

Simba Club

Frequently Asked Questions

How does Village Africa select the children for child sponsorship?

Village Africa's Primary School Child Sponsorship Scheme is currently working with Yamba, Milingano and Kwembalazi primary schools in the West Usambara mountains of Tanzania. Village Africa selects the children by using a poverty criterion. Orphans and single parent children are prioritised. The children in the area in which Village Africa is working, live in dire poverty. They have little food, do not have access to clean water, have very few clothes or possessions and may have to walk several hours to get to school.

How much does it cost?

It only costs £15 a month per child. Village Africa bases this figure on the fact that you will be committing for at least a year.

What does my money buy?

50% of your £15 donation will go towards sponsoring an individual child and will buy items including:

- Uniform
- School bag
- Exercise books, pen/pencils, mathematical set and other school stationery
- Mosquito net
- Hygiene kit
- Bucket
- Blanket
- Sweater
- Flip flops
- Hoe.

50% of your £15 donation will go towards the Village Africa Community Fund that will benefit all the children in the local community. The 50% split is approximate due to significant exchange rate fluctuations and inflation in Tanzania.

Unless the wish to sponsor more than one child is specified, surplus funds will be put into the Village Africa Community Fund to benefit the whole community.

The reason that Village Africa has a Community Fund is that we have recognised that, to bring long lasting improvements to children's lives, we need to address the needs of the wider community. Before we begin a project, we talk to community leaders and parents and listen to the needs. Then together we plan what would most benefit all the children in that community. There is currently a great need for classrooms and school toilets.

Transport costs (eg bringing the children's gifts and building materials to the village) are very high due to the remote setting. 10% is therefore set aside for transport and administration in Tanzania.

What do I receive?

After signing up you will receive a photo and description of the child you are sponsoring and a letter or drawing from him/her. Please bear in mind this information will be sent to you from Tanzania so it may take a month or more to reach you.

Mid-year you will receive a letter or a drawing from your child.

At the end of the year you will receive a progress report, an up-to-date photo and a letter or drawing from your child.

May I write to the child I sponsor?

Yes of course. We ask that letters are written in very simple English and are no longer than 100-200 words.

Letters should be addressed to:

[Name of child]
c/o Caroline Johnston
Child Sponsorship
Village Africa
PO Box 5356
Tanga
Tanzania

Please remember that even if you write regularly, the children will only be able to reply to you twice yearly, as they would not otherwise be able to afford the postage.

Can I send presents to the child I sponsor?

This is not encouraged as the post office charges to receive parcels.

How old are the pupils and how many years do they study at primary school?

Primary school pupils are normally 4 - 13 years old. They study in kindergarten for three years and then Standard 1 - Standard 7. Pupils need to pass Standard 7 with high grades to be allocated a place at secondary school.

How long will my sponsorship last?

Village Africa would like you to commit to sponsoring your child for as long as possible. Of course the best scenario would be to sponsor the pupil until he/she leaves primary school. When the child does leave, there is no reason why you cannot sponsor a new child. Although you are not obligated to do so, Village Africa asks that you commit for at least a year so that the child can fully benefit from your sponsorship money.

What if my circumstances change and I no longer wish to be a sponsor?

If your circumstances change and you wish to withdraw your sponsorship, please email moe@villageafrica.org.uk to inform us that you are no longer able to sponsor your child. This is necessary so that we can work on finding another sponsor for the pupil as soon as possible. Your monthly standing order will need to be cancelled by yourself at your own bank. We will confirm receipt of your email.