



## CHILD SPONSORSHIP PROGRAMME



**From just £25 a month you can give a vulnerable Kenyan child the chance in life they deserve**

### **Who we are...**

Action for Children in Conflict, Kenya aims to alleviate the suffering of children and their families affected by various forms of conflict or crisis, be it war, famine, poverty, illness, persecution or simply neglect. Our current activities focus on the rehabilitation and long-term reintegration of street and vulnerable children in Kenya. We aim to provide these children, their families and the wider community with the skills and knowledge they need to solve their own problems and to take responsibility for their own development.

We work in Kenya in a town called Thika, 40 km northeast of Nairobi. Once at the centre of Kenya's industrial heartland, the economic downturn and the decline of the textile industry hit Thika hard, forcing many people into unemployment. This caused the growth of slums on the outskirts of Thika town, the largest being Kiandutu, which is today home to around 60,000 people. Kiandutu has no health services, poor sanitation and a high level of violence, crime, family breakdown, hunger and disease.

## How does Child Sponsorship work?

As one of our child sponsors, you will help one of the most vulnerable former street children in Thika to go back to school. Unfortunately the quality of free primary education remains very low in poor schools and secondary education continues to be expensive and unaffordable for many. Our child sponsorship programme directly funds school fees and expenses for the identified child. Once a child has undergone rehabilitation through our programme, we are committed, with your support, to ensuring each and every child gets the best possible chance at a good education. This is their only hope of a positive, successful future where they will be able to support their own families when older.



## What services does Action for Children in Conflict provide?

- Interim Care Centre for Street Children (ICC)
- Outreach Programmes for Vulnerable Children (OPVC)
  - Education Empowerment (School Drop Out Prevention Project, Non Formal Education for out of school youth etc.)
  - Economic Empowerment (Microfinance & Into Work Programme)
- Kenya Children's Legal Aid Work (KCLAW)
- School Holiday Programme
- School Feeding Programme

## Our success...

Over 65% of the children we have worked with are already reunited with their families and have returned to full-time education or have begun skills training or work. Although our aim is for families not to be dependent on outside help, we have learnt that achieving this takes time. Often small businesses struggle to create enough profit to feed the family and save for the next year's set of school uniforms. Or children find the discipline of school hard to take after the freedom of street life, and go back to spending time on the street. Our approach is to accept these setbacks and to continue to strive to find a lasting solution with the family.



## Getting you involved... the Child Sponsorship scheme



We are inviting you to become part of this growing success story with us, by making a regular contribution to our sponsorship programme.

### **The cost of child sponsorship**

The cost of sponsoring a child is from just £25 a month, but **the results this can achieve are priceless.**

Your money will become part of a specific fund that will be used to reintegrate the street children we work with. Obviously children's specific needs will vary from case to case, but your money will pay for essential items that will include the following:

- School Fees, registration fees, exam fees
- School uniform and school expenses for former street children
- Transport costs, allowing the child to return home during the school holidays
- Termly visits from AfCiC's Education Officer to ensure your sponsored child is progressing well.

School fees can vary according to the child's individual needs and the amount you, as a sponsor, can manage to give. The current cost for a private day primary school is around £300/\$500 per year and for a boarding secondary school is around £600/\$1000. The situation of some children requires that they attend boarding school, as they have nowhere else to go.

## Frequently Asked Questions (F.A.Q.s)

### What will I receive when I sign up to be a sponsor?

- Photo and profile of your sponsored child
- Information about the way AfCiC is working in the community
- Details about how sponsorship money is spent on your individual child
- Updates on the child's progress three times a year
- Letters from your child during the school holidays
- A copy of your child's school reports
- Termly Child Sponsorship Newsletter
- Direct contact with the Volunteer Sponsorship Co-Ordinator in Kenya

### Can I choose the child I sponsor?

If you feel strongly that you want to support an orphan, or a child with a disability etc., we will try to match you accordingly. However it is more helpful if you allow us to link you with the child that is in greatest need of your support.

### Why should I sponsor a child through AfCiC?

Action for Children in Conflict is a small organisation with a very personal approach. We guarantee your payment will be used entirely and uniquely to support the family with whom you are linked. We want you to become not only donors, but partners with us. In our updates we will tell you about the local situation, give you background information and introduce you to the local staff members who work skilfully and patiently with the families and children.

You will have direct contact with the Volunteer Sponsorship Co-Ordinator in Kenya who will answer any questions you may have at any time. You can also speak directly to the Director if you would like and if you plan a holiday or visit to Kenya you are very welcome to visit and see our programmes and the difference that your money is making.

### How will my money be spent?

All of your sponsorship money will be used to support the child with whom you are linked, who

will be identified through our Street Children Programme. None of your money will be used for administration. As stated overleaf, your money will be used to pay for items such as:

- School fees, registration fees, exam fees
- School uniform and school expenses for former street children
- Transport costs, allowing the child to return home during the school holidays
- Termly visits from AfCiC's Education Officer to ensure your sponsored child is progressing well.

### How do I pay?

#### Standing Order

If you would like to pay by setting up a monthly standing order form please use the enclosed form. Please note we can only accept standing orders in GBP. For other currencies please see below.

#### Annual Cheque

You can pay by annual cheque in any currency. Please just add a covering note explaining the purpose of the cheque, your contact details and gift aiding the amount (if applicable). If you are donating in a currency other than GBP (for example the EURO or US\$ we would ask you to send cheques directly to our Kenyan address: Action for Children in Conflict, PO BOX 130, Thika, Kenya (this saves enormously on bank charges).

### What happens if I wish to cancel my sponsorship?

We understand that people's circumstances change. You can stop your sponsorship at any time. To help us provide continuity of care to the families we would be grateful if you let us know if you need to do this as soon as possible.

### Can I write to my sponsored child?

We are very happy for you to send letters to your sponsored family by emailing them to the Volunteer Sponsorship Co-Ordinator at [sponsorship@actionchildren.org](mailto:sponsorship@actionchildren.org) or sending them to AfCiC, PO Box 130, Thika, Kenya. Your sponsored child will be aware that they are being sponsored and who by and will be very interested to know more about their sponsor. To ensure the communications are suitable and comply with our own Child Protection Policy, an

AfCiC staff member will check the content of the letter before forwarding to the child. We hope you understand that we have a duty of care towards the children and families we support which requires us to do this.

**Can I send gifts/ photographs to my sponsored child?**

Small educational gifts and photographs are very welcome but please note that sending items to Kenya can often incur heavy costs both to AfCiC Kenya and yourself. It may be more appropriate to send the money with a specific request to AfCiC to purchase the items on your behalf. If you have any questions about this you can contact [sponsorship@actionchildren.org](mailto:sponsorship@actionchildren.org).

**Can we visit the programmes? Can we meet the child we sponsor?**

We would be delighted for you to come and see our work in Kenya and to meet the people you are supporting. If you are going to be in Kenya and wish to visit your sponsored child and/or our programmes please contact the AfCiC Kenya office to make arrangements ([Kenya@actionchildren.org](mailto:Kenya@actionchildren.org)).

**How long will the sponsorship continue?**

If you are sponsoring a child at primary school, the length of sponsorship is dependant upon the class the child is currently in when you commence sponsorship. Primary school in Kenya is 8 years and, ideally, we would like you to sponsor a child under they have completed Standard 8. If you then wish to continue sponsoring the child to secondary school, this would be a further four years. i.e. standard 3 child needs 6 years of support to complete primary and 10 if you wish to support them through secondary school.

If you are sponsoring one of our older children to go on to secondary school, we would kindly request that you commit to four years of sponsorship.

*Thank you from AfCiC for all of your support*

