

Frequently Asked Questions

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What is “Bee the solution” in short?

“Bee the solution” is a Not for Profit Organization (NPO) registered in France under number W111004293 since January 2016 (published in the Official Bulletin in March 2016), working in the field of International solidarity. Our current work is focused in Southern/Eastern Africa.

Our **Vision** is that communities can “Bee the solution” to improving their situation. Our **Goal** is to help local communities in identifying, designing and implementing sustainable solutions for improving their conditions through field work.

Through “Bee the solution” and the communities we work with, we want to:

- understand local issues, learn about local solutions and barriers to implementation, share knowledge gathered in different settings,
- work with communities to best use local resources,
- aid in design of projects and completion of funding requests,
- assist with project implementation,
- provide training in methods and tools required to successfully conduct and report the projects,
- support feedback to communities and donors.

“Bee the solution” work is conducted from a mobile office. This allows for an office to be set up anywhere where a project is needed, working directly with and within the communities.

“Bee the solution” is not the owner of projects conducted. Our primary aim is to act as a liaison in supporting communities through the process of identifying issues/solutions, requesting funding, implementing and reporting projects. Members of “Bee the solution” can however be personally involved in some local projects and/or “Bee the solution” can partner with local NGOs/Institutions.

In certain situations, “Bee the solution” may also provide seed-funding via cash donations or in-kind donations to assist in kick-starting projects.

How is funding for projects sourced?

Funding of projects will be done through fund-raising (including through “Bee the solution”), grant request to institutions, agencies, donors, NPOs and companies. Those funds will belong to the community where the project is conducted.

However, there is much work to be done before we can send a grant request! Primary work will be financed through cash donation to “Bee the solution” and through consultant support fees obtained during running of funded projects.

To date, all work undertaken by “Bee the solution” has been self-funded by the founding members.

Consulting work is performed on the basis of voluntary consulting, with costs calculated to cover expenses and consulting fees calculated to cover primary work towards projects and exchange rate fluctuation.

In addition, we will also support smaller projects with donations received at “Bee the solution”, either as cash donation or in-kind donation.

How can I help?

If you would like to support the work of “Bee the solution”, you can help in many ways:

- Provide service/support
- Make an in-kind donation
- Make a cash donation
- Become an active member
- Support us on Social Networks

Service/support to “Bee the solution” can take many forms, but in essence, you contribute your time and/or expertise to assist us in running the best projects possible. Examples include: review of documents, assistance with setting up and maintaining the website and Facebook page, help with writing/communicating project details, fundraising, providing feedback on how projects are going, supporting the maintenance of the mobile office.

In-kind donations refer to donations of physical items to support a project in a community. These obviously vary depending on the project in question, but may include: books, stationery, computers, mobile phones, care items, clothes, chairs, tables, shoes, light bulbs, solar panels, solar batteries, wood, etc...

Cash donations cover any donation of money made to “Bee the solution”, either as an Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT), PayPal (also considered as EFT), bank cheque (payable in France) or cash.

By becoming an Active member, you show your continuous support to the projects. It also helps us in planning forward as we know we can rely on your membership fee for the following year.

One easy way to support us is to use Social Networks: Like our Facebook Page, share it with your network and/or subscribe to follow posts on the website. This is a one time action on your part, but will make a big difference for us in term of visibility.

What are the different membership types?

The different membership types of “Bee the solution” are:

Founding members are those members who started this NPO. We are four founding members. The founding members are also active members.

Honorary members are those members who provide us with service and support. Many of those have done so even during the creation of “Bee the solution”. Any help is greatly appreciated!

Benefactor members are those members who contribute through donations - either cash or in-kind.

Active members are those members who pay a fixed yearly membership subscription (25 euros in 2017). A new active member must be sponsored and introduced by two active members, including at least one founding member, prior to being enlisted.

Members can be **Honorary** and/or **Benefactor** and/or **Active**...

How can I become a member of “Bee the solution”?

Anyone who provides a voluntary service to the organization automatically becomes a de facto **Honorary member**.

Anyone wishing to become a **Benefactor member** can make the request by completing the donation form (Donation Form and/or In-kind donation Form) and by making a donation to the organization.

Anyone wishing to become an **Active member** must ask for sponsorship from 2 active members, including a founding member and complete the membership form prior to making payment to the organization (25 euros in 2017).

The donation forms (in cash or in-kind) and the membership form must be completed and sent by email (scanned or as a picture) to info@beethesolution.org.

How can I make a donation to “Bee the solution”?

To make a cash* donation, you can make a direct Electronic Funds Transfer to “Bee the solution” account (for account details, please click [here](#)) in France, use the PayPal button below (also considered as EFT) or give a bank cheque** or cash to any founding member for deposit into “Bee the solution” account or for use on the ground. Bank cheques** can also be sent to the **Head Office in France**.

To make an in-kind donation, please contact us at info@beethesolution.org. Depending on your location and where goods might be needed, we will work together on the best way to perform your in-kind donation.

To ensure full accountability and traceability of any donation (both cash* or in-kind), please ensure that you complete a donation form (Donation Form and/or In-kind donation Form) and send it by email (scanned or as a picture) to info@beethesolution.org.

*Cash donation: refers to cheques, cash and EFT donations

**Bank cheques must be payable in France

How will my donation be used?

In-kind donation

The items provided as in-kind support will be directly distributed to appropriate communities or used by “Bee the Solution” for the conduct of projects.

Cash* donation

The primary aim of “Bee the solution” is to support local communities in setting up projects and seeking funding for implementation.

A lot of work needs to be completed by “Bee the solution” in advance of funding being requested and available. To carry out this work, we travel to local communities, but we might also need to purchase small items to help conduct pilot projects to assess feasibility and sustainability of a project. Your contributions would be used towards covering travel costs, administrative needs and feasibilities.

For some projects, the funds required to start might not be high enough to warrant a grant request to bigger institutions. We aim to also support those projects through in-kind or cash* donation to “Bee the solution”.

The main use of your donation will be to support:

- Funding for office, lodging and food for initial work with communities (communities will also support cost of office, lodging and food during field work). All travel is done at minimum cost, using camp or communal areas and local cooking, etc,
- Cost of travel including but not limited to fuel and maintenance, tolls, ferry crossing, conservation fees, visa and border fees, etc,

- Administrative costs including but not limited to internet connections, stationery, printing, copying, etc,
- Cost of pilot projects requiring small items to be purchased to assess feasibility and sustainability before filing for fund requests and rolling-out to the whole community,
- Supporting small scale projects,
- Additional funding added to funding received through grant requests,
- Supporting initial set-up of a project for activities that need to be performed before grant requests can be done.

Example of small scale projects that can be conducted through in-kind/cash* donations:

- provision of books for a library project;
- provision of a computer for a library project;
- acquisition of stationery items to roll-out an educational project in schools;
- hiring of a professional for a day to present alternative activities such as hiking to youth experiencing alcohol and drug abuse issues;
- printing educational leaflets / boards to be distributed within the community;
- transport fees for community members when looking for support around their area;
- set-up of communication network (phone, internet) in isolated areas so that they can work on bigger project.

So in essence, like in every organisation, while funds are not all going for items for a project, they are still all going toward projects. Those also contribute to the local economy as all is spent in country, whether for visa, tolls or food and fuel and items for projects injecting more money in the country and working toward increased job sustainability.

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Can I receive a Tax Receipt?

Unfortunately at this time, “Bee the solution” will not be issuing Tax Receipt for donation received. This is not the answer that most of you would expect to see, and we want to explain briefly the reasons.

Tax receipt would only be applicable to those who pay taxes in France as we are a French-registered organisation.

To be able to issue Tax Receipts, an organisation has to be considered of “general interest” (d’intérêt général) and fits a number of criteria.

Organisations self-assess if they are of “general interest” based on the following criteria:

- be registered and operate in France (except for humanitarian organisations)
- be conducting actions in philanthropy, education, science, sport, humanitarian, social, familial or cultural activities
- have an impact on a large circle of people
- be not for profit and not conduct profitable activities

Furthermore, donations should be free of any services or compensations.

While we do think that we fit all criteria, as we are only starting activities, we do not feel that we have enough activities to justify of humanitarian status and will not at this time consider ourselves as fitting the definition.

Once we are more established, we will re-assess the situation and inform you accordingly.

If you are interested, more information is available at <http://www.recus-fiscaux.com/organismes-habilites> (French only)

How can I follow the activities of “Bee the solution”?

“Bee the solution” has a website and Facebook page. We will endeavour to post regular progress reports about activities being conducted on both media.

The website provides information about “Bee the solution”, its current, projected and past activities, forms, contacts, etc...

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