

Move by bamboo Foundation
Policy plan 2024-2026



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1. About us

Move by bamboo was founded through the initiative of Eric Asante, a Ghanaian entrepreneur and technician and the creative mind behind the mobility aids made from bamboo. Asante, a great optimist, has always aimed to positively impact the lives of others. His mission began when he saw young children walking long distances to school. This inspired him to build and donate bamboo bicycles. Later, he became aware of the great need for mobility aids for children with physical disabilities. He saw the children crawling over gravel paths in search of food. This motivated him to further explore what more he could do with bamboo, and so he began designing bamboo wheelchairs.

In 2017, Asante's path crossed with that of Marjelle, who was then a biomedical engineering student working with dr. Tuakli-Wosornu and her Sports Equity Lab. The lab collaborates closely with Raphael Botsyo and Maclean Dzidzienyo, two Ghanaian para-athletes and founders of the Go Get Dem Wheelchair Racing Club. Their organisation aims to improve the lives of disabled youth using sports. Through this connection with the Sports Equity Lab, Raphael and Maclean talked to Asante about the challenges they face, one of the most crucial being the lack of access to proper mobility aids such as wheelchairs. They explained that a wheelchair offers more than physical mobility alone – it gives self-confidence, freedom, fulfilment, and prospects.

At this point, everything came together. This first-hand experience of a problem for physically challenged individuals in Ghana – the lack of mobility aids – and Asante's dream to improve life of others using his talent of working with bamboo. Through a close cooperation, two functional wheelchair prototypes were developed. Today, the demand for bamboo aids is growing, not only for wheelchairs but also for walkers, crutches, and other necessities. Asante's dream of establishing his own workshop to further develop and produce bamboo mobility aids grew as well. The goal? To get people with physical disabilities moving, strengthening their self-reliance, and promoting their participation in society. This marks the beginning of the Move by bamboo foundation, now an international team of volunteers collaborating to realise our mission.

2. Vision, mission and strategy

Vision:

We envision a future where physically challenged people have unlimited access to mobility, providing them equal opportunities to utilise their talents and pursue their dreams.

Mission:

Our mission is to strengthen the self-reliance and societal participation of physically challenged people by providing them access to affordable and reliable mobility aids.

Strategy:

We support West African entrepreneurs and technicians in setting up and managing workshops in West Africa where bamboo mobility aids are developed, produced, and distributed.

- This involves using **locally** available materials, workers, entrepreneurs, and talent, as much as possible.
- We strive for optimal **sustainability** in the choice of materials, in developing final products, and in the organisation and financing of the foundation.
- The mobility aids are custom-made, **tailored** to the individual and the environment.

3. Objectives and activities

Statutory objective

The foundation aims to promote the mobility of individuals with disabilities, particularly focused on West Africa, but not limited to this, in the broadest sense of the word.

Statutory means to achieve the objective

The foundation aims to achieve this goal, among other things, by:

- a. supporting local workshops that produce (mobility) aids;
- b. organising (cultural) events, activities, and/or meetings;
- c. providing information about the foundation's activities, e.g. through the use of various available forms of media;
- d. collaborating with various relevant organisations and institutions;
- e. offering advice and/or guidance;
- f. performing or having performed all further actions that are in the broadest sense related to the aforementioned or that may be deemed beneficial, useful, and/or desirable by its board.

Activities

- We support a Ghanaian entrepreneur and engineer in establishing a foundation and building, organising, and managing a workshop in Ghana where bamboo mobility aids can be developed, produced, and distributed.
- We organise fundraising and support local fundraising in Ghana for the construction of the workshop in Ghana and for financing the necessary materials and labour for the production of mobility aids.
- We support the import of the necessary materials and parts for the workshop in Ghana.
- We support product development (of both current products and innovations) through international collaboration and connecting knowledge partners.
- We facilitate further knowledge exchange regarding organisational management and other necessities.
- We invest in sustainable relationships with stakeholders and in expanding our network, e.g. by being visible on social media and posting news on our website.
- We periodically reflect on the foundation's activities and results and adjust our goals if necessary to achieve our mission.
- We invest in the learning ability of the foundation by continuously broadening, deepening, and sharing our knowledge.

4. Fundraising

Fundraising

Move by bamboo Foundation will raise funds through periodic and one-time donations from individuals and/or companies, sponsorships, gifts, crowdfunding, grants, and collaborations with other foundations and organisations.

Sales

In the future, income generated from the activities undertaken by the foundation may also contribute to the foundation's revenues.

Communication

Transparent communication about the allocation of funds will take place through our website and annual reports, within 6 months after the end of the financial year. Due to the recent establishment date, there is an extended first financial year up to December 31st 2025.

5. Management of assets

Bank details

Account number: NL62 TRIO 0320 8831 67

Account name: Move by bamboo

Asset management

The assets of Move by bamboo Foundation are managed by the treasurer.

Disbursement policy

Disbursements are made in line with the objectives of Move by bamboo Foundation and are aimed at supporting the workshop and the development and production of mobility aids in Ghana. A small part of the income will be spent on the foundation's overhead costs, such as periodic bank account and website expenses.

Non-profit nature

As an ANBI foundation, Move by bamboo Foundation does not aim to make a profit and all proceeds are reinvested in the foundation. The foundation holds no more assets than reasonably necessary for the continuity of the anticipated activities in favour of its objective. However, it aims to maintain a healthy buffer to cover unexpected income shortfalls and to initiate new activities. Move by bamboo Foundation only supports workshops for mobility aids in West Africa that are organised as social enterprises without profit motive. The owners of the workshops and their employees must receive a reasonable income. All extra proceeds are reinvested in the social enterprise.

Destination of Liquidation Balance

Upon dissolution of the foundation, the balance will be allocated to an ANBI with a similar objective.

6. Board

Composition

The board consists of a chairperson, secretary, and treasurer.

The chairperson is Ms. Marjelle Fredie Scheffers, residing in Utrecht;

The secretary is Ms. Lieke Buijs, residing in Utrecht;

The treasurer is Mr. Douwe Oostinga, residing in Utrecht.

Meetings

The board meets at least four times a year, physically or online, for a board meeting. Minutes of these meetings are kept and stored.

Tasks and Responsibilities

The board is responsible for policy development, supervision of implementation, and the financial health of the foundation.

Policy

The board makes policy decisions for Move by bamboo Foundation based on the foundation's interests, both in the short and long term, and based on the goals and ambitions formulated in the articles of association and the policy plan. The board ensures that the policy plan and the formal annual reports are made public through the website.

Finances

The board is responsible for sound financial management. The tasks involved include:

- Preparing an annual budget;
- Approving and adopting the annual accounts annually;
- Managing the funds;
- Spending the funds and maintaining a financial buffer.

Interests

Board members of Move by bamboo Foundation have no (partial) interests outside the primary goals of the foundation. Board members have no activities outside Move by bamboo Foundation that may conflict with the interests of the foundation.

Compensation

Board members do not receive any remuneration for their board activities other than reimbursement for expenses incurred directly linked to a foundation objective.