



GIVING HAND

CHARITY SELECTION CHECKLIST

This handy checklist can help you decide which charity is worthy of your time and money.

Use good judgment and perform due diligence when choosing charities to support.

- Understand the group's mission. Do the charitable organization's projects help solve the problem you want to address?
- Visit the charity's website and gauge its level of transparency. Transparent organizations will also feature on their website annual reports and tax information.
- Ask for reports, mission statements, a summary of the annual accomplishment, and a roadmap of the future. If the charity doesn't produce an annual report, ask for copies of its financial statements and auditor's report.
- Seek the best performers. Look for charities that have been evaluated by an independent entity and have shown a commitment to excellence and integrity.
- If you want to claim a charitable contribution on your tax returns, your donation must be made to a U.S.-registered charity that has tax-exempt status. Ensure the group is tax-exempt if that is important to you.
- Ensure their legitimacy. Make sure the charity is registered to do business in the country in which it works.
- Ask the charity for the names of its leadership, board of directors, officers, and executive staff. Check the for details as to the quality of the leadership and to make sure they are not designated or affiliated with terrorists.
- Beware of country sanctions and how they might affect your contribution. If in doubt, consult an attorney knowledgeable in the laws and regulations governing contributions to foreign organizations.
- Be careful with wire transfers. If transferring funds to a bank account overseas, verify that thereceiving bank is a legitimate bank and that it is not on a sanctions list.