

Information for donors



Child of Hope is changing the future for young slum-dwellers in Uganda – breaking the poverty cycle for children and their families.

We start by providing completely free education from our own school, that's different from any other charity or state school we know. We give business training and start-up grants to set mums up in business – and produce a future skilled workforce. We provide completely free uniform, breakfast and lunch, a health service, home welfare visits, teaching assistants and classes of manageable sizes to ensure we stand out and excel.

We are focused on the absolute poorest and most vulnerable children in the slum and have the capacity to monitor and evaluate the education and progression in our own school, rather than simply sponsoring their education in another school.

Social impact is huge – these children will avoid the most likely outcomes of being raised in the slum – abject poverty, scavenging on rubbish tips, ill-health, corruption, crime and prostitution.

Instead, the potential for our children is vast:

- they can confidently enter work and the business world with IT and practical skills,
- they will be fully trained in literacy and numeracy, speaking/writing fluent English (the business language of Uganda) and trained in our ethos of integrity,
- their parents can earn a regular income to help lift themselves out of extreme poverty.

By helping to fund the expansion of our work, you contribute greatly to changing the future of even more slum children and their families.

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Before you donate to Child of Hope, it's right to want to know how much positive change your money will make to lives and communities. On this page we'll try and answer the important question of social impact.

Joined up

Everything we do centres around our slum-based school and its pupils, but the extended benefit reaches a much larger group of people in the slum. That's because the family group (often up to a dozen or so people crammed into one small hut) is very close and they share everything.

That, and because Child of Hope operates a holistic programme, everything we do is joined up and positively influences other aspects of our work. To read more about this, visit the [Social Impact](#) page on our website.

Here is our brief summary of Child of Hope's social impact in the various areas in which we work:



Education

Virtually none of the children in our school would have previously had an education, as they come from the poorest families in the slum. But now they are achieving high grades, with hugely-increased literacy and numeracy skills, so their future job prospects are much higher. They are climbing much higher than their previously-expected future of crime, begging, prostitution and financial desperation.



Mums: income generating activities

After helping to set them up with small businesses, mums become able to earn an income to pay their rent, buy food and educate their other children (at other schools). The process raises the status of women, who traditionally lack financial independence and a voice in family decision-making. The success rate of these businesses is very high.



Healthcare

Our pupils are healthier than ever before. Our two healthcare workers liaise closely with the nearby Joy Hospice to combat everything that comes their way... including malaria. All have suffered malaria at some stage and its an ongoing battle. But we are equipped and fighting hard! Our tests showed clear benefits in our pupils from our healthcare support, especially in BMI and parasitic infection (inc malaria).



Welfare

We carry out regular home visits on all our children and offer their families free social care, numeracy/literacy training, family planning and health awareness that includes sanitation and hygiene, road safety and malaria control. As a result, mortality rates are being reduced, while sanitation and hygiene are dramatically improved.



Employment

Our staff are themselves residents of the slum, and wherever possible so are the workmen doing our building work. Their lives have already been hugely impacted by a regular wage and ongoing training... and as we expand with more pupils, so the staff numbers increase too.

The slum

Child of Hope is based in Namatala, Mbale (Eastern Uganda) – an area which qualifies as a slum by all United Nations' indicators. There are no up-to-date figures regarding the slum but it is estimated that there are between 30,000 to 40,000 people living in the area. Although development is coming, it is still the biggest slum in one of the poorer regions in one of the poorest countries on earth. Uganda is rated 161 of 187 countries in the UN's Human Development Index.



Around half of the population are of school age but only around half of that number

actually attend school. Housing is characterised by mud huts with grass-thatched or iron sheet roofs. These properties are rented at a rate of around £4 to £15 per month. Typically families of five or more share a mud hut, while some families share huts due to extreme poverty.

Sanitation takes the form of pit latrines (many installed by Child of Hope) as mains sewerage is not available to the majority. Mains water is available in the form of standpipes owned and managed by the landowners. So, many residents choose the river as a source of free water for domestic and animal needs – approx ½ km from the edge of the slum. At times, this gives rise to epidemics of typhoid and cholera.

Typically the families are headed by the mothers, as fathers are either physically or emotionally absent due to death, sickness, polygamy, alcohol abuse, etc. Many of these mothers struggle to find an income – choosing to scavenge through the streets or finding casual

labour jobs. Financially they live a hand-to-mouth existence, with no means of saving for medical needs, school fees or rent payments.

And then it began...

Child of Hope was started by Moses Okotel, having grown up as an IDP himself. He started by assisting a handful of children with school fees. After marrying Bex, a British National, in 2007, he had a dream to start a nursery school in the heart of the slum.

The Child of Hope nursery was started in February 2008 for around 40 children in a borrowed church building. It became apparent that these children were malnourished and a feeding programme was added to the project.

A lack of affordable or available healthcare and social welfare assistance had to be overcome. Medicines and healthcare were needed for children falling sick. Advice, advocacy, training and intervention were required for those families in abusive or risky home situations – and a strategy for helping families out of financial crisis. So, a holistic approach was developed. CoH now has over 70 staff organised into departments of health & nutrition, welfare, education, income-generation and administration. Construction of our purpose-built school commenced in 2010 and was completed in 2015.

The picture today

Now Child of Hope School has 500 pupils (from nursery up to secondary) and over 200 of their parents are in an income generation scheme. The team works closely with the community, including local councillors, elders and church leaders, to ensure full ownership by community members, and that only the poorest of the local families access the programmes.

Our current premises provide education from 3 1/2 year olds ('baby class) up to 14 year olds in Primary 7 level (the final primary class), and leavers are sponsored and local secondary schools. This enables all enrolled children to access entirely free schooling alongside healthcare, welfare assistance, counselling and guidance for their future. In addition, thousands of family members are also benefitting from the off-shoots – better parenting skills, higher understanding of healthcare within the home and sustainable finances for those within our income generation scheme.

What's the latest?

In 2016 we added basic academic and vocational training for older primary children with special needs. In 2017 we commenced a fostering service, and now the 30 children formerly in our children's home now live in families.



Child of Hope pupils

What's next?

In 2019, nearly all our primary leavers are sponsored in local secondary schools. Sadly, we have been very disappointed by the standard of education provided in them – and the subsequent decline of the children's performance. Therefore, we would like to start our own secondary school. We have a high reputation in the area and have nearly ten years of experience... so we believe we are ready to take on this new challenge!

Donations

There are lots of ways you can support us with a one-off donation - your giving goes a long way in Uganda and really does make a difference. Here are a few suggestions, which can all be donated on our website...

Keeping children healthy

Feeding hungry children the right food and treating sick kids; your donation will help keep a lot of children healthy.

Donate: Anything from **£25**

New shoes for five children

We regularly buy new shoes for all our children – without them they can pick up all kinds of injuries and disease.

Donate: from **£5**

Business start-up

Give a family the start it needs for sustainable income. Your donation goes towards a grant, business and financial training with ongoing support from our staff.

Donate: from **£15** each

Most urgent need

Probably the most helpful donation for us! It means we can use it immediately for the most desperate need... and it helps us respond quickly in a crisis.

Donate: **Any amount is helpful**

For further details on any of the donations and sponsorships on this page, please see our website.

Regular sponsorships

We are extremely grateful for regular donations of any amount. They enable us to plan ahead and take a long-term view of our work in the Namatala slum...

A child's education

Sponsor a child's education and have a direct impact on an individual's life, or as many children as you like.

Cost: **£15 per month**

Medical attention

Help us give medicine and general healthcare to children who would normally receive none.

Cost: from **£7 per month**

Family support

You can help fund one of our highly-effective family support workers, out in the slum each day to help families cope.

Cost: from **£7 per month**

Teacher or teaching assistant

This will help us continue to provide a high-quality education in the middle of terrible poverty. Your regular payment helps pay for a member of our teaching staff.

Cost: from **£10 per month**

Food and nutrition

Feed some of the most vulnerable kids in the slum! And help us improve nutrition, so children grow properly and fight off the many illnesses and infections they face in the slum.

Cost: from **£5 per month**

If you feel that the work of Child of Hope matches your own values and objectives – and is something you would be willing to support – please contact our UK director Phil Dowding to discuss a specific project.

There is lots more information available on our website; you may find these links useful:

- [What we do](#)
- [Social impact](#)
- [Our videos](#)
- [Annual impact report](#)
- [CoH on the Charity Commission website](#)



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