In 2018, Terre des hommes (Tdh) teams helped more than 4.2 million children and members of their communities in more than 40 countries. 86% of our resources are allocated directly to our field projects, and therefore to the needs of children, in the fields of health, protection and emergencies. Our activities are funded by the generosity of the public in Switzerland and institutions. Inheritances and legacies play an important role in the implementation of these children's aid projects. They allow us to continue our work, to improve the living conditions of children and to give them hope for a better future.

Every child in the world has the right to a childhood. It’s that simple.

Your last gift will be the greatest.

«I want to be a doctor to save children with heart disease.»

The future of the world is in the hands of the children. Support tomorrow’s generation and think about children when writing your will.

More info: www.tdh.ch/legacies
A will for life: a lasting commitment to solidarity

By nominating Terre des hommes (Tdh) as your heir or beneficiary, you are choosing to support the future of the most vulnerable children now and for generations to come.

Why make a will?

Thinking about your estate means deciding what you will leave to your loved ones and to the causes you hold dear after your death. A will allows you to formalise your last wishes and clearly set out how to distribute your assets. It is a way of perpetuating your wishes and conveying your values.

What can I bequeath?

A person’s estate includes everything they leave behind: their property, in other words all their assets, such as savings, securities, valuables, furniture, property funds, life insurance, etc.; but also their liabilities, for example mortgages, taxes and other debts; as well as any costs arising from their death (funeral expenses, etc.).

Who can inherit?

If you do not draw up a will or an inheritance contract, your assets will be distributed according to the legal order of succession. In certain circumstances, some of your estate may go to the state. With a will, you can structure your estate according to your wishes by assigning the disposable portion to people or organisations you care about, such as Tdh. We will then ensure that the share you entrust to us is put towards the children we help, according to your wishes.

What is the difference between an inheritance and a legacy?

You can nominate a person or an organisation to be an heir or beneficiary. Heirs share both the assets and liabilities of the estate, in other words, the property, but also the debts, both distributed among the heirs according to quotas. A beneficiary only receives one or more assets (for example, a sum of money or a particular object).

How do I write a will?

A handwritten will must contain the date and must be written and signed in the testator’s own hand from beginning to end. A will can be changed at any time and as often as you wish. However, to avoid any misunderstandings, it is preferable to rewrite it completely, specifying that it revokes all previous wills.

How do I change my will?

A will can be changed at any time and as often as you wish. However, to avoid any misunderstandings, it is preferable to rewrite it completely, specifying that it revokes all previous wills.

What about inheritance tax?

In Switzerland, inheritance or gift tax is levied by the cantons or communes. Being a foundation recognised as being in the public interest, Tdh is exempt from inheritance tax.

How do I support the Tdh Foundation – Child Relief?

If you wish to support children and the work of Tdh in your will, you have several options:

- Set up Tdh as the sole or co-heir;
- Leave a legacy for Tdh (for example a certain amount of money, property or valuables of any kind);
- Designate Tdh as the beneficiary of your life insurance policy.

“On several occasions I had the opportunity to experience how many children of this world live in poverty, without any chance of a worthy future. With a legacy I would like to make a contribution beyond my death to alleviate the misery of some of them.”

Dora Mastroi
Tdh legator and member of the Volunteer Group of Basel

Will calculator and disposable portion

Our tool can give you an immediate result on the status of your estate. It will only take a few minutes to work out your inheritance situation, with or without a will, and your disposable portion.

To test on: www.tdh.ch/legacies

We will assist you with your plans and guarantee discretion and confidentiality.