

# help2kids

## Education Sponsorship Concept Malawi



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## Our Organization

### 1 Who we are

help2kids was founded on 6 June 2009 in Switzerland. We are a young and dynamic organization with aid projects located in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania and Lilongwe, Malawi. help2kids is a politically and religiously independent association and is an officially registered charity in Switzerland, Tanzania, and Malawi. The help2kids association board is comprised of 8-12 members: a president, a vice president, and 6-10 other board members. Additionally, a competent team actively supports the board which includes specialists in marketing, public relations, information technology, and fundraising.

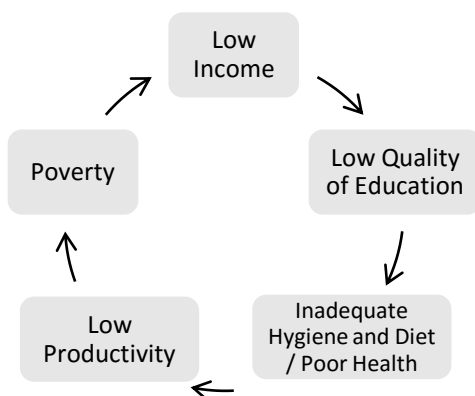
In Africa, our team comprises several international managers and approx. 50 local staff members. Each manager supervises at least one aid project. In each country a Field Manager acts as director and oversees all activities of help2kids in the respective country.

The current organizational structure and personal profiles can be found on our website:

<http://www.help2kids.org/organization>.

### 2 What we do

We help orphans by providing food, shelter, education, and lots of love at our Children's Home. We also help the community by providing primary school education and medical support free of charge. All our aid projects focus on youth in acute crisis situations. These crisis situations may be family, health, or financial related. With our projects we aim to support children in such difficult situations / environments so that they can return to or continue with their path of education and become independent, sustainable and productive members of society. Education is of the utmost importance to end the vicious cycle of poverty.



The vicious cycle of poverty is a seemingly endless continuation of poverty. Once a person or community falls below a certain level of resourcefulness, a chain of events starts to occur that tends to perpetuate the situation: progressively lower levels of education and training leading to lack of employment opportunities, leading to criminal activity (such as sale of illegal drugs) for survival, leading to addiction, shattered health, early death, and breakup of family, leading to even bleaker future for the next generation ... and so on.

## *Education System in Malawi*

### **1 Nursery School**

While the Malawi Ministry of Education encourages nursery school education, it lacks the financial resources to create and run public nursery schools. Thus, all nursery schools are privately owned by community-based organizations, churches, NGOs or interested individuals. Most urban areas do have organized nursery schools, but many rural villages do not. To defray running costs, parents usually must pay school fees. Even small fees may make early education inaccessible to impoverished families.

### **2 Primary School**

Malawi introduced free primary school education in 1994, which has resulted in extremely overcrowded classrooms, low teacher to student ratios, low teacher morale and attendance, and a lack of resources. Due to poor results in government-run schools, many families who can afford to do so send their children to private schools instead.

Although eight years of primary school is compulsory, it is rarely enforced in areas where subsistence agriculture is the way of life, and children are often absent from school during planting and harvesting. Girls especially face barriers as their education is less valued, they have an unequal share of household chores, and early marriage and pregnancy often force them to drop out at higher rates than their male peers.

In government-run schools, children are taught in their local language in standards 1-4, and in English in standards 5-8. In standard 8, students must pass national Primary School Leaving Certificate examinations in order to access secondary school. In a rural village like Lifuwu, only 10% of all students proceed to secondary school each year. Since most students begin working or get married after primary school, the curriculum stresses agriculture and practical training rather than preparation for secondary school.

### **3 Secondary School**

Students are selected for different secondary schools by the Ministry of Education, based upon results from the standard 8 Primary School Leaving Certificate examinations. The students with the highest academic performance are selected for government boarding schools, while those with lower results are placed at government day schools. Private secondary schools also offer boarding or day options for students who can afford to pay the higher cost. School fees range depending upon the school, but even relatively lower-priced school fees at day schools may be prohibitive for many parents. Many of Malawi's bright but impoverished students rely on bursaries or sponsorships in order to attend secondary school. After four years of secondary school education, form 4 students must pass national examinations to receive their Malawi School Certificate of Education, which along with adequate points, allows them to access university education.

### **4 University and other tertiary education**

There are only a handful of universities in Malawi, so selection is highly competitive. The government partially sponsors some students, and scholarships are also available for some. In addition to universities, students may also go to teacher training colleges or technical colleges to further their education. A certificate, which enables the student to become a teacher or nurse, is two years of study, while a bachelor's degree is four or five years.

## *Vision*

Through the **help2kids** Education Sponsorship Program, we provide students in Tanzania and Malawi the ability to further their education. Many of our students come from challenging backgrounds and without financial support, their educational career would stop after completing primary school. This program allows children to continue their education in secondary school and ultimately become well-rounded members of their society. We believe in the power of education and its ability to increase opportunities.

Students in our Education Sponsorship Program are chosen based on their academic results throughout their last year of primary school and upon their final examination. The program covers necessities such as school fees, uniforms, text books and school supplies, however we also provide school meals and healthcare (in Tanzania). We want to ensure our students' physical and mental well-being while enrolled in our program. **help2kids** is seeking long-term sponsors who are able to academically support a child until he/she has completed their secondary education.

## *Selection Process*

The students are selected based upon academic merit, not upon a personal relationship or favoritism. The students are being rated by their internal testing results and final examination which gives us a good view over their academic achievements, their enthusiasm to learn and their high performance capability. After the national examination during their final year in primary school, the students who have passed the examination will then have the opportunity to be selected in our Education Sponsorship Program.

## *Support of Sponsored Students*

Once a child is sponsored through our Education Sponsorship Program, we are adamant on providing any needed support such as academic, emotional, and medical. Our programs in Malawi and Tanzania operate differently, however we meet with each child as often as possible. In Malawi, our sponsored students are spread throughout the district which allows us to only see them after each semester (every four months). In Tanzania, we are fortunate enough to meet with our sponsored students weekly, if not monthly. Our meetings with the sponsored students allow us to monitor their academic progress and assist with any other issues. Issues may vary from purchasing a new uniform to seeking medical attention. In Tanzania, we also offer English tutoring on the weekend. This provides our students with one-to-one encouragement and a place to study with other participants from the program.



## Sponsorship Package in Malawi

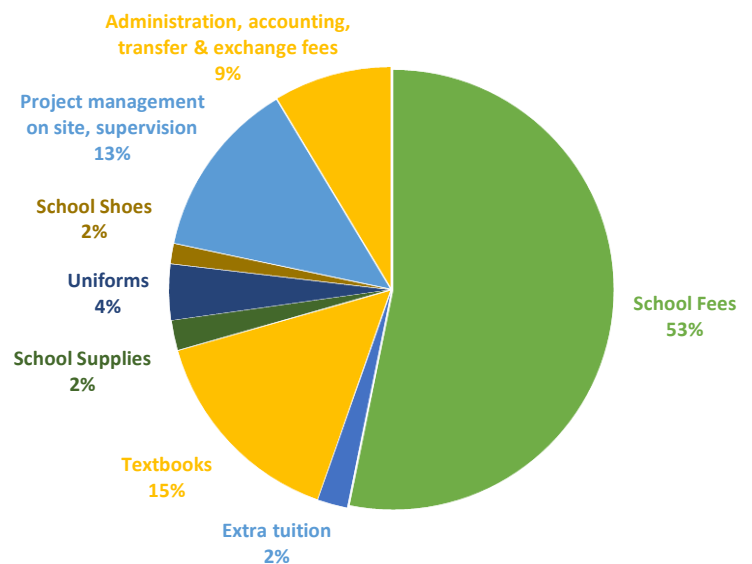
In general, the families of our students have almost no money available to invest in the education of their children. These children/students need a lot of financial and educational support in order to have a “fair” chance to successfully pass the exams on the secondary school level. Therefore, all of our students require a full sponsorship package that comprises sufficient services. **The full sponsorship package costs USD 32 per month.** The sponsorship package comprises the following:

### FULL SPONSORSHIP PACKAGE

- ✓ Payment of school fees
- ✓ Payment for national exams
- ✓ Payment for mock exams
- ✓ Payment for exam preparation classes or tutoring as needed
- ✓ Payment for textbooks
- ✓ Payment for school supplies
- ✓ Payment for uniforms
- ✓ Payment for school shoes
- ✓ Tuition during semester breaks
- ✓ Support of student (24/7 contact person), support meetings
- ✓ Project management and reporting to donors (regular update reports and additional communication on request)

**Costs: USD 32 per month**

### Cost breakdown



## How it works: The Sponsorship Process



**STEP 1** If you are interested in sponsoring a child through secondary school, please visit the following website <http://www.help2kids.org/en/ml-education-sponsorship-program-en/> or send us a message to [sponsorships@help2kids.org](mailto:sponsorships@help2kids.org). Please note that we expect a four-year commitment from all our sponsors to ensure the child's completion of secondary school. If at any point you do not wish to renew your sponsorship, we request that you give us at least three months' notice so that we can attempt to find a new sponsor for your child.

**STEP 2** After you have completed the online Sponsorship Form, our Sponsorship Coordinator will confirm your interest in sponsoring a child and will instruct you with further information.

**STEP 3** Please make your first payment as a new sponsor! Our Sponsorship Coordinator or Field Manager in Malawi will be able to answer any questions regarding your payment. Payments can be made by credit card or bank transfer. For credit card payments, please visit the following website <http://www.help2kids.org/en/donate>.

For payments by bank transfer, please find in the following the information of our donation bank account (for all currencies):

**Switzerland (all currencies)**

Beneficiary: help2kids, P.O. Box, 6301 Zug, Switzerland  
 Bank: Postfinance  
 Account No: 60-432538-4  
 IBAN: CH480900000604325384  
 SWIFT/BIC: POFICHBEXXX  
 Clearing number: 9000

**Germany (EUR)**

Beneficiary: help2kids Germany e.V., Invalidenstrasse 2,  
 66292 Riegelsberg, Germany  
 Bank: Volksbank Westliche Saar plus  
 IBAN: DE47591902003902400000  
 SWIFT/BIC: GENODE51SLS  
 Clearing number: 59190200

You can choose a payment schedule of your convenience (monthly, quarter yearly or annually). If you prefer you may also pay for all four years of secondary school at once.

**STEP 4** After your payment is received, we will send you a confirmation by e-mail and inform the respective child that you are their sponsor!

**STEP 5** You will receive frequent updates from the Field Manager by e-mail. The Field Manager is always available to answer your questions. Please let her know if you wish to have a direct contact to the student, if you wish to exchange letters or to make a personal visit.

## *Return to sponsor*

Sponsoring a student allows you to give the amazing gift of education. Through your generosity the student will be able to enhance their academic knowledge and give him/her a fair chance of a brighter future. Throughout your sponsored student's academic journey, you will receive:

- a **help2kids** thank you letter which can be used for tax purposes.
- A photo and short biography of the student will be sent to the sponsor in early September, after the student is selected
- Sponsors will also receive updates on student progress at the end of every term, 3 times a year.

## *Contact us*

If you have any questions regarding the Education Sponsorship Program or about your sponsored child, please feel free to contact: [sponsorships@help2kids.org](mailto:sponsorships@help2kids.org) or find further contact information on our website: <http://www.help2kids.org/en/contacts-en/>.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

