



# CHILD EDUCATION PROJECT (CEP)

SPONSORSHIP PACK  
2021

*“The foundation of every society is the education of its youth”*

## Who is Trade Aid?

Trade Aid was established in 1996 by Brian Currie following a visit to Mikindani. Passionate about conservation and education, he saw a way to provide sustainable employment in Mikindani by encouraging aspiring young men and women to develop their skills in hospitality and entrepreneurship and create a sustainable future for them.

Trade Aid was set up as an educational charity, focused primarily on vocational education, but with the intention of supporting the elimination of inequality in both traditional and vocational schooling. It combines conservation, history and tourism with vocational education, providing training in the hospitality industry as well as other vocational skills including English and IT.



Working with a local team in Mikindani, The Old Boma hotel was fully restored and now acts as the primary centre for hospitality training in Mikindani, as well as being a fully operational tourist hotel. It now trains forty local students a year in hospitality and sees these students leave to take up jobs in all parts of Tanzania and beyond.

The success of the project speaks for itself and is highly regarded. Many people who have visited the Old Boma at Mikindani for holidays, have wanted to support not only the project itself, but also to help the poorest children in the village who are not yet old enough to join the hospitality training programme. For this reason, a separate fund supported entirely by sponsors and friends of Mikindani, assists children from the poorest families to go to school through the Child Equality Project (formerly known as the Gender Equality Project).



## Education in Tanzania

Schooling in Tanzania can be provided by both the public and private sector and unlike the UK system, it is the academic ability of the child that dictates the level of education and not their age. It is not uncommon therefore, to find teenage children in primary school.

The Tanzanian government provides free education in public schools at both primary and secondary level, but does not pay for the essential additional items such as uniform, books, food and mattresses, which in itself, often precludes a child from attending school as their families simply cannot afford them. When added to the fact that the family will often lose the child's labour contribution to growing food, it is easy to see why these inequalities can exist.

Whilst the mother tongue in Tanzania is Swahili, the predominant language used in employment is English. So, whilst primary education in Tanzania is provided in Swahili, secondary education is given entirely in English. This switch causes great difficulty for many students, whose primary level English teachers often only have a basic knowledge of the language themselves. For this reason, Trade Aid provides free additional English lessons to both the children in the Mikindani Community as well as their families, to help improve their life chances.



Opportunities to progress on to college for other NVQ courses such as Accountancy and Carpentry have started to emerge for those students who have managed to get all the way through secondary school and University places are also now available for the very gifted students. Further education is not cheap however, but compared to the UK a full years' course will cost approximately £125. The sponsorship of these students is covered separately under a Further Education Student Support Programme. Details of this programme are available separately.



# What we do with your sponsorship donations

Trade Aid favours entering children into government education as it is lower cost and simulates what families can typically afford. Sponsorship funding through the Child Equality Project allows us to buy essential items of uniform, books and shoes as well as providing a daily meal of porridge. It pays for a part time native Welfare Officer who as a trained nurse, can assess the general well-being of the children on her regular visits to the school and at home.

This year we are sponsoring 28 children through the project and whilst most go to school in Mikindani, we have also been able to sponsor two children at a specialist disability school. The CEP fund allows us to fund the necessary items a child needs to attend such a school and although most children go to a school in Mikindani, we have been able to sponsor two disabled children at a nearby specialist school as well this year.

We are committed to supporting the children right from entry at primary school level and all through secondary school if possible and since the project began, have seen many children progress further on to college as well.

Trade Aid continues to bridge the inequalities in education in Mikindani that still exist. By beginning our sponsorships at primary school level, we hope to inspire both parents and children to seek further education and build a better future.

## What will we provide?

- Uniform (including shoes and socks)
- School bag
- Textbooks
- Stationery
- Food (porridge)
- Transport (If required)
- English and IT Lessons (1 x Per Month)

## About our Candidates

Born and raised in Mikindani, our candidates are carefully chosen from amongst those who most need our help. Using our friends in the local community and by speaking directly to both candidates and their families, we choose to give sponsorship to those who would otherwise not be able to go to school but also show an interest in their education. We encourage the families of our candidates to display a commitment to their child's education by working with them to explain the long-term benefits of education.

## Progress Updates

Our sponsors are kept informed of the progress of the students and the project generally via regular email updates.

## Costs

**Primary School Level.** Yearly Costs per student are estimated at around TZS 350,000 equating to approximately £120 per annum or £10 per month.

**Secondary School Level.** Yearly Costs per student (Secondary School Level) are estimated at around TZS 560,000 equating to approximately £180 per annum or £20 per month.

## Sponsorship

If you think you would like to sponsor a child, please contact us on  
**[info@tradeaiduk.org](mailto:info@tradeaiduk.org)**

