

Most popular charities today

People in need are often overlooked by society and governments, which is why charities play a crucial role in bridging the gap • and offer essential resources to assist the most vulnerable.

Save the Children > Founded in England in 1919 in response to the terrible suffering caused by World War I, this independent organisation is specifically dedicated to the welfare of children. **1.** Save the Children operates in every continent to help children and their families recover from disasters and conflicts. Volunteers help organise fundraising events or work in charity shops.



Oxfam > Oxfam stands for the “Oxford Committee for Famine • Relief •”, an organisation founded in Oxford in 1942 to provide relief to people suffering from hunger due to food shortage •

during WWII. **2.** Today, Oxfam includes 21 non-governmental organisations advocating • for human rights, climate protection, and gender equality. They operate together in over 80 countries to end the injustice that leads to poverty around the globe. Oxfam charity shops (over 500 just in the UK) represent a vital source of funds for all their humanitarian activities. Volunteers sort and sell donated clothes, shoes, and other items to raise money for their mission.

British Heart Foundation

> The British Heart Foundation (BHF) has become one of the largest and best-known charities in the UK. **3.** A major part of their job also consists in promoting awareness about the importance of living a heart-healthy lifestyle through public campaigns. BHF's efforts have contributed to reducing deaths from cardiovascular disease in the UK by more than half.



WWF > The World Wildlife Fund is a non-governmental organisation (NGO) established in 1961. Their mission is to safeguard endangered wildlife and protect natural habitats and ecosystems. The WWF has reached over 5 million

supporters around the globe, making it one of the largest conservation organisations. **4.** The well-known WWF's logo, a black and white panda, was inspired by Chi-Chi, a giant panda that arrived at London Zoo from Beijing in 1961, just the same year the organisation was founded.

Doctors Without Borders > This organisation was founded in 1979 in France by a group of doctors and journalists and was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1999. **5.** All volunteers have to complete a course before participating in a humanitarian mission, which generally lasts about six months. Doctors Without Borders teams have recently been engaged in places like Palestine, Haiti, and Ukraine, where ongoing conflicts have led to increasing humanitarian needs.



glossary

to advocate: *promuovere, sostenere*

to bridge the gap: *tamponare il problema*

famine: *carestia*
relief: *soccorso, sollievo*
shortage: *carenza, scarsità*

The National Trust > The National Trust is a charity that protects and manages historic places and green spaces in England, Wales, and Northern Ireland. It is the largest conservation charity in Europe.

6. through a variety of sources, including donations, property income, grants from central and local government, lotteries, and membership fees.



1 READING Read the text above and choose the best sentence to complete it.

- a They provide medical care in areas impacted by war, natural disasters, and epidemics.
- b They promote sustainability by working to reduce environmental impact and pushing for action against climate change.
- c Their work aims to protect children from harm and ensure they have access to education and healthcare.
- d They work to raise money for medical research related to heart and circulatory disease.
- e They receive funds, historic houses, castles, archaeological sites, parks, and natural reserves
- f When the war was over, they expanded their charitable activities to assist refugees and homeless people.

2 SPEAKING Discuss the following points with your classmates.

- Which charity you might decide to volunteer for or support
- Why you think it is important to do it
- What you would gain from that experience

3 READING VOCABULARY Choose the best option to complete the text.

Changing Lives with Water

In 80% of impoverished countries, girls and women are compelled to spend hours each day searching for water. The water they manage to find is often **1** and poses health risks. WaterAid, a non-profit organisation based in the UK, is dedicated to **2** the lives of women and girls in these countries by providing access to clean water. Thanks to the generosity of countless donors, 28.8 million people now have access to drinking water. Having a water source **3** to home allows girls and women to **4** travelling long distances for water, giving them more time for other important activities. Access to clean water for drinking and washing contributes to their health and happiness. Additionally, WaterAid promotes hygiene **5** in communities and schools, benefiting 47,500 individuals worldwide.

Adapted from: <https://www.wateraid.org/uk/what-we-do/water>

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| 1 a. contaminated | b. safe |
| c. fresh | d. unpolluted |
| 2 a. increasing | b. harming |
| c. improving | d. correcting |
| 3 a. nearby | b. near |
| c. close | d. closed |
| 4 a. prevent | b. avoid |
| c. forbid | d. help |
| 5 a. disciplines | b. methods |
| c. ways | d. practices |