



# Chikumbuso Sponsorship Program

## FAQ

### How does the sponsorship system work?

*Gertrude Banda, president of Chikumbuso, founder and teacher at the Chikumbuso Community School first identifies amongst the children in our school the neediest orphans. Once the child has been selected the committee of widows from the community accepts or rejects the choice. As the children attend the school (which is free for them) all the Chikumbuso staff can regularly check on the kids' evolution.*

*The Full Sponsorship we propose ensures the child will have access to education from pre-school to grade 12. At the beginning, the child receives a mattress, a blanket and a basin. The sponsorship also covers a monthly allowance of food which includes one bag (25 kg) of mealie meal (maize flour which is a Zambian staple), 1 bottle of oil, 1 kg sugar and some soap. The food is a blessing for the kid but represents also a relief for the hosting family of this child.*

*Within the sponsorship budget we have included a health scheme card for each child which gives them access to basic treatment at the local clinics.*

## **Can we choose the child we sponsor?**

*If you happen to visit Chikumbuso, you may get attached to a child you had a special experience with, in this case, unless the child is already sponsored, we will certainly connect you to this very specific child. With the distance, this magnetic experience cannot happen; this is why we will propose to you a few children to pick from. These children will have been selected according to their particular needs, as we try to prioritize the kids who are the most deprived.*

## **What information will I receive from the orphan I sponsor; can we communicate with him, or even send him gifts?**

### **Does the child know we are sponsoring him?**

*As soon as the sponsorship starts the child is informed of the great news and directly starts receiving his monthly food allowance. We tell him the information we have on his sponsor, therefore feel free to send pictures or any other information in order to explain who you are and where you come from.*

*All correspondence from the sponsors can easily be delivered to the child as he reaches school, this may include packages. Dolls, games, ribbons, hair things, lip gloss, backpacks, sweatshirts, school fun stuff... etc. The children love getting gifts. As you can imagine, packages are a big hit. It is very rare for these children to get spoiled, so it is something we can't keep away from them! The children will write letters in return.*

*Our address in Zambia is the following:*      **Chikumbuso Women and Orphan project - PO box 31934, Lusaka, ZAMBIA**

### **How much does it cost to sponsor a child?**

*The yearly contribution to sponsor a child is 450 US dollars per year, (amount which can be paid per month as well – 40 US dollars).*

## How is the sponsorship money spent? What percentage of my donation goes to the child and what goes to overhead?

*Less than four percent of the total amount is used to pay a few administrative costs and the salary of one widow at Chikumbuso who supervises all sponsorship matters, takes care of the food distribution every month and the school supply distribution every term. She also administrates as much as possible the correspondence between the kids and their sponsors.*

FULL Sponsorship	Month 1	Month 2	Month 3	Month 4	Month 5	Month 6	Month 7	Month 8	Month 9	Month 10	Month 11	Month 12	Annual cost	USD	%
Shoes	6,667	6,667	6,667	6,667	6,667	6,667	6,667	6,667	6,667	6,667	6,667	6,667	ZMK 80,000	\$18	3.93%
Health scheme cards	1,625	1,625	1,625	1,625	1,625	1,625	1,625	1,625	1,625	1,625	1,625	1,625	ZMK 19,500	\$4	0.96%
Sponsorship Uniforms*	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500	ZMK 30,000	\$7	1.48%
Sponsorship School Fees**	79,167	79,167	79,167	79,167	79,167	79,167	79,167	79,167	79,167	79,167	79,167	79,167	ZMK 950,000	\$211	46.71%
Sponsorship Umbrellas	1,250	1,250	1,250	1,250	1,250	1,250	1,250	1,250	1,250	1,250	1,250	1,250	ZMK 15,000	\$3	0.74%
Administrative costs	5,833	5,833	5,833	5,833	5,833	5,833	5,833	5,833	5,833	5,833	5,833	5,833	ZMK 70,000	\$16	3.44%
Sponsorship Food	70,000	70,000	70,000	70,000	70,000	70,000	70,000	70,000	70,000	70,000	70,000	70,000	ZMK 840,000	\$187	41.30%
Sponsorship Blankets ***	769	769	769	769	769	769	769	769	769	769	769	769	ZMK 9,231	\$2	0.45%
Sponsorship Basins ***	64	64	64	64	64	64	64	64	64	64	64	64	ZMK 769	\$0	0.04%
Sponsorship Mattresses ***	1,603	1,603	1,603	1,603	1,603	1,603	1,603	1,603	1,603	1,603	1,603	1,603	ZMK 19,231	\$4	0.95%
Total Expenses Kwachas	169,478	169,478	169,478	169,478	169,478	169,478	169,478	169,478	169,478	169,478	169,478	169,478	ZMK 2,033,731	\$452	100.0%
Total Expenses US Dollars	\$38	\$38	\$38	\$38	\$38	\$38	\$38	\$38	\$38	\$38	\$38	\$38	\$452		

\* The kids at Chikumbuso do not need uniforms, the amount stated enables us to save the money from pre-school for the uniforms they will need from 6th grade on

\*\* Average between 6 years of Chikumbuso school (1,000,000 ZMK/year) and high school grade 6 to 9 (675,000 ZMK ) and grade 10 to 12 (1,250,000 ZMK)

\*\*\* A blanket, a basin and a mattress are only given to the child at the beginning of the sponsorship

## How can I be sure that my gift is actually benefiting my child?

*Although you are sponsoring one specific child, a portion of the sponsorship money does benefit the entire school as we include in the sponsorship budget an amount for the school fees of our Chikumbuso community school. Our hope is to find sponsors for every child but while it is not the case, we manage to keep our community school open to many children in need of education thanks to the microenterprise project complementing the school project.*

## **Will this cost rise as the child grows up?**

*If the cost of sponsorship has to rise an announcement will be made to the donors. The choice will then reside with the donors to carry on paying their existing rate, or adapt to the new costs to help us maintain the same level of quality sponsorship.*

## **I want to sponsor a child, what should I do?**

1. Write to [chikumbusoproject@yahoo.com](mailto:chikumbusoproject@yahoo.com) and stipulate your wish to sponsor a child.
2. If it is important to you, you may specify the age and gender of the child.
3. We will contact you with the picture and bio of the child you will sponsor.
4. If you are in agreement you can send your check in immediately to the following address:

**Friends of Chikumbuso**

**350B Cossaduck Hill Rd**

**North Stonington, CT 06359.**

*Please make checks payable to Friends of Chikumbuso and the name of the grandmother written in the memo*

## **Are contributions to Chikumbuso tax deductible?**

*In the United States, yes. Now that we are a 501c3 organization, you can make out your check to:*

**Friends of Chikumbuso, 350B Cossaduck Hill Rd, North Stonington, CT 06359.**

*We would love to send you a tax receipt for your donation as soon as we receive it.*

### **What is their community and school like? What is their living situation?**

*Chikumbuso resides in the middle of a high density area called Ng'ombe with approximately 10000 people. Most of those living in Ng'ombe are struggling to get by in life, doing what they can to care for their families. Many families have taken in other family members children in an effort to alleviate the burden of orphans on society. Chikumbuso center is a haven for those who belong at the center. We offer a safe place to spend the day, have lunch, and find a community of friends.*

### **What access do the children have to health and dental care? Do they have immunizations?**

*Most all of the children in Ng'ombe attend the under five clinics where they are given free immunizations (BCG, Tuberculosis, Polio, Diphtheria, Whooping Cough, Tetanus, Hib, Hepatitis B & Measles and Vitamin A Supplements) and their health and weights are checked.*

*Chikumbuso makes every effort to get local clinics to come by and test the children for the HIV virus, eye tests, and dental checkups.*

### **Does sponsoring a child create bad feelings among other children who do not yet have sponsors? What about siblings?**

*Sponsoring a child brings help not only to that specific child but also to the rest of his family as the food he receives every month is brought back by the child to his home. In fact, due to this aspect, we try to spread the sponsorships as much as possible to make sure different families in the school can benefit from this system. It is then a rare case that we have two children of the same family sponsored (unless this particular request is made by the sponsor or, the number of siblings in this specific family clearly goes over the average number of kids per family).*

*As far as the other non sponsored kids are concerned, the access to our school is always free for them, which remains a big advantage. At Christmas and Easter, thanks to generous donors, we are usually able to provide gifts for all the children at Chikumbuso. Thanks to all these facts, we believe the bad feelings between the children are close to inexistant, therefore we encourage the sponsors to get in touch regularly with their sponsored child.*