



CHILD HOUSES

Policy Plan

2023



Vision

We believe all children have the right to live in a protective and caring family-based environment.

Mission

Our mission is to leave no child behind. We identify and respond to the needs of children and families in crisis by providing comprehensive protection services.

Values

Child-centered | Children always come first in our work. We place the child's rights, needs, protection, and best interests at the center of everything we do.

Commitment | We are committed to protecting children from start to finish. We support them before, during, and after establishing a long-term solution.

Community | We believe that activating the local community in our approach is critical to creating a broader, more sustainable care solution. We are committed to fostering a society that values and prioritizes the well-being and protection of every child.

Dignity | We are committed to fighting injustice and discrimination, ensuring respect and dignity for every child. We approach children and families with empathy, acknowledging their unique experiences and needs.

Family | We recognize the value of the family unit and center our work around strengthening and promoting family kinship.

Integrity | We strive to operate openly and honestly in our internal and external relationships and involve children in matters that affect them.

Transformative | We work to create a positive and sustainable difference in the lives of children and transformation that brings lasting benefits.

Excellence | We hold ourselves to the highest standards, push ourselves to be better and expect the same of others. Through continuous learning and improvement, we aim to provide the highest possible quality of care by tailoring services to the needs of each child, context, and situation.

Advocacy | We engage in strategic advocacy efforts to introduce and shape policies, legislation, and child protection systems at local, national, and international levels.



Inclusivity | We ensure that all children have access to the same protection and support, and opportunities regardless of their socioeconomic status, gender, disability, or any other factors.

Our Story

Founded in November 2019, Child Houses (Stichting Childhouses) is the product of two partner organizations: **Happy Caravan** and **Connect by Music**. Both organizations spent several years working together in Greek refugee camps, providing informal education and psychosocial support programs to children who fled from war. Through this experience and working daily with the children, both organizations recognized their programs' positive impact. They were determined to further this reach to children in conflict zones.

Child Houses, operating since early 2020, has been dedicated to safeguarding and transforming the lives of over 1,500 children living in conflict areas in North-West Syria through vital protection services. These child protection services include comprehensive case management, emergency short-term shelter, psychosocial support (PSS), family tracing, family reunification, and alternative care. As Child Houses believes the best place for a child to grow up is within a family setting and works to ensure this, we also provide family strengthening support through emergency cash assistance, livelihood support, and parenting skills sessions.

As a local embedded organization, focused on advancing the services for vulnerable children, Child Houses is well-accepted by the local community. In early 2021, the UN protection cluster recognized Child Houses as the only emergency short-term shelter for unaccompanied and separated children (including abandoned infants) and identified Child Houses as the official referral point for such cases in the region.

Through its pioneering efforts, targeted services, and active community engagement, CH has emerged as a trailblazer in the field of child protection in North-West Syria, advocating for the rights and well-being of unaccompanied, separated, and marginalized children.

Throughout our work, our goal remains steadfast – to not merely alleviate the immediate distress but to pave the way for a transformative shift, cultivating resilience, unity, and optimism within the child.

Goal of the Foundation

The aim of the foundation is offering complete care to orphans in crisis by providing them with shelter in its Child Houses emergency short-term shelter, whereby they can be accommodated within a safe environment for education, recreation, nutrition, clothing, health



care and psychosocial support is provided, with the ultimate goal of creating a promising future for these children.

The foundation does not aim to make a profit.

Objectives of the Foundation

1. To reduce the protection risks and address child protection concerns of vulnerable children living in crisis, with a focus on unaccompanied and separated children and abandoned infants affected by the ongoing war and earthquake in North-West Syria by providing emergency life-saving child protection services such as comprehensive case management, emergency cash assistance (ECA) as an in-kind donation, and short-term emergency shelter including family tracing (FTR) family reunification and alternative care.
2. To reduce child protection risks, address child protection concerns, and support the psychological well-being of children affected by the ongoing war and earthquake in North-West Syria, with a focus on unaccompanied and separated children by providing psychosocial (PSS) activities, distributing PSS Kits, providing Parenting Skills sessions for caregivers.
3. To improve the capacity building of other local service providers including alternative care centers' staff and community members to support unaccompanied and separated children by training them on child protection principles such as Case Management, Child Protection Minimum Standards, Family Tracing (FTR), Alternative Care, and Safe Referral.

Activities

The activities of the foundation are aimed at addressing the protection concerns facing vulnerable children living in crisis, with a focus on unaccompanied and separated children and abandoned infants affected by the earthquake on February 6, 2023, and the ongoing war in Syria. The foundation aims to fill gaps that exist in the child protection humanitarian aid by providing by means of supplying goods and or services that are desperately needed. While doing so, we aim to train local child protection actors on similar services that can be duplicated across the region.

Fundraising

The assets intended for realizing the purpose of the foundation will be shaped by:

- a. proceeds and revenues from activities initiated by the foundation.
- b. gifts and donations
- c. grants
- e. all other lawful benefits



Currently the equity of Stichting Childhouses has been formed by donations and grants. It is the intention of the Board to actively raise additional funds through donations. The Board amongst others intends to create awareness of their projects by means of reaching out to their social network and through internet (social media etc.) Donations will be done through a secure payment platform on the website and credit card payments will be done through the online payment service provider PayPal. After donating, donors receive a confirmation email. Donors can also transfer money directly to the Stichting Childhouses' bank account.

General

Stichting Childhouses is registered in the Netherlands.

("Stichting Childhouses") is a Foundation created under the laws of the Netherlands. The Foundation was established by notarial deed on [13 November 2019], in order to create a foundation that supports children living in crisis.

The foundation's legal framework has been carefully selected to ensure maximum legal certainty, transparent operational management, and the preservation of its independent, nonprofit nature. Please find a complete copy of the articles of association [here](#).

Kvk Registration nr. (Chamber of Commerce): **76381048**

RSIN (Fiscal) nr.: **860606624**

Address: **Erasmusweg 5, 2202 CA Noordwijk, Netherlands**

Bank Name: **TRIODOS**

Bank Address: **Postbus 55, 3700 AB Zeist, Netherlands**

Account Name: **Stichting Childhouses**

Account Number IBAN: **NL98 TRIO 0320 6725 14**

Sort Code, SWIFT or BIC: **TRIONL2U**

Annual Reports

- [Annual Report 2020-2021](#)
- Annual Report 2022 – coming soon!

Board

The Board Members are the following persons:

- Johannes Adriaan Kok, Chairman,
- Alexander Pieter Zeverijn, Treasurer
- Magdalena Maria Aguilar, Secretary

(Together they are referred to as the "Board" and individually as "board members")



The board members, and thus the foundation, operate independently from the donors and / or beneficiaries of the foundation. The Board is collectively authorized.

The board members are not entitled to a remuneration from the foundation in respect of fulfilling his/her duty as a board member, except for a refund of out-of-pocket expenses necessarily incurred in fulfilling their obligations as a board member as long as these are reasonable and non-excessive and a non-excessive attendance fee.

Administrative and Financial Affairs

All income and expenditures are administrated in line with international standards and meticulously controlled by the board of Stichting Childhouses. The administration will show specifically the expenses related to the raising of funds, the management of the affairs of the foundation, the equity of the foundation, and refunds of expenses to the board members.

The foundation's financial year coincides with the calendar year. The treasurer shall close the foundation's books on the last day of the financial year and, as soon as possible, but no later than five months after the end of the financial year, shall prepare a balance sheet and a statement of income and expenses for the past financial year, as well as a budget of income and expenses for the upcoming financial year. The treasurer shall send these documents to all board members before the end of the period referred to in the preceding sentence. These documents shall be approved by the board in a meeting to be held within six months after the end of the financial year. Following approval, all financial statements shall be published on the website of the foundation within six months after the end of the relevant financial year.

An appointed secretary will draw up minutes of every annual general meeting and of quarterly meetings of the board. All related documents will also be administered meticulously by the secretary.

Appropriation of Funds

The foundation has the intention to ultimately spend all gifts received and possibly other (net) income, to reach its object, being to support children living in crises.

1. Purpose and Objectives: Stichting Childhouses herein referred to as "the foundation," is committed to advancing child protection initiatives in North-West Syria. The primary objective of the foundation is to ensure the safety, well-being, and rights of children in the region.
2. Budgeting and Financial Planning: The foundation shall develop an annual budget that reflects its child protection programs and activities. The budgeting process shall be overseen by the Director and approved by the Board of Directors.



3. Allocation of Funds: The funds of the foundation shall be allocated in accordance with the following guidelines:

a. **Direct Services**: A significant portion of funds shall be allocated to provide direct services to children, including but not limited to case management, emergency short-term shelter, medical care, family tracing and reunification, alternative care, and emergency assistance.

b. **Awareness and Advocacy**: Funds shall be allocated to support awareness campaigns, advocacy efforts, and policy initiatives aimed at promoting child protection and rights.

c. **Capacity Building**: A portion of funds shall be dedicated to training and capacity-building activities for staff, volunteers, and partners involved in child protection programs.

d. **Operational Expenses**: Adequate funds shall be allocated to cover administrative and operational costs, including staff salaries, rent, utilities, and other overhead expenses, to ensure the efficient functioning of the foundation.

e. **Emergency Response**: Provisions shall be made for allocating funds swiftly in the event of emergencies or unforeseen crises affecting child protection efforts in North-West Syria.

4. Approval Process: The annual budget and any significant reallocations of funds shall require the approval of the Board of Directors. The Director together with the finance department shall review and recommend budgetary decisions to the board.

5. Financial Oversight: The foundation shall maintain robust financial oversight, including regular financial reporting, external audits, and compliance with all relevant legal and regulatory requirements governing nonprofit organizations.

6. Reserves and Contingency Funds: The foundation shall maintain prudent reserves and contingency funds to address unforeseen financial challenges, emergencies, or disruptions to funding sources while ensuring long-term financial sustainability.

7. Donor Restrictions: In cases where funds are donated with specific restrictions, the foundation shall adhere to the donor's intentions and ensure that these funds are used exclusively for the designated purpose within the child protection framework.



8. Reporting and Transparency: The foundation is committed to transparency in financial matters. It shall provide regular financial reports to donors, stakeholders, and the public, highlighting how funds are appropriated to achieve child protection objectives.

9. Review and Amendment: This Appropriation of Funds clause may be reviewed and amended as necessary by the Board of Directors to align with changing needs, priorities, or circumstances related to child protection in North-West Syria.

10. Compliance and Accountability: The foundation shall operate in full compliance with applicable laws and regulations and adhere to the highest ethical and governance standards. It shall maintain a clear and documented process for addressing any potential conflicts of interest related to financial decisions.

11. Dissolution: In the event of the foundation's dissolution, any remaining funds shall be distributed in a manner consistent with the foundation's mission and child protection goals, in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

By adopting this appropriation of funds clause, the foundation seeks to ensure effective financial management and allocation of resources in pursuit of its mission to protect and support children in North-West Syria.

Accountability

The chairman of the board shall annually draw up a report describing all carried out projects and related information. This report will be published on the website of the foundation annually.

Fiscal Affairs

Stichting Childhouses does not carry on an enterprise. It is therefore not necessary to file corporate income tax returns on a yearly basis.

Investment Policy

Stichting Childhouses is committed to ensuring that its investments align with its mission of safeguarding and advancing the rights and well-being of children in North-West Syria through its child protection initiatives while maintaining prudent financial stewardship.

The responsibility for overseeing and implementing this Investment Policy rests with the Board of Directors, with day-to-day implementation overseen by the Director and finance department.

Stichting Childhouses' investment objectives include:



- Preserving the organization's capital.
- Generating income to support ongoing programs and initiatives in child protection.
- Achieving long-term growth to ensure the organization's financial sustainability.

Stichting Childhouses adheres to ethical and socially responsible investment guidelines. Investments shall align with the organization's values and mission, avoiding investments that conflict with our child protection objectives. Investments shall adhere to the following restrictions: 1) Avoidance of investments in industries or companies that conflict with the organization's child protection mission. 2) Compliance with all relevant laws and regulations governing nonprofit organizations and investments.

Stichting Childhouses shall maintain a prudent level of liquidity to meet its short-term and long-term financial obligations, including program expenses, operating costs, and potential emergencies.