

CARE

Children's Access to Rights and Education

SPONSOR A CHILD

Programme Design Document

A whole-school approach to giving every child the chance to learn, grow, and thrive.



Programme Overview

CARE (Children's Access to Rights and Education) is our flagship child-sponsorship programme, built around a simple idea: the fastest way to change a child's future is to strengthen the school and household around them. Rather than supporting a child in isolation, CARE partners directly with schools in low-income and rural communities, working alongside head teachers, staff, and families to build an environment where children are fed, safe, taught well, and supported at home.

Under the tagline “Sponsor a Child,” individual and corporate sponsors are matched with a school and a group of selected students. Sponsorship contributions fund twelve interlocking areas of support delivered at the school and household level, described below.

Our Model: Partner-a-School

CARE operates on a Partner-a-School model. Instead of spreading resources thinly across many schools, we adopt one school at a time and commit to it for a multi-year cycle (typically 3-5 years), giving the school, its students, and their families enough time to see real, lasting change. Within each partner school, a defined cohort of students is selected against transparent, needs-based criteria: orphaned or vulnerable children, children from single-income or low-income households, and children at risk of dropping out are prioritised.

Selection is carried out jointly with the school administration, teachers, and local community leaders, and is reviewed annually as circumstances change.

Programme Components

CARE is delivered through twelve core components at each partner school:

1. Financial Assistance for Selected Students *(Education Sponsorship)*

Sponsorship funds cover school fees, uniforms, textbooks, stationery, and examination costs for selected students, removing the financial barriers that most often push vulnerable children out of school.

- Full or partial fee waivers for sponsored students, reviewed each term
- Uniforms, shoes, and learning materials provided at the start of the school year
- Support ring-fenced so funds follow the child even if family circumstances change

2. Nutrition & Health Support *(School Feeding & Basic Healthcare)*

A daily school meal or fortified snack programme ensures sponsored children are properly nourished and able to concentrate and learn, while easing the food burden on struggling households. This is paired with basic health and hygiene (WASH) support so that nutrition gains are not undermined by preventable illness.

- Daily nutritious meals or snacks for sponsored students during term time
- Basic nutrition and hygiene education for students and food-handling staff
- Growth and nutrition monitoring for the most vulnerable children
- Basic health screening, referral to local clinics, and deworming for sponsored students

3. School Gardening *(Growing Futures)*

Each partner school establishes a working school garden that supplies fresh produce to the feeding programme while teaching students practical agricultural skills.

- Vegetable and fruit gardens maintained by students as part of school activities
- Produce used to supplement school meals and reduce feeding costs over time
- Hands-on lessons in composting, water-saving irrigation, and crop rotation

4. Basic Infrastructure *(Safe Spaces to Learn)*

CARE invests in the physical school environment so children learn in safe, clean, and dignified conditions.

- Repair or construction of classrooms, desks, and shelving
- Clean water access and sanitation facilities, including separate latrines for girls and boys
- Handwashing stations and basic electrification or lighting where needed

5. Knowledge Building *(Teachers, Tools, and Skills)*

Learning outcomes depend on well-supported teachers and well-resourced classrooms, so CARE invests directly in teaching quality and student learning materials.

- Teacher training in literacy, numeracy, and child-centred teaching methods
- Provision of textbooks, reading materials, and basic digital learning tools
- Life-skills sessions for students covering health, hygiene, and financial literacy

6. Seedling Club *(Student-Led Environmental Action)*

The Seedling Club is a student-run activity group, launched through regular school activities, that puts children at the centre of caring for their own environment and community.

- Students raise tree seedlings and lead planting drives on and around school grounds
- Club activities double as peer mentoring, leadership practice, and environmental education
- Surplus seedlings distributed to families and the wider community, extending impact beyond the school

7. Livelihood Support for Parents/Guardians *(Family Income Security)*

Recognising that a child's stability depends on their household, CARE extends limited, targeted support to the parents or guardians of sponsored children so families can build sustainable income.

- Vocational and small-business skills training (tailoring, poultry, trading, farming inputs, etc.)
- Savings-group formation and micro-grants or seed capital for income-generating activities
- Linkages to local cooperatives, markets, and government livelihood schemes

8. Child Safeguarding & Protection *(Keeping Children Safe)*

A written child-protection policy, staff and volunteer background checks, and a clear reporting process underpin every other component, and are usually the first thing a serious sponsor or donor asks about.

- Written child-protection policy covering all staff, volunteers, and visitors

- Background checks for anyone working directly with sponsored children
- Clear, accessible process for reporting and responding to concerns

9. Sponsor-Child Connection *(Staying Connected)*

Since the tagline is “Sponsor a Child,” sponsors receive a genuine sense of connection to the child and school they support, handled in a way that protects the child's privacy and dignity.

- Periodic progress letters or report cards shared with sponsors
- Photos and updates from school activities, gardens, and clubs
- Clear privacy safeguards governing what is shared and with whom

10. Monitoring, Evaluation & Reporting *(Tracking What Matters)*

Consistent tracking of attendance, retention, exam performance, nutrition, and household income indicators keeps the programme accountable to sponsors and partners.

- Attendance, retention, and exam performance tracked per sponsored student
- Nutrition, health, and household income indicators tracked per school
- Annual report shared with sponsors, partners, and the school community

11. Community & Government Partnership *(Working Together)*

A formal agreement with the school, parent-teacher association, and local education and agriculture authorities ensures CARE complements, rather than duplicates, government services.

- Signed partnership agreement with the school and parent-teacher association
- Coordination with local education and agriculture authorities
- Joint planning to align CARE's work with existing government services

12. Sustainability & Exit Strategy *(Making Gains Last)*

A clear plan for handing over gardens, infrastructure, and trained capacity to the school and community at the end of each multi-year cycle ensures gains outlast the sponsorship period.

- Phased handover plan agreed with the school from the start of each cycle
- Local capacity built to maintain gardens, infrastructure, and training
- Formal review before a school graduates or a new school is adopted

Component-to-Outcome Snapshot

A simple summary of what each component delivers and the outcome it drives toward:

Component	Immediate Output	Longer-Term Outcome
Financial Assistance	Fees, uniforms, and materials covered	Sustained enrolment and reduced dropout
Nutrition & Health Support	Daily meals, screening, and referrals for sponsored children	Improved health, attention, and attendance
School Gardening	Working garden supplying produce	Lower feeding costs and practical farm skills
Basic Infrastructure	Safe classrooms, water, and sanitation	Better learning conditions and safety
Knowledge Building	Trained teachers and learning materials	Improved literacy, numeracy, and life skills
Seedling Club	Student-led planting and mentoring	Environmental stewardship and leadership
Family Livelihood	Skills training and micro-grants for parents	Higher household income and stability
Child Safeguarding	Policy, checks, and reporting process in place	Safe environment for every sponsored child
Sponsor-Child Connection	Regular letters, photos, and updates shared	Sustained sponsor engagement and trust
Monitoring & Evaluation	Attendance, health, and income data tracked	Evidence-based decisions and accountability
Community & Government Partnership	Signed agreements with school and authorities	Aligned, non-duplicated local services
Sustainability & Exit Strategy	Handover plan and local capacity built	Gains that outlast the sponsorship period

How Sponsorship Works

- A sponsor commits to one child (or a group of children) at a partner school for a multi-year period.
- Contributions are pooled at the school level and allocated across all twelve components, ensuring no single child benefits from fees alone while the school around them is neglected.
- Sponsors receive periodic updates on their child and on school-wide progress (attendance, exam results, infrastructure milestones, garden yields, and livelihood outcomes for families).
- At the end of each cycle, CARE reviews whether the school is ready to graduate to reduced support, and whether a new partner school should be adopted.

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