

Guiding principles for Overseas Community Transformation

Here are some principles that have enabled Bless to Be a Blessing to identify OCT projects around the world:

- The project must transform a community, village or a nation. A community can be a village, a town or simply a people group (like a tribe) who share a common dignity, a common origin, a common destiny. Communities should be a place where people feel they belong and where there is a common goal or need that meets the need of the entire community.
- The mission teams that go out every year research 3 possible large scale projects that can transform communities they will be going to. Then the team selects one of these projects to support.. Every couple of years, one of these two projects eventually becomes a key BTBAB OCT initiative that BTBAB adopts long-term for community transformation.
- We don't send money, we send people with money.
- Our initiatives are community based and must reverse the cycle of poverty for a whole community, eg., by bringing employment that lasts a minimum of 5 years.
- Implementation of the project should provide skills to local people, with materials locally sourced (e.g. a trade).
- All our initiatives are self-sustainable and must empower people, not make them dependent on BTBAB or the team.
- Donations should go into a bank account held by the community (not a mission organization or a foreign charity). Signatories to the account must be at least 3 people (two of these people must be a local Christian leader and a long-term missionary).
- Where possible, we seek to channel finances through the life of the local church.
- The money donated towards the projects should NOT be used for admin costs of participating church or missionary organisation.
- For Long Term Projects, the initiatives must be functional within 2 years of a team's first visit (work must begin within 6 months of funding being released otherwise further funding is suspended).
- A BTBAB Director must visit the project at least once a year to examine the impact and report back to our Board of Trustees in the UK.

As an organisation, we reserve the right to withdraw funding where these values are deliberately violated.

