

## Policy for selection of child for sponsorship

The policy for selection of new child for sponsorship programme has to follow the overall objective of Children of Hope:

### Overall objective

To contribute to the education of coming generations in Kamuli District<sup>1</sup>. We wish to see the coming generations excel, become responsible citizens and contribute to the development of Uganda. The programme Children of Hope is focusing on the vulnerable children that need extended support to complete an education. We believe that all children have a right to education and that all children have potential. We identify vulnerable children from families that is often suffering from multidimensional poverty where the parent or the legal guardian is suffering from a chronic illness, is very poor, where either one or both parents are deceased or absent and/or the legal guardian is very old.

### Specific objectives

- To provide quality primary school education to vulnerable children who live maximum five kilometers from the school
- To ensure that vulnerable children receive quality Health Checks and treatment according to the Health Checks
- To improve the welfare and social development of the child
- To ensure positive development of the welfare and social development of the family(legal guardian)

### Basic criteria for potential new sponsor child

- CoH is looking to help and support vulnerable children to go school. We focus on children who are not in school and, so far, we only focus on nursery and primary school.
- Maximum distance from home to school: 5km.
- Vulnerable (in the meaning that the child is in an abnormal circumstance).
  - The child is Orphan (both parents are dead or missing) Child living with guardian.
  - And/or the Child is sick (HIV/Aids or other critical disease)
  - And/or the Parents are old and sick (HIV/Aids or other critical disease)
- We focus on the age 3-8 years because there is a better chance to actually help them develop properly.
- In special cases we take on children up to the age of 10 years.
- In very special cases, maybe special needs or the like, we consider any child. Here probably we would try to find other possible help, schools for special needs, handicap organizations or the like. (Our staff will not abandon any child they might see in the villages. if we witness abuse and/or maltreatment, we will approach the family and request the family to change behavior towards the child(s). If things don't change we will inform the authorities on the matter).
- All parties must be willing: Does the child want to go to school!? Does the parent or guardian want the child to go to school!?
- We place any child in the school according to their educational level (maybe they can't even read) of understanding, not according to age.

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<sup>1</sup> When Kamuli District is mentioned in this policy it refers to the borders of Kamuli District as they were in the year 2007.

**Steps in the process of selecting a child**

1. Follow the Child Selection Template.
2. Verify the information given (consult LC1, neighbors, Neighborhood Assembly's in the village or sub county level and/or maybe other).
3. Sensitize the child and family about their responsibilities of this arrangement. Parent or guardian is to support and encourage. The child has to want to acquire knowledge and continually improve their skills. Does the parent or guardian understand and support this arrangement?
4. Motto: When in doubt – don't! ... Bring the matter to the staff meeting for guidance and sharing!
5. Write a recommendation to CoH Administrator based on the above information.
6. Get approval by the CoH Administrator and/or the team.
7. Fill in the data for the baseline information in the Child Selection Template.
8. Contact the school for registration

**What happens when Sponsored children don't show up after Term break:**

1. First week we wait! (In Uganda it takes time before children get started again after term break)  
Week 2, CoH Social Worker visits home to see what is going on.  
If the child, for some reason, is not coming back to the school the sponsorship ends.
2. CoH and school administration/management writes report explaining the situation and this report is presented to the sponsor.
3. The sponsor is left with 2 options:
  1. Sponsor another child
  2. End sponsorship.

**Appendix**

- a) Child Selection Template