

Policy plan

Stichting Little Smile Foundation

2026-2027

Introduction

In 2016–2017, we undertook three projects in Peru as private individuals. The project evaluation showed that we made a significant positive difference in all three cases. This made us decide to continue our work and opt for a fundamental basis: a foundation with official Dutch ANBI status. The establishment of the foundation took place on June 27, 2018.

Mission

Together we make children's lives more promising by supporting local educational projects in developing countries.

Objective (in accordance with the Articles of Association)

'The objective of the Little Smile Foundation (LSF) is to make the lives of children more promising and furthermore everything that is related in the broadest sense, that belongs to it and / or can be conducive to it. LSF tries to achieve its goal by, among other things, raising funds and thereby supporting small-scale projects in mainly developing countries.'

The board searches for projects within its international network and then approaches donors on the basis of specific project applications. Once the required budget has been collected, implementation is coordinated by the board, preferably with the help of local volunteers.

We intend to realize 1 to 3 projects annually.

Projects

Since our founding in 2018, we've carried out projects in Peru, Liberia, Nepal, Uganda, Burkina Faso, India, and Gambia. Learn more at littlesmile.foundation

Current projects

Two projects are ongoing:

24. Thirteen children from Nepal

From mid-April 2024 until mid-April 2027, we support 13 children to attend school in Dhading, Kathmandu, Sindhupalchowk (Nepal). The support includes, among other things: tuition fees, books, stationary, bag, school uniforms. This is an initiative of 'Stichting Veldwerk Nepal' (SVN), which also manages the project locally.

28. Multipurpose Hall interior and education, Majhila, India

After the completion of the hall in September 2025 (project 26), we furnished the newly built hall in Majhila village with essential equipment and furniture at the request of VPIMS. The space is used to provide school readiness programs, coaching classes for children, and skill training for adolescent girls and women. Thanks to our donors, we can support these educational activities from October 2025 through March 2027. The project aims to improve children's education, promote school enrollment, and equip young women with livelihood skills to support their families.

2026 - 2027

This policy plan covers the period 2026 - 2027.

Over the past nine years we have worked on twenty-eight projects. Given the high workload, we have decided - as stated in the articles of association - to stick to 1 to 3 projects per year from now on.

We are talking with our partners in Nepal (Stichting Veldwerk & Education First Foundation), Burkina Faso (Lenie Hoegen Dijkhof) and India (VPIMS and DARE) to start a new project in 2026. We also receive requests from other organizations and countries. After a positive evaluation, we do our best to find a suitable donor.

Because existing donors are satisfied with our efforts, we expect to work together again in the future. Thanks in part to our efforts on social media, we have found some new donors who are willing to donate for future projects. In summary: we continue with our work with confidence.

Board

In December 2024, we announced that Wouter Verhoeven would step down as Secretary of the Little Smile Foundation. He was succeeded by Daphne Gouweloos. After serving in the role for half a year, Daphne had to step down for personal reasons. We regret her departure and sincerely thank her for her efforts.

We are delighted that, as of October 2025, Michael van den Berg has joined the LSF board:

"When Rianne and Maarten asked me to help improve access to education for children in developing countries, I didn't have to think twice. Giving children opportunities for good education is always a worthwhile cause, especially in developing countries, where going to school is often the exception rather than the rule. I'm happy to contribute to this mission."

The unpaid Little Smile Foundation board consists now of Maarten Verhoeven (chair), Michael van den Berg (secretary) and Rianne Vermeulen (treasurer). Thanks to our contributors we can do this great work.

Employees

The Foundation has no employees and makes use of volunteers, both in the Netherlands and on location, in the places where the projects are realized.

Finance

The financial year of the Foundation is equal to the calendar year. At the end of each financial year, the treasurer draws up a balance sheet and a statement of income and expenditure. This takes place within six months after the end of each financial year. The most current report can be found on our website.

The raising of funds

Donations mainly come from foundations, companies and private persons.

Management and spending of assets

The Foundation does not have the objective of making profit. The assets of the Foundation will be formed by:

1. grants and other contributions;
2. donations and legacies;
3. all other acquisitions and benefits.

The Foundation can only accept legacies under the privilege of inventory.

At least 95% of the Foundation's income is spent on making children's lives more promising by supporting local educational projects in developing countries. Only a small part of the donations is spent on operational out-of-pocket costs, for example on maintenance of the website. The board serves without remuneration.

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If you have any questions, please send an email to Michael van den Berg:
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