

Moving Mountains Donation Policy

We believe that progressive aid and development does not mean giving handouts, and we do not believe in creating dependency or a colonial type of relationship between the haves and the have not's. We work on the principles of investment, self-empowerment, collaborative development and a structured approach to assisting children towards their future. Our work will therefore be greatly helped if all visitors adhered to the guidance given below.

All donations to Moving Mountains Trust ("the charity") are the property of the charity upon delivery. Donations shall be distributed by the Charity in accordance with needs, priorities and relevancy, as identified by the board of trustees or their representative(s) and in consultation with relevant parties such as the local community. All potential beneficiaries shall be identified according to the same criteria and without prejudice. We are happy to work with donors on the remit of their donations, of course, but a central principle of ours is that the regional MM NGO knows best how to spend the money or distribute donations. This develops equality and professionalism, since our staff are trained in matters relating to education, health and social welfare. Clearly it is also their country, and we want to employ and empower people to be the architects of their own success.

Guidance for donors, clients and volunteers

- Do not give any item or any money directly to individual people (for example staff members, local people or children). Instead, give any items you wish to donate to a Moving Mountains representative or the trip leader for them to administer openly, fairly and centrally.
- If any person asks for assistance or support, advise them to approach Moving Mountains to apply for any assistance they require.
- Do not make the assumption that just because you are going to a developing country, you can bring a bag of used and second hand clothing or second hand items to give to the poor. Many people find this attitude demeaning and patronising in today's world. Far better to contact the charity first to discover specific items that we need and get involved with us to provide relevant assistance and investment for the success of long term programmes.
- Children will not benefit from receiving a never-ending supply of second hand clothes or toys; this can lead to children becoming spoilt and arrogant and more than often affects their performance in school. As a charity we act as a guardian, and this means bringing them up in a spirit of support and discipline, not excessive attention and freebies. By all means bring pictures of your home and family and friends to share, but do not bring 'stuff' just for the sake of it.