

TWAHIRAH ISLAMIC CHARITY ORGANISATION (TICO)



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EDUCATION SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM (SPONSOR AN ORPHAN)

I. Background of TICO

Twahirah Islamic Charity Organisation (**TICO**) is a non-government organisation in Uganda with a registration number INDR157054848NB. We envision a self-reliant and sustainable community where vulnerable people thrive through innovative capacity building, humanitarian and psychosocial support. Projects such as education sponsorship, skills development, sanitation and safe water, relief provision, religious based initiatives and education sponsorship among others are the centre of our services.

According to the Uganda Bureau of Statistics (2021), 41% of the population live below the poverty line and do not earn an income at all putting them in positions where they cannot survive if no one comes to their rescue. Among these vulnerable people are orphans, the elderly, the disabled, women, young girls among other groups. All the mentioned categories benefit from our programs through building their capacity fostering self-reliance and empowering them to contribute to a sustainable community.

Vision:

A self-reliant and sustainable community where vulnerable people thrive.

Mission:

To empower vulnerable communities through innovative capacity building, humanitarian and psycho-social support for sustainable development.

Objectives:

- i. Provide quality and inclusive education services for vulnerable communities in Uganda.
- ii. Promote smart innovative agricultural practices for food security.
- iii. Ensure access to safe water and improved sanitation.
- iv. Promote Islamic values through aid and access to learning resources.
- v. Build strong operational systems and income-generating initiatives for financial resilience.

II. Introduction

Education is fundamental to individual empowerment and national development. In Uganda, access to quality education is hindered by poverty, orphanhood, unemployment, and other socio-economic challenges, leaving many children without the opportunity to learn and grow. Twahirah Islamic Charity Organisation (TICO) is committed to addressing this inequality by providing education sponsorships to orphans and vulnerable children, enabling them to acquire the skills and knowledge needed to break the cycle of poverty and contribute positively to society.

This proposal outlines TICO's Education Sponsorship Program, designed to provide long-term education opportunities and holistic support to children from impoverished families. The program

also seeks to establish sustainable interventions that ensure the continuity of our mission, with clear mechanisms for monitoring and evaluation to track progress.

III. Problem Statement

Uganda is home to over two million orphans, many of whom face severe challenges in accessing basic necessities such as food, shelter, and education. According to UNICEF (2020), 15% of Uganda's youth population consists of orphans, and most live in marginalized communities where schools are underfunded and lack the capacity to provide quality education. In these areas, many children are forced to stay home or drop out of school because their guardians cannot afford school fees, uniforms, or scholastic materials.

These barriers not only limit the children's educational attainment but also perpetuate the cycle of poverty, as they grow up without the skills needed to compete in a rapidly evolving job market.

IV. Objectives

The overall objective of this program is to provide access to quality education for orphans and vulnerable children, empowering them to overcome the socio-economic barriers they face. Specific objectives include:

1. To offer comprehensive education sponsorship to at least twenty (20) children annually from primary school to their first degree.
2. To ensure children have the necessary scholastic materials and other necessities like uniforms to succeed in school.
3. To provide psychosocial support through regular school visits and mentorship programs.
4. To involve communities in sustainable education interventions, ensuring long-term impact.
5. To evaluate the program's effectiveness and adapt it to changing circumstances through ongoing monitoring and evaluation mechanisms.

V. Beneficiaries

Beneficiaries of the Education Sponsorship Program

The beneficiaries of TICO's Education Sponsorship Program are primarily vulnerable children and their families. The specific groups that will benefit from this project include:

1. **Orphans**

Children who have lost their fathers due to various circumstances such as HIV/AIDS, accidents, wars, or ethnic conflicts. These children often lack financial and emotional support, making it difficult for them to access quality education. Through the sponsorship

program, they will receive school fees, scholastic materials, and psychosocial support to ensure they complete their education.

2. Vulnerable children from low income families

Children from families struggling with extreme poverty, unemployment, and insufficient income to meet basic needs. These children often face barriers in accessing education due to lack of school fees, uniforms, and other essential items. The program will provide these resources to ensure that they can attend school regularly and perform well academically.

3. Guardians and families of the sponsored children

Families and guardians of sponsored children will indirectly benefit from the program as it reduces the financial burden of paying for school fees, uniforms, and educational materials. Additionally, the provision of food packages and other forms of material support will help improve their overall quality of life, creating a more stable and supportive environment for the children.

4. Local schools and communities

Schools in marginalized areas often struggle with limited resources, overcrowding, and a lack of scholastic materials. By providing school supplies and supporting the education of children in these communities, the program will help alleviate some of the pressures on these schools. Improved student performance will also have a positive ripple effect on the community, as more educated individuals contribute to the local economy and social development.

5. Teachers and school administrators

Educators will benefit from having students who are better equipped for learning and who receive regular psychosocial support from TICO. This can lead to improved classroom engagement and student performance, allowing teachers to focus more on teaching and less on the challenges caused by inadequate resources.

6. The wider community

In the long term, the community will benefit from having more educated, skilled individuals who can contribute to local development and economic growth. The program will also promote a culture of education and foster a supportive environment for learning.

By targeting these groups, TICO's Education Sponsorship Program aims to create lasting positive change that extends beyond the individual children, reaching families, schools, and entire communities.

VI. Program activities

1. Education sponsorship

TICO's primary intervention is to provide full education sponsorship for vulnerable children, covering school fees, uniforms, and scholastic materials until attainment of the first degree. By ensuring consistent financial support, we remove the barriers that prevent children from attending school regularly and progressing academically.

2. Provision of scholastic materials

Many children in Uganda's marginalized communities attend school without the necessary materials such as books, pens, and pencils, which limits their ability to fully participate in the learning process. Through the distribution of scholastic materials, TICO alleviates this burden on parents, pupils and schools, ensuring that children can focus on their studies.

3. School visits and monitoring

TICO conducts regular school visits to monitor the academic progress and well-being of sponsored children. For children whose guardians cannot afford to visit them, TICO's staff serves as their representatives, offering emotional and academic support. This ongoing engagement ensures that sponsored children remain motivated and committed to their education.

4. Home visits and vulnerability assessments.

To ensure the program's sustainability, TICO engages with families and local communities. This includes home visits to assess the needs of the children and their families, as well as offering guidance on how to support the children's education. The community plays a crucial role in ensuring that the children's needs are met beyond the classroom.

5. Family support

In addition to educational sponsorship, TICO provides food packages, clothing, and bedding to families in need when resources are available. This holistic support ensures that children have the stability at home necessary to focus on their education.

6. Counseling and guidance

This provides an emotional and psychosocial support to vulnerable children. These services help students cope with personal challenges such as grief, trauma, or academic stress, fostering mental well-being and resilience. Through regular counseling, children are better equipped to focus on their studies, improve behavior, and make informed decisions about their future. Guidance also ensures that students receive proper career advice, motivation, and encouragement, helping them navigate life challenges and maximize their potential for academic and personal growth.

VII. Sustainability Strategy

Sustainability is a key component of TICO's approach. To ensure the long-term success and continuity of the Education Sponsorship Program, we will implement the following strategies:

1. Community involvement

Local community members and leaders will be actively engaged in the program to foster ownership and ensure the children receive adequate support at home and in school. By creating awareness and involving the community, we aim to build a culture that prioritizes education.

2. Local partnerships

TICO will partner with local schools, government agencies, and NGOs to leverage resources and collaborate on sustainable solutions for education. Through these partnerships, we can amplify our impact and secure long-term support for the children.

3. Income generating activities

To reduce dependence on external funding, TICO will explore income-generating activities such as agricultural projects, small businesses, or partnerships with corporate donors. These ventures will not only provide financial support for the program but also teach valuable skills to families and communities.

4. Donor engagement and recurring sponsorships

TICO will maintain regular communication with sponsors, providing updates on the progress of the children they support. By cultivating long-term relationships with donors, we aim to secure recurring contributions that sustain the program.

5. Empowerment

Empowering the parents of supported children is crucial for the sustainability of TICO's Education sponsorship program. By providing parents with skills training, financial literacy, and opportunities for income generation, TICO enables them to become more self-reliant. This helps reduce long-term dependency on sponsorship, ensuring that parents can eventually support their children's education independently, while fostering a culture of responsibility and empowerment within the community.

VIII. Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E)

TICO's Monitoring and Evaluation framework ensures that we are continuously assessing the effectiveness of the Education Sponsorship Program and making necessary improvements. The M&E process includes:

1. Baseline assessments

At the start of each sponsorship, we conduct a comprehensive assessment of the child's educational and socio-economic background. This helps us tailor our support to the specific needs of each child and sets benchmarks for tracking progress.

2. Regular monitoring

Our team conducts quarterly school visits and family assessments to track the academic performance, attendance, and well-being of sponsored children. This also includes feedback from teachers and school administrators.

3. Performance tracking

Sponsored children's academic performance will be tracked through regular reporting from class teachers and school management. Progress reports will be compiled and shared with sponsors to demonstrate the impact of their contributions.

4. Evaluation reports

Annual evaluations will be conducted to assess the overall effectiveness of the program. These reports will highlight achievements, challenges, and areas for improvement. They will be shared with stakeholders to ensure transparency and inform future programming.

5. Feedback mechanism

Beneficiaries (children, families, and schools) will have the opportunity to provide feedback on the program. This input will help us continuously refine and improve our services.

6. Parents' meetings.

These meetings provide direct feedback from parents on their children's academic progress, well-being, and home challenges, helping TICO assess the program's impact. They foster collaboration between parents, schools, and TICO, ensuring joint problem-solving, accountability, and tailored support. Additionally, they allow TICO to track resource utilization, make necessary adjustments, and empower parents as active stakeholders in their children's education.

IX. Cost of sponsorship

The cost of sponsoring one child through TICO's Education Sponsorship Program is **UGX 105,254 (USD 30)** per month. This includes:

- School fees
- Scholastic materials (books, pens, etc.)
- School uniform
- Family food package during school holidays.

X. Enrolment process

For needy children to be added onto our sponsorship program, TICO follows strict procedures to ensure that the right beneficiaries are selected.

Enrolment Process for TICO's Education Sponsorship Program

1. Call for applications

TICO announces a call for applications, inviting the general public to nominate or submit needy children for the education sponsorship program.

2. Submission of applications and selection process

Applications are submitted by parents, guardians, or community leaders, and TICO reviews the submissions based on the child's level of need and educational background.

3. Interviews

Shortlisted candidates are invited for interviews where TICO staff assess the child's educational goals, family background, and commitment to education.

4. Home assessments

TICO conducts home visits to verify the child's living conditions and determine their financial situation and overall need for support.

5. Approval

After assessments, a selection committee approves the most deserving children based on criteria such as vulnerability and the family's financial status.

6. Filling and filing the enrolment form

Once approved, guardians fill out and submit the official enrolment form containing the child's details for sponsorship records.

7. Signing the Education Sponsorship Policy

Parents or guardians sign the education sponsorship agreement outlining the roles, responsibilities, and expectations of both TICO and the beneficiaries.

8. Fully sponsored children

Upon completion of the process, the children are enrolled onto the program, receiving full sponsorship including school fees, scholastic materials, and additional support as required.

XI. Expected outcomes

1. Increased access to education

Vulnerable children will be able to attend school regularly without the burden of school fees or lack of supplies.

2. Improved academic performance

Children with access to the necessary materials and emotional support will perform better academically.

3. Psycho-Social Support

Sponsored children will benefit from mentorship and emotional support through regular school visits.

4. Long term impact

The education provided will equip children with the skills they need to compete in the job market, breaking the cycle of poverty in their communities.

XII. Conclusion

TICO's Education Sponsorship Program offers a holistic approach to addressing the educational needs of vulnerable children in Uganda. By sponsoring a child, you are not only providing them with access to education but also ensuring that they receive the support and resources necessary to succeed. Together, we can transform and restore hope in lives of orphans and vulnerable children and contribute to raising better citizens for a brighter future of our country Uganda.