



Sponsors - FAQs

Some questions arise again and again in connection with sponsorships. In the following, we have tried to answer these questions comprehensively. In this way we hope to improve the mutual understanding between the children / families and their sponsors.

When does my sponsored child change schools, how does the school system in Uganda work?

The youngest sponsored children attend the school kindergarten (Nursery, internally divided into three classes), which is attached to the primary school, for a maximum of three years. Afterwards the seven-year primary school period (P1 - P7) begins, which girls and boys spend together at St. George's Primary School. The primary school concludes with a central examination. All students who pass this examination sufficiently well are then allowed to switch to secondary school (Secondary School S1-S6). The girls then attend St. Gertrude's and the boys St. Paul's Secondary School, both boarding schools. The secondary school can be completed after four years with the O-Level (high school graduation at the end of S4) or after six years with the A-Level (high school graduation at the end of S6).

In contrast to Germany, the school year in Uganda is adapted to the calendar year. It begins at the end of January / beginning of February after the eight-week long holidays and ends at the beginning of December. The teaching time is divided into three terms, which are interrupted by short holidays (two weeks each). At the beginning and at the end of each term the students write a class test in all subjects. They receive a certificate at the end of the school year.

We support a school education that is as comprehensive as possible, as long as it seems reasonable. Changes always take place in consultation with the responsible school management and the children. Children whose primary school leaving certificate does not suffice for secondary school or children who leave school after the O-level are placed, if possible, in an education corresponding to their interests. As soon as something changes in the educational path of your sponsored child, we will of course get in touch with you.

Please bear in mind that all the sponsored children are orphans from the poorest backgrounds, many of whom have already had traumatic experiences in their young lives - please do not expect too much!

Is my sponsored child covered by health insurance?

Unfortunately, the organisation Hope has withdrawn from the care of the AIDS orphans in Mutolere in order to take the initiative in other places where there is still no help at all. As a result, the automatic protection of all AIDS orphans has been lost. For all sponsored children, who are not insured by their families, the costs of treatment will be covered by Together for Uganda, so that the medical care in case of illness is also secured for these children.

Why does my sponsored child now has a new name, is it still the same child?

Yes, it's still the same child! There are several reasons for the name changes. On the one hand, it is not always easy to translate the spoken national language Rufumbira into our sounds. For example, the letters L and R sound the same in this language. This leads to the fact that there are many correct spellings for some names. So, the place name Mutolere can be written in national language also

Mutolele, Mutorere or Mutorele, similarly applies to other letter pairs. In addition there is no state reporting system, so that it is possible without problems to change his name at any time, especially the pubescent pupils find this very interesting. We try to avoid name changes by referring to the problems that arise with constantly changing names, but we cannot always prevent this in individual cases.

Due to the short distance of the district Kisoro/Uganda (official language English) to the neighbouring states Rwanda and Congo (official language French) and the cross-border family connections, English and French spellings of the baptisms sometimes exist side by side.

Why have the family circumstances of my sponsored child changed?

As you probably know, the family (the extended family) plays a very important role in Uganda. The orphans often live with their grandparents or other relatives. The number of siblings can suddenly increase because cousins become orphans and join the family, they are then usually called siblings. Adult relatives, with whom the children live, are called mother or father. The terms "stepparents" and "stepsiblings" do not exist.

Even if this tradition makes it difficult for us to get an overview of the family circumstances, it is usually the best solution for the children if they are caught by the extended family. Even if the constantly increasing number of children in the households makes life more and more difficult for the families. In spring, for example, one grandpa reported that he had to gradually take in all the grandchildren of his six children because both parents had died. "The world is no longer in order, children should not die previous to their parents," he told us.

If you have specific questions about your sponsored children, please do not hesitate to contact us.

What do I do if my sponsored child asks for money or even the financing of a new house in a letter?

The children imagine Germany as a land of milk and honey, where the money seems to lie on the street. This picture is certainly shaped by the fact that the school fees are paid by the sponsors every year as a matter of routine. In addition, the children flatten their noses when they can catch a glimpse of a television set somewhere, preferably during football broadcasts from England. You can certainly imagine the image of Europe that this television creates, combined with the colourful world of children's advertising.

With all the understanding that we have for the wishes and requests of the children, we would ask you not to give any money directly into the hands of the children. There are several reasons for this. On the one hand, children in Africa also tend to show off their gifts. This causes grief and envy among the other children and in extreme cases leads to violent conflicts. All this is not desirable for the school communities. On the other hand, the aim of Together for Uganda is to pave the way for pupils to an independent life with good career prospects. If these pupils already make the experience in young years that each desire without personal employment is immediately fulfilled to them, the way becomes very difficult into the independence. For this reason we have refused this year for example the pupils of St. Gertrude's the assumption of the costs for the school magazine with the reference to different job offers during the holidays to the pupils of St. Gertrude's (the boy school produced no magazine in this year), because we assume that two days easy work in the school (care of the plants, school garden etc.) or comparable job offers in Mutolere from 14 to 19 year old can be carried out.

Please bear in mind that your sponsorship contribution not only finances the school fees and school meals, but also all the basic equipment a student needs (exercise books, pens, soap, detergent, cream, school uniform, sweater). For the pupils of the secondary schools and the boarding school children of the primary school also the accommodation and a third meal on the day.

We also visit the villages regularly to get an idea of the family life of the children. In this context, many families receive one-time support (mattresses, blankets, cooking utensils, etc.). We have recently

introduced family sponsorships for particularly needy families of our sponsored children, which provide additional financial support for the families of 15€ per month.

Should you nevertheless have the need to support your child in a special way, please contact us, we can then think about meaningful possibilities together. Another possibility is a donation to our Child Crisis Fund. From this pot, special expenses for all students (e.g. a change of wardrobe) as well as help in cases of hardship and the costs for medical care are paid.

When is the sponsorship contribution due again?

Finally, we would like to remind you that the new school year in Uganda will start at the beginning of February. We therefore ask you to transfer the school fees for 2020 to our account by the end of December 2019. A good and simple way to keep the costs for you and for us as low as possible is to grant a direct debit authorisation. You will find the necessary information and the form on our website under the heading Your donation.

We hope that with this information we have been able to clarify some important questions and awaken your understanding for some inconsistencies. If you would like further information about your sponsored child or if you have any questions about our work, please feel free to contact us.