She wants to encourage more people to commit to a better future for the most vulnerable, disadvantaged, and needy populations in Ghana. Above all, the foundation aims to ensure complete transparency for sponsors and participants about how their contributions are used.

Motto: "Dream BIG, aim high, and live your dream!"

"Wherever dreams are alive, there is hope!" The people of Africa taught Noor and allowed her to experience that their faith and outlook on life unleash a great inner strength, which can be decisive in surviving and achieving their goals. Noor believes that everyone has the right to pursue their own dreams and should be given the opportunity to achieve them.

In 2023, after 10 years of dedicated service, four board members decided to step down. Board member Maartje van Leuven has dedicated herself to ensuring the continuation of the foundation. She succeeded Noor as chair of the foundation and formed a team with new board members.

In 2018, Maartje volunteered in Ghana. In 2021, she became a board member of Dreams in Africa. In 2022, she interned at Future Stars, one of the organizations supported by Dreams in Africa. Maartje witnessed how some families were trapped in a cycle of poverty, with little prospect of a future. But the warmth, energy, and joy of the people also touched her. If the foundation were to cease operations, it would be difficult for the Future Stars and Friends Foundation to continue working for the most vulnerable people in Ghana. Maartje saw the need to continue the foundation to ensure support for these organizations.

Therefore, the Foundation will continue its mission: To empower and strengthen the position of the most disadvantaged, vulnerable, and needy populations in Ghana, including by supporting small-scale local organizations and carrying out all activities related to or conducive to this mission.

This policy plan first outlines the objectives of the Dreams in Africa Foundation and the composition of its board (Chapter 1). It then explains the supported organizations and other expenditures (Chapter 2). Subsequently, the methods for generating income are discussed (Chapter 3). Finally, the Foundation's current activities are described (Chapter 4).

Maartje van Leuven, Chair of the Dreams in Africa Foundation  
Boxmeer  
January 2024



*Chairperson Maartje van Leuven at Future Stars Foundation in Buduburam, Ghana*



*Founder Noor van Hout at Friends Foundation in Klikor-Agbozume, Ghana*

# 1. Organisation

This chapter discusses, among other things, the objectives and board members of The Dreams in Africa Foundation.

## 1.1 Objectives

The mission of Dreams in Africa is:

1. To empower and strengthen the position of the most disadvantaged, vulnerable, and needy population groups (parents and children, men and women) in Ghana, so that they can achieve a higher standard of living, and to carry out all activities related to or conducive to the above;
2. The foundation serves the public interest;
3. The foundation is non-profit;
4. The foundation seeks to achieve its goal by, among other things, establishing and supporting small-scale local development projects, as well as carrying out all activities related to or conducive to the above.

The foundation has 5 principles:

1. Equality: Globally, economic inequality between the Global North and Global South remains a fact. In our collaboration with our partners in Ghana, we work as equally as possible. This is sometimes difficult, as we ultimately decide what we sponsor. We give our partners as much freedom as possible, but we do impose a number of basic requirements on the projects we sponsor. Including the other four principles:
2. Small-scale: We work with local, small-scale welfare organizations.
3. Demand-driven: We encourage organizations to work demand-driven. They do this by closely involving their target groups in the development of projects and the decision-making process.
4. Sustainability: We strengthen organizations by supporting them in setting up self-sufficient projects. This increases their self-reliance and, consequently, their independence. We hope to enable the organizations to stand on their own two feet and to keep our support temporary.
5. Respect for people, animals, and the environment: We take into account the local culture (traditions, customs, norms, and values) of the people. However, international human rights and children's rights take precedence over this. In addition to human rights, we also consider animal rights and the environment very important. We make green choices and encourage our partners to do the same.

## 1.2 Bestuur

The board currently consists of five members. We are currently seeking a sixth member to strengthen our team. The current five board members are introduced below.

### **Maartje van Leuven – Chairperson**

Ever since a youth trip to Uganda, it had been my dream to study social work and make a difference in the world outside the Netherlands. I realized that people in Uganda also have dreams, but that realizing them there is a greater challenge than in the Netherlands. In 2018, I lost my heart to Ghana, and in 2022, I returned to Ghana for six months. In 2021, I became a board member of this foundation. A year later, Noor told me she was closing the foundation. A huge shock... but I did see an opportunity to continue the work.





#### **Rob van Leuven – Treasurer**

My name is Rob van Leuven, married to Janet, and father of Maartje and Laura. I run a coaching and consulting firm specializing in investments. Before that, I was a teacher. Before being asked to be treasurer, I was involved as a donor in projects for Dreams in Africa. As treasurer, I'd love to be able to ensure that funds are used for their intended purpose, which is primarily children's education. However, I do realize that a child with an empty stomach or an illness also can't learn.

#### **Janet van Leuven – Secretary**

My name is Janet van Leuven, mother of Maartje. I've joined the board of Dreams in Africa as secretary. In my daily life, I work at Hof van Loon, a care center for the elderly. My hobbies are puzzles and badminton. In 2022, we visited Maartje while she was interning in Ghana. We saw firsthand what a fantastic country it is and experienced why Maartje fell in love with Africa! With great enthusiasm, I'm eager to dedicate myself to this foundation!

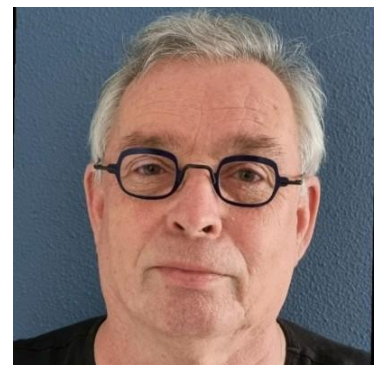


#### **Moses Dsane – Culture expert**

My name is Moses Dsane, and I live in Cuijk. I've been following the newsletters about Dreams in Africa's activities in Ghana for years. I think the foundation is doing well, and Noor's enthusiasm is so infectious that it's inspired me. Especially since I was born in Ghana, and now that I'm retired, I'm more interested in helping take the foundation to the next level. Especially now with a young member of the team, Maartje, as chair.

#### **Frank Peters – PR**

Some time ago, I met Maartje and Janet van Leuven during a radio interview. Their enthusiasm made me decide to join Dreams in Africa. I live in Mill and earn my living as a freelancer. As a board member, Maartje and I will be responsible for PR and fundraising. I hope the foundation can raise enough money in the coming years to provide funding for the Future Stars and Friends Foundation projects.



### 1.3 ANBI-status

The Dreams in Africa Foundation is an ANBI (Public Benefit Organization) foundation<sup>1</sup>. This means we are fully committed to the public interest. In addition, we must meet twelve conditions to maintain our ANBI status.<sup>2</sup>

Because we have ANBI status, all your donations are tax-deductible.

### 1.4 CBF-quality remark

The CBF quality mark demonstrates that a foundation is committed to transparency. We have deliberately chosen not to obtain a CBF quality mark because

1. We aim to keep our operating costs as low as possible. This would cost €150 per year, money we prefer to send to organizations in Ghana.
2. We demonstrate transparency through our website, and if anything is unclear, you can always ask us.

We do aim to be transparent. You can find all our annual reports and financial statements on our website. If you would like to stay informed, you can subscribe to our newsletter by sending an email to [info@dreamsin africa.org](mailto:info@dreamsin africa.org). You can also send questions, tips, or other information by email.

### 1.5 Mondolokaal

The Dreams in Africa Foundation is affiliated with Mondolokaal, the platform for small foundations in Land van Cuijk. We hold networking events twice a year to exchange knowledge, experiences, and connect with others.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Zie voor het ANBI-register

<https://www.belastingdienst.nl/wps/wcm/connect/nl/aftrek-en-kortingen/content/anbi-status-controleren>

<sup>2</sup> Zie uitgebreid over de voorwaarden de volgende website:

[https://www.belastingdienst.nl/wps/wcm/connect/bldcontentnl/belastingdienst/zakelijk/bijzondere\\_regelingen/goede\\_doelen/algemeen\\_nut\\_beogende\\_instellingen/aan\\_welke\\_voorwaarden\\_moet\\_een\\_anbi\\_voldoen/](https://www.belastingdienst.nl/wps/wcm/connect/bldcontentnl/belastingdienst/zakelijk/bijzondere_regelingen/goede_doelen/algemeen_nut_beogende_instellingen/aan_welke_voorwaarden_moet_een_anbi_voldoen/)

<sup>3</sup> Zie <https://www.mondolokaal.nl/>

## 2. Expenditures

This chapter describes our partners. We strive to allocate 100% of the generated revenue to our projects. However, the Foundation also has a few costs, which are also highlighted in this chapter.

### 2.1 Partners

#### 2.1.1 The Friends Foundation

The Friends Foundation, a local NGO in Klikor-Agbozume, Ghana, was the impetus for establishing The Dreams in Africa Foundation. Noor van Hout, the foundation's founder, lived and worked there for a year.

The Friends Foundation was founded in 1993 by David Kporfor, who ran the organization with great love and dedication for many years. David passed away in 2023, and his son, Ebenezer, continues his work. Together with local staff, Ebenezer runs a school, providing support to vulnerable, needy children and their families.

El Shaddai is the Friends Foundation's primary and junior high school, where nearly 600 children from Klikor and neighboring rural villages receive education.

In 2025, we will launch a microfinance project. Families will receive support and guidance to start a small business and create a stable income. The goal is to create a stable foundation and a better future for their children. The project will begin with 10 families. There are also plans for a bakery and a school bus.

#### 2.1.2 Future Stars

Future Stars International is an NGO based in Buduburam, Central Region of Ghana. They strive to expand education and healthcare opportunities for vulnerable children in Buduburam.

Future Stars recognizes the power of young people to be change agents in their communities. They strive to equip them with the necessary knowledge and empower them to work for change.

Future Stars provides education and mentoring to 200 disadvantaged children between the ages of 4 and 21. They have a vegetable garden that allows them to provide the children at the school with a nutritious lunch.

Combating child labor: Children are forced into labor in Buduburam and the fishing villages (Senya and Fetteh) for years with little to no compensation. Some children work because of their family's financial situation; out of desperation, families force their children to work for little money. Future Stars strives to eradicate child labor through education, rehabilitation, and increasing community self-reliance.

#### 2.1.3 Process of sponsoring projects

We support our partners by sponsoring various projects, including school supplies, income-generating projects, and emergency aid.

When partners submit a project application, we work together through a step-by-step plan before the project is approved. This step-by-step plan consists of seven steps and is explained in more detail below:

1. Project evaluation: A project proposal is submitted. It is critically reviewed, and a SWOT analysis is conducted.
2. The project proposal and analysis are shared with the board, and all board members can share their questions and suggestions.



3. One or more meetings are held with the applying partner.
4. The partner adjusts the proposal as needed.
5. Sponsorship phase: A partial sponsorship is initiated, and if successful, the remaining sponsorship money is sent.
6. Reporting: Interim project updates are sent with photos and text.
7. Evaluation: After a project is completed, an evaluation is conducted together with the applying organization to assess what went well, what could have been improved, what was achieved, and how the collaboration went.

## 2.2 Marketing

- Website (€3 per month)
- Our flyers and banners are donated in kind

## 2.3 Administration

We have no fixed bank fees. In the past, we had an ABN AMRO account for €17 per month. In 2024, we switched entirely to Wise, which costs €0 per month.

Transaction fees for transfers to Ghana will remain.

Donations made via direct transfer to our Wise bank account are free of charge.

However, the donation platform GEEF does take an average of 1.5%. Although this platform is very helpful making easy QR codes and donation links.<sup>4</sup> On this platform, donors can choose whether to add this percentage to their donation or deduct it from their donation.

## 2.4 Remuneration policy

Board members receive no remuneration or expense allowance.

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<sup>4</sup> Zie voor uitleg van GEEF de volgende website:

<https://www.geef.nl/nl/page/volledige-transparantie-voor-de-donateur>

### 3. Income

The Foundation generates income through donors, campaigns, and grants/funds. These three sources of income are discussed in more detail below.

#### 3.1 Donors

We have recurring donors (friends of the foundation), who donate an amount of their choice, as well as one-time or occasional donors.

We approach businesses and individuals who could be potential donors.

##### 3.1.1 Communication with donors

Donors are always welcome to contact us with questions, concerns, comments, or feedback. You can contact us via the Foundation's email address or phone number.

Donors can follow our activities through the website, newsletter, and/or social media channels.

The Foundation may contact donors to assess their needs and motivations and, based on this, adjust any working methods.

Email address: [info@dreamsinafrica.org](mailto:info@dreamsinafrica.org)

Phone number: +31 6 85013175

##### 3.1.2 Cancellation of periodic donations

If friends of the Foundation wish to discontinue their monthly donation, we ask for two months' notice. We also appreciate it if you include a reason for the cancellation, as this allows the foundation to anticipate future needs and potentially improve its performance.

##### 3.1.3 Sponsorouders

Currently, there's a program running where individuals or multiple people jointly sponsor a vulnerable child in Ghana.

However, we recognize that a change is needed to ensure this support has a lasting, more effective impact.

That's why, together with the Friends Foundation, we're transitioning to family strengthening through microcredit.

This means that current families participating in the child sponsorship program will be supported to start a small business and create a stable income. The goal is to create a stable foundation for their children. We're starting with 10 families; if this proves successful, we can support more families with the repaid loans.

The goals:

- A stable income for every family
- A strong foundation for food, shelter, education, and healthcare
- Children grow up in a more stable home environment with less financial stress
- Children have better prospects for the future
- Families are independent of regular donations
- Breaking the cycle of poverty
- Economic strengthening throughout the community

The process:

1. Training participants in entrepreneurship
2. Participants create a business plan

3. Micro-wages are paid
4. Support during the start-up phase
5. Option to create a savings account
6. Wages are reimbursed
7. The process is repeated with other families

We are currently raising funds to launch the project.

### 3.2 Media

We're also active on social media (Instagram, Facebook, and YouTube). The photos, videos, and stories are provided by our partners, Future Stars and the Friends Foundation. Depending on the input, we try to publish a post every week. We have an agreement with our partners that everything they send is with the consent of the people depicted (in the case of minors, their parents).

We also regularly appear in newspapers, on the radio, and on television.

Finally, we publish a quarterly newsletter. Everyone can subscribe to it. You can subscribe or unsubscribe by sending an email to our email address.

### 3.3 Actions

We organize an annual benefit party to which donors and other interested parties are welcome.

We occasionally organize events in collaboration with Camping d'n Twist, care centers, and schools.

We regularly sell secondhand clothing through a shop in Nijmegen.

### 3.4 Subsidies and funds

When we decide to grant a large project application, we explore subsidy options. If the requirements are met, the grant will be applied for.

## 4. Actual activities

For actual activities in 2024, see the [annual report](#).<sup>5</sup> It also includes the annual accounts, the annual financial overview, and the plans for 2025.

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<sup>5</sup> Jaarverslag 2024

[https://www.canva.com/design/DAGdl-aYXRg/W5iRarcMJroytm967Nd\\_HA/view?utm\\_content=DAGdl-aYXRg&utm\\_campaign=designshare&utm\\_medium=link2&utm\\_source=uniqueLinks&utlId=h6314cecc63](https://www.canva.com/design/DAGdl-aYXRg/W5iRarcMJroytm967Nd_HA/view?utm_content=DAGdl-aYXRg&utm_campaign=designshare&utm_medium=link2&utm_source=uniqueLinks&utlId=h6314cecc63)