



Orphan Support

The scope of this sponsorship project

'Orphan Support' is a model for providing support for orphans that church communities are trying to look after in terms of food, shelter, clothing, education and health.

This model differs from other sponsorship schemes commonly run by established agencies because it is a commitment to the household/project rather than to individual orphans.

The main advantage in this approach is that it greatly reduces the amount of administration that is normally required by the agency in the sponsor/child relationship.

Nevertheless, sponsors would still be able to have a sense of helping individual children and in most cases photos and names would be able to be supplied of the group of children in the project.



The financial commitment would be used in the following ways:

- providing food,
- organising regular visits by the health worker from a neighbouring health clinic (say once a month) to provide adequate immunisation and health care for the children,
- to provide adequate clothes for the children, and
- providing for the educational needs of the children.

To support a project of 30 children would require 30 people to commit \$30 per month.

Establishing the project

To set up such a project would require the following steps:

1. Support from AFOA membership
2. Support from the recipient's church community
3. Appointing a project coordinator in Australia and the church community/project and developing a project operational plan.
4. Promoting the sponsorship to Australians.
5. Identifying when the project is financially viable and commencing the financial and operational processes.



Financial management of the project

Includes the following processes:

1. Receiving sponsorship funds (monthly or annually).
2. Entering and maintaining a contract with the church community/project regarding the purpose of the funds, transferring the funds quarterly to a local bank account, and receiving an annual report including acquittal of the funds.
3. Reporting for AFOA membership and sponsors annually.

Operational Plan

As a guide, the following issues need to be considered as part of an Operational Plan in establishing an Orphan Support scheme.

At the site:

- a) an organisation map including how the service is managed and how problems are sorted out
- b) a description of the services that are being provided, hours of service, contact information etc
- c) a description of what employed people's roles are, whether they are employed, contractors etc, and how problems will be managed
- d) information about how orphans get the service, and leave the service
- e) how the funds are managed including the budget, bank details and reports that will be done
- f) a strategic plan (the next 3 to 5 years workplan) and/or an annual workplan (this might be as simple as how many new kids would be expected in a year and how many they would be expecting to leave etc)
- g) how performance will be reported (eg that there will be 30 orphans most of the time who will receive such and such immunisations and at least so many months/years of teaching). These need to be reasonably easy for the management person/group to provide to the funder. It may be just photos.

For sponsors (funders) an operating plan would cover:

- a) what advertising will be done and what information will be provided to people who want to be sponsors (how to start and stop being a sponsor)
- b) what office or person will support sponsors for collecting money and answering questions
- c) what the contractual arrangements will be in terms of contract length, frequency of payments, reporting and what circumstances payment would be withheld
- d) what the role of AFOA will be in managing the project and how problems will be managed