



ORPHANS' SPONSORSHIP PROJECTS

Africa is home to about 52 million orphans. In fact, more than 35% of all orphans around the world reside in Africa . Their ages range from 0 to 18 years . Unfortunately, their numbers are constantly on the rise due to wars, conflicts, and poor health in the continent. This affects their education, nutrition, ultimately affecting their ability to secure an adequate source of income in the future. This does not merely have a negative impact on local communities, but it also affects Africa's economy and goals of becoming a strong and influential global player.

DirectAid's vision

DirectAid provides comprehensive care for all orphans. It looks after their education, health, vocational training, and regular follow-up. Moreover, it creates an educational environment that provides psychological care and values nurturing, with the aim of building a balanced and educated person that can contribute positively to build his/her community, and continent as a whole.

DirectAid views orphans as the future leaders that will help their communities and countries rise in peace and prosperity. Providing youth with basic life necessities will deter them from being exposed to extremist or violent ideologies that could exacerbate wars and conflicts. This is in line with Africa's 2063's goals of engaging and empowering children and youth for a peaceful continent . Eventually, it contributes to their well-being, acting as a catalyst to further enhance the economy and transforming it into a sustainable one .

DirectAid offers such services while also enhancing the qualifications and the continuous development of supervisors and administrators of orphanages. It does so by organizing administrative and educational training courses and workshops on an ongoing basis.

Services provided in orphans' sponsorship

The cost of sponsoring one orphan monthly is around USD 53 and funds the services and programs below.

1. Furniture

DirectAid aims to create comprehensive orphanages that provide a safe environment suitable for sustaining and growing lives. Orphanages, especially sleeping locations, need to be renewed periodically, furnished with tables, seats, mattresses, blankets, fans, beds, wardrobes, cooking items, electrical appliances, and toilets, etc. This has to be done as orphanages are the only haven for orphans. It is the place that provides them with food, health, educational and psychological security and support.

2. Playgrounds

DirectAid's orphan projects seek to provide various playgrounds for orphans, such as tennis tables, hanging and floor swings, extended slides, various cardboard games, yards equipped for games. It does so to provide an appropriate environment for regular activities to prevent and alleviate the symptoms of any physical or mental diseases. Such recreational activities can assist orphans in achieving many other goals that could benefit them, specifically, in terms of their health, morals, and mentality.

3. Tutorial classes

Orphans' families usually suffer from poverty. This leads to child malnutrition and a lack of motivation for education. This in turn, exposes orphans to educational retardation in their early years of education. As such, DirectAid provides the necessary educational support through individual lessons for those falling behind. For instance, teachers after school assist orphans in overcoming any difficulties they may face, ultimately reducing their dropout rates.

4. Training

A training course is held for new orphans before joining an orphanage in order to prepare them mentally as they embark on their new journey and introduces them to its various facilities. This is in addition to an introductory course explaining the orphanage's systems, regulations, care opportunities, education, and entertainment facilities.

5. Tuition fees

DirectAid provides appropriate educational and professional opportunities for orphans while paying the tuition fees in full for orphans until they reach the age of 18. A proposal is then made to a said sponsor to complete the sponsorship, if desired, until the orphan graduates (from a university or vocational training institutes) and become self-reliant.

6. Medical examinations and treatment

A periodic examination is done for all orphans upon their initial joining of orphanages, or upon their return from school vacations. Each orphan is informed of the result of his/her medical examination. Blood tests are also carried out, alongside an examination of the kidneys, liver, and fat levels in DirectAid's clinics. The necessary treatments are provided, as needed.

7. Personal toiletries

Toiletries and other personal supplies consumed within the same year are provided to each orphan. This includes, but is not limited to, personal hygiene and body care tools, sheets, and towels. It is vital to ensure that orphans feel like they have adequate access to all basic life necessities.



8. Transportation

DirectAid rents or provides cars to transport orphans to their families and back to the orphanage. This is done to ensure that all orphans have equal access to the facilities regardless of how far they live.

9. Nutrition

DirectAid covers all matters related to nutrition and daily subsistence of an orphan. The nutrition program (in quantities) is set by a specialized doctor. During the summer vacation, the orphans are given food supplies that suffice them during the vacation period. As for orphans not living in DirectAid's facilities, the nutritional costs are delivered monthly in cash. This is vital as malnutrition associated deaths in Africa are on the rise. Such initiatives lower the number of preventable deaths and ensures that youth focus on their education and future careers.

10. Clothing

As many orphans do not have the means to purchase clothing, they are provided with summer and winter clothing. Such include sleepwear, daily clothes, underwear, sports clothes, sports shoes, and daily practical shoes.

11. Eid money

In accordance with local religious holiday traditions, an envelope containing an amount of money is given to each orphan in one of the two Eids (Islamic religious holiday). This ensures that orphans are in touch with their heritage and cultural practices.

12. Incentive rewards

Incentive monetary rewards are given to outstanding orphans. More specifically, to ones providing assistance in orphanages, participating in training and volunteer programs, and good relationships with their colleagues. The awards are given to the best three of each academic group (elementary, middle school and high school) during the first half of the academic year. This provides orphans with an incentive to focus on their daily activities and studies to achieve their full potential.

13. Outdoor activities

Outdoor recreational and sports activities for orphans are organized outside the orphanage. For instance, visits to public places such as museums, airports, factories, attendance of some sports matches, or playing against teams from other orphanages. In addition, other activities include, but are not limited to, trips to swimming pools, parks, zoos, amusement parks, and lunch in the wild or in a restaurant. These activities contribute to the entertainment of orphans, the development of their cultural knowledge, and improves their mental health and wellbeing.

14. Eid celebrations

Bi-annual Eid celebrations include a variety of activities such as comedy plays, dressing up as famous cartoon characters, distribution of toys, organization of some games and entertainment competitions, and distribution of sweets and juices to the audience. Families of orphans and some public figures are invited to participate in the festivities. Such activities ensure that orphans' bonds to their families and heritage are maintained and furthered.

15. Cultural competitions

Cultural competitions for orphans are organized and announced at the beginning of the school year. The competitions are prepared and run by school teachers inside the orphanage. They are an enriching and educating opportunity for orphans that allows them to attain teamwork and fair competition skills. Such skills are vital to the development of the future leaders they are.

16. Orphans' welcoming ceremony

An internal activity is organized at the beginning of the school year to celebrate the return of orphans after their summer vacation and to welcome new ones. During the ceremony, the orphanages' bylaws are explained and good and excellent orphans of the previous year are rewarded. In addition, the ceremony includes entertaining activities, speeches, and poems. The ceremony reduces the feeling of alienation of new orphans and familiarizes them with the place and the people. It is also an opportunity for returning orphans to share what they did during the holidays, allowing to nurture their relationships amongst themselves.

18. Annual alumni celebration

The annual alumni celebration celebrates graduates. It is attended by some public figures and older graduates. The participation of graduate orphans is a motivating factor for all orphans to work hard and diligently, as they share their success stories, achievements, and their educational and professional progress. It also highlights to public officials individuals that could be working in the government or private sector to positively contribute to economic efforts and positive change.

Success stories

1. Dr. Ahmed Abdul Qader, physician

Dr. Ahmed Abdel-Qader was sponsored by DirectAid in 1993 following the death of his father. In 2004, he graduated from high school with distinction and then joined the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Kassala in Sudan. Today, he is a doctor in the DirectAid clinic in Somalia, serving members of his community, and is a father of five boys and girls.



2. Dr. Zainab Gara Rouga, consultant to Cabinet Secretary of Health in Kenya

While the founder of DirectAid, Dr. Abdul Rahman Al-Sumait, was on one of his trips in the prairies of Africa, he encountered Dr. Zainab Gara Rouga with her mother and sister, Halima. Then, they were orphans struggling to find food. As a result, they were sponsored.



Throughout her secondary school years, Dr. Rouga always obtained first place in Kenya. She then joined the faculty of Medicine and Surgery. Following her graduation, she worked with the Kenyan government for several years and won an international scholarship to complete her Ph.D. studies.

Today, she is an advisor to the Kenyan Cabinet Secretary of Health and a member of the Umma University Board of Trustees. She also led her sister Halima to medical school, who also became a doctor. Dr. Halima is currently working as a Deputy Director-General in the Kenyan Ministry of Health's Department of Health Insurance. Her success story highlights that great positive impact orphans can have on various levels of government.

3. Mr. Hamada Ramadhan Khamis, orphanage supervisor



Mr. Hamada Ramadan Khamis was born in 1995 in the Kasese region. After losing his father and the family's faltering situation, he moved to live and study at the Sahaba Center in Kakiri in the Wakiso Governorate, in 2003. The centre provided him with the necessary psychological, health, and material support.

Upon his completion of school, Mr. Khamis, went on to graduate with a bachelor's degree in social sciences from the Islamic University in the Imbali Governorate. He then returned to DirectAid in June 2018 as a supervisor in the same centre he grew up in. This stresses the sustainable impact DirectAid's orphanage program could have.

Oprhans' sponsorship in numbers

Presently, DirectAid sponsors more than 22,000 orphans. While most of them live in fully-equipped orphanages built by DirectAid, some do not. Yet, they are sponsored and treated equally to reach their fullest potential.

