



CHILD SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM

Christ-centred | Child-focused | Church-based

CONTENTS

Who is Compassion?	5
What is Compassion's Child Sponsorship Program?	6
How does the Child Sponsorship Program work?	9
Elza's story, Guatemala	10
Compassion's holistic child development	12
Where we work	16
Songwut's story, Thailand	19
Why does child sponsorship work?	20
Research confirming Compassion's sponsorship model	22
Major's story, Ghana	24
How are children selected for registration in the Child Sponsorship Program?	27
Can sponsors write to the child they support?	28
How much does child sponsorship cost?	32
How are funds distributed?	33
Can gifts be sent to sponsored children?	34
Can sponsors visit their sponsored child?	38
When do children leave the Child Sponsorship Program?	39
How do I sponsor a child?	40



PHOTOGRAPHY BY BEN ADAMS

WHO IS COMPASSION?

Compassion works in partnership with local churches in over 25 developing countries to release children from poverty in Jesus' name.

Our child development program is unique in that it is:



CHRIST-CENTRED

Every child has the opportunity to hear and respond to the gospel in a culturally relevant way.



CHILD-FOCUSED

The program engages each child as an individual, fostering their spiritual, physical, socio-emotional and economic development.



CHURCH-BASED

Program centres are run exclusively in partnership with local church partners in the children's communities.

WHAT IS COMPASSION'S CHILD SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM?

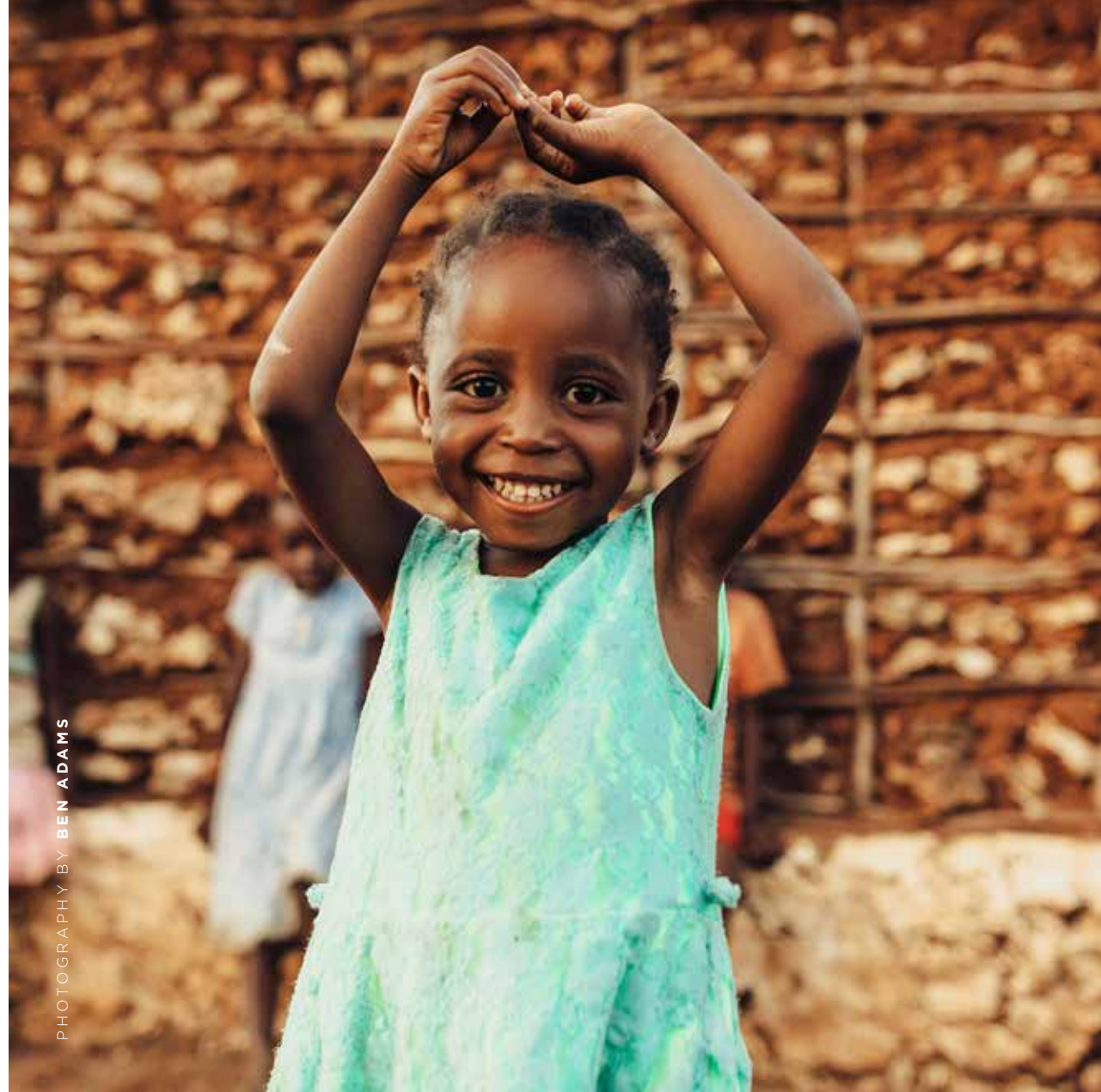
Core to Compassion's ministry, the Child Sponsorship Program connects one sponsor with one child living in poverty, providing not only education and health care but also the encouragement needed to be socially confident and economically self-supporting.

In partnership with Compassion, more than 7000 local churches in developing countries deliver the Child Sponsorship Program and aim for a child to be:

- Physically healthy and able to make good decisions about their health
- Motivated with skills to be economically self-supporting
- Able to interact with others in a healthy and compassionate manner
- Given the opportunity to hear the gospel message

"Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these."

— MARK 10:14



PHOTOGRAPHY BY BEN ADAMS

HOW DOES THE CHILD SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM WORK?

The Child Sponsorship Program is the foundation of Compassion's work and enables children to experience life-changing opportunities to be released from poverty in Jesus' name.

Through a child development centre run by a local church, children are given the opportunity to hear the gospel, receive education, health care and good nutrition, and play and learn in safe places. All centres operate within Compassion's holistic child development framework, and each centre has the freedom to contextualise its activities to suit the needs of its children and the community it works in.

The Child Sponsorship Program connects one sponsor with one child so they can invest into that child's future. Through prayer, letter writing and support, sponsors play a vital part in their sponsored child's development and spiritual growth. While some organisations focus on developing a community or region, Compassion is unique in its belief that one of the best ways to tackle poverty is through the development of individuals.

Changed environments may assist children, but transformed children will inevitably change their environments. That's why our unique mission is to release children, one by one, from poverty in Jesus' name.



PHOTOGRAPHY BY BEN ADAMS

ELZA'S STORY

GUATEMALA

Elza grew up in Guatemala, where she witnessed domestic violence and alcoholism on a daily basis. Her mother struggled to raise their family of seven, while her father spent their money on alcohol.

Life began to change for Elza when at age six she was registered with Compassion's Child Sponsorship Program. "I felt the difference between my home and the Compassion child development centre," says Elza. "My tutors would treat me nicely and they constantly talked about Jesus and how much He loved me."

Her sponsors' letters kept her going during seasons of heartbreak, especially when her brother died and, not long later, her father was hit by a car and killed as he crossed a road.

"My sponsors' words became my shelter," says Elza. "Because my mother never learned how to read or write, when we were both feeling down, I read my sponsors' letters out loud so we could be comforted by their loving words."

Now a young adult, Elza has become a tutor at the Compassion centre she attended. She has a heart for young children. "I want them to know that no matter what they are going through, God's love is with them and He will never leave them."



COMPASSION'S HOLISTIC CHILD DEVELOPMENT

Holistic child development is taking a child through a process of growth and fulfilment in all dimensions of their life: spiritually, socio-emotionally, economically and physically.

It's a long-term approach that starts before a child is born and continues through to school age and beyond. Holistic child development means we recognise that every child is special, uniquely made by God. That's why everything we do is tailored to meet the specific needs of individual children.



COMPASSION'S CHILD SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM is the core of Compassion's ministry to children and gives every registered child access to life-changing opportunities to be released from poverty in Jesus' name.



COMPASSION'S CRITICAL NEEDS builds upon the Child Sponsorship Program to address the issues facing children, their families and their communities. Critical Needs removes obstacles to children's development and implements preventative action. This can include providing safe water, emergency medical care, infrastructure, vocational training and disaster relief—all issues that need to be addressed for a child to be released from poverty.

We address the four key areas of a child's development.



We work with children at each stage of their lives.



Funded through local and sponsorship resources
Funded through non-sponsorship resources

We work with children from the womb to the workforce, so they can develop their God-given potential and become healthy and fulfilled adults.

Our program addresses the individual needs of children that are unique to their stage of life—from prenatal care through to early childhood, school age, and adolescence.



PHOTOGRAPHY BY BEN ADAMS

WHERE WE WORK

FIELD COUNTRIES

Compassion national offices oversee and administer Compassion's child development program and develop church partner relationships and child advocacy initiatives in over 25 developing countries around the world.

PARTNER COUNTRIES

Compassion partner countries provide the funds, resources and assistance with development for the successful implementation of Compassion's program around the world through a variety of marketing campaigns and child advocacy initiatives.





SONGWUT'S STORY THAILAND

Growing up in a small tribal community in remote Thailand, Songwut had a dream to go to school and learn to read and write. His father had high hopes of a bright future for him: "I want my son to go to school and learn to be a mechanic; he could be the first mechanic in our village."

But education wasn't easy to access. Teachers for the local government-run school were scarce and wouldn't stay long. And frequent monsoons meant it was almost impossible for Songwut and his friends to attend school during the rainy season.

The staff and church leaders at the local child development centre came up with a plan. They began regularly calling teachers to hold them accountable to their contracts; they also found two qualified people in the area and agreed to pay their expenses and salaries to teach the children.

Songwut now attends school and experiences the joy of learning. And every weekend at his local Compassion centre, Songwut receives help with his homework, tutoring and extra lessons. Parents, teachers and centre staff work closely together to ensure the school stays open.

Songwut's hopes for his future have been revived. With the help of Compassion's Child Sponsorship Program, he has a whole community around him that will help turn his dreams to reality.

WHY DOES CHILD SPONSORSHIP WORK?

Compassion child sponsorship works because of CHRIST. He is the reason Compassion exists, and the reason Australians nationwide give generously so that children can be released from poverty. It is only through Christ that hearts and lives are transformed.

Compassion child sponsorship works because of the CHURCH. In countries where Compassion works, it's the local church who works day in and day out to identify and meet the individual needs of children living in poverty. Every child is shown the love of Christ through the local church and given the chance to respond to the message of the gospel.

Compassion child sponsorship works because of YOU—sponsors who believe every child deserves the opportunity to go to school, have access to health care and live with hope for their future. Through child sponsorship, you have the significant opportunity to show a child living in poverty they are valuable and uniquely made by God for a purpose.

“Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.”

—MATTHEW 25:40



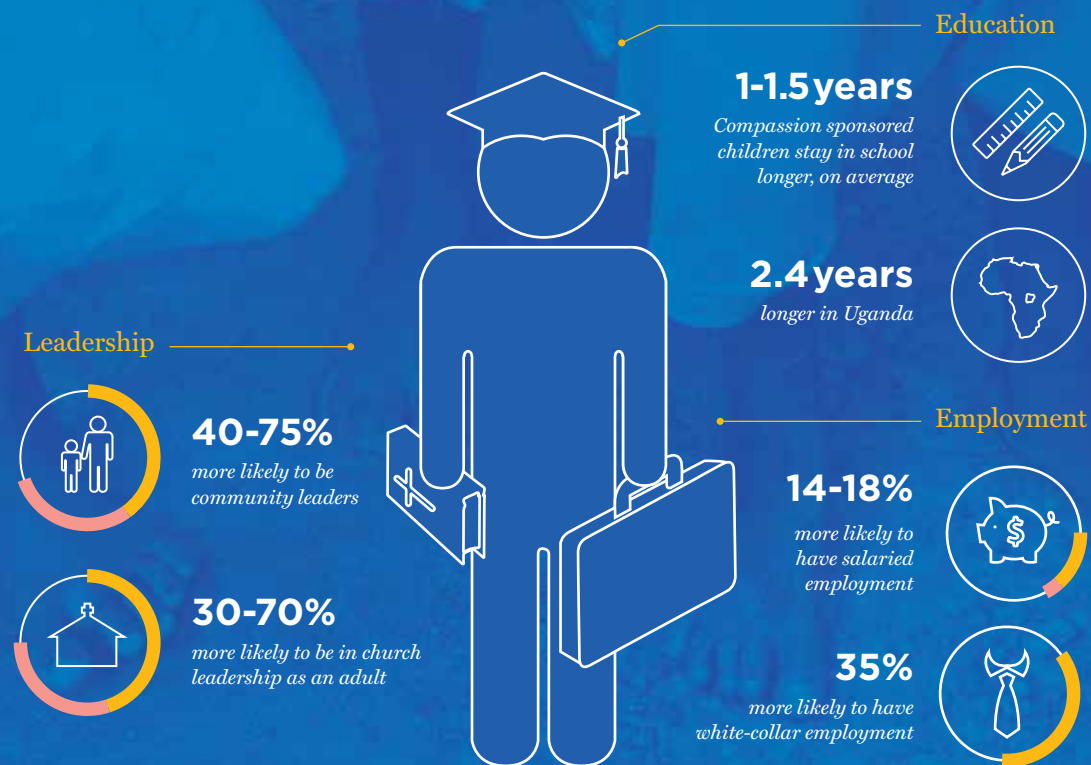
PHOTOGRAPHY BY BEN ADAMS

RESEARCH CONFIRMING COMPASSION'S SPONSORSHIP MODEL

World-class independent research conducted by Dr Bruce Wydick and a team of researchers found that Compassion's Child Sponsorship Program is highly effective as a long-term solution to help release children from poverty.

The research focused on six countries and interviews with over 10,000 people, including 1860 former Compassion sponsored children. The key findings, published in the *Journal of Political Economy*, found that, compared with their non-sponsored peers, Compassion alumni:

- Stayed in school longer
- Had a higher rate of completing primary, secondary and tertiary education
- Were more likely to have salaried employment and more likely to have attained white-collar employment
- Were more likely to become community and church leaders



Over 2 years Bruce Wydick and team interviewed:



over 10,000 people



including 1860 sponsored children



from 6 countries

MAJOR'S STORY

GHANA

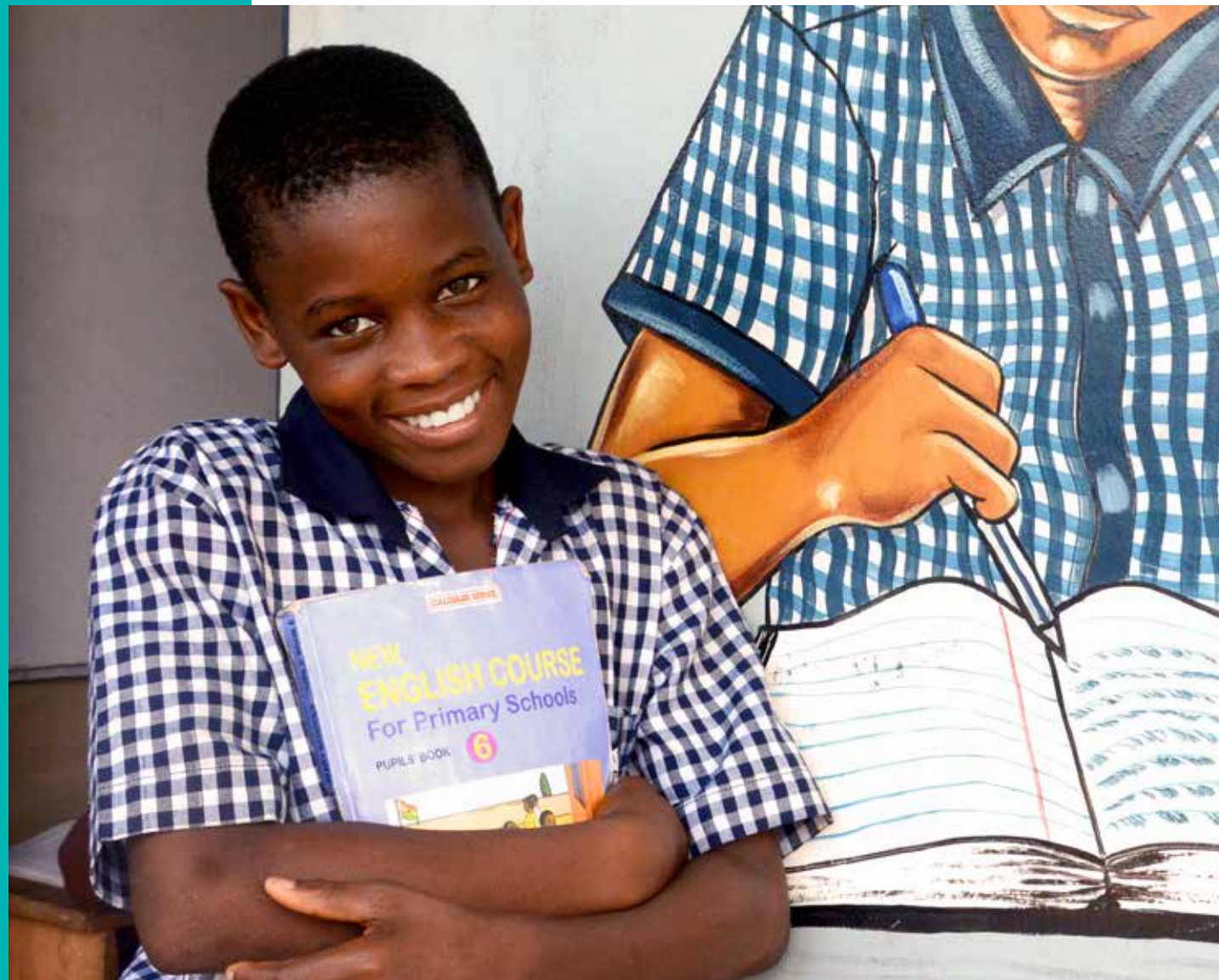
Major was six years old when he was registered with the Child Sponsorship Program. On his very first day, the angry young boy injured another child. He developed a reputation as a boy with hostility and hurt—the other children avoided him.

Major's father had abandoned the family because he could no longer provide for his children. His mother worked at the local stone quarry and made Major come with her to earn money for his own food. This meant he was missing school and only attended the Compassion child development centre on the weekend. One day, when Major's mother threatened to kill him, local centre staff knew they needed to intervene.

They searched for a foster parent for Major and found Martha, a local teacher, who took him in and cared for him. With Martha's love and support, slowly Major began to recover from the trauma he had suffered. He attended school, made friends with other children and began to understand Jesus' love for him.

Martha says it wasn't easy but it was worth it. "Today I can say with confidence that Major has changed. He believes in Jesus Christ and he can even preach on every topic he is given. He knows God," says Martha.

Through the consistent support of the local church, Martha, and his tutors and friends at the child development centre, Major is now a changed young man with dreams for his future.



HOW ARE CHILDREN SELECTED FOR REGISTRATION IN THE CHILD SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM?

Because the child development centre staff in each community know and understand the needs of children and families in their local area, they are responsible for determining which children are registered into Compassion's Child Sponsorship Program.

First, particular communities in need are identified and assessed. Then child development centre staff speak to community members to determine the circumstances of local families and identify the children's greatest needs. Generally only one child per family is sponsored so that the benefit of sponsorship is spread as widely as possible throughout the community; however, exceptions are sometimes made when a family's situation is critical.

Finally, parents of selected families are told about Compassion's program and invited to register their children up to the age of nine.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY BEN ADAMS



CAN SPONSORS WRITE TO THE CHILD THEY SUPPORT?

Yes! Your support and letters as a sponsor can have an ongoing impact in the life of a child living in poverty.

Over and over, former sponsored children point to their sponsors' letters and prayers as the two things above all others that gave them hope, courage and the belief that they could overcome their circumstances.

A sponsored child writes at least two letters each year to their sponsor and we encourage you to do the same—or write more often if you'd like to! You will also receive an updated profile and photo of your sponsored child every two years.

Letters can be sent by mail or electronically to Compassion Australia. Each week, letters are forwarded to Compassion country offices around the world. When letters arrive at the appropriate country office they are translated into the child's language and delivered to the local child development centre, where your sponsored child is encouraged to write back to you.

It may take up to three months for you to receive a response from your sponsored child, or a little longer if they live in a remote community. It's now easier than ever to write to your sponsored child online and we encourage you to do so, as this will mean a shorter process and waiting time for your sponsored child.



PHOTOGRAPHY BY BEN ADAMS

“Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me does not welcome me but the one who sent me.”

HOW MUCH DOES CHILD SPONSORSHIP COST?

Sponsorship is \$48 per month.

Your support provides the child you sponsor with life-changing opportunities that would otherwise be out of their reach, including:

- The opportunity to hear the gospel in a culturally relevant way
- Health care such as medical checkups, dental care and vaccinations
- Individualised care and attention
- Key life skills and vocational training (plus leadership training if 12 years and over)
- Learning opportunities, school supplies and assistance with school fees as needed
- Nutritious meals as required

Whoever is kind to the poor lends to the LORD, and he will reward them for what they have done.

—PROVERBS 19:17

HOW ARE FUNDS DISTRIBUTED?



*For every dollar you donate to Compassion, around **80 PER CENT** is used:*

- For the development, delivery and supervision of the program
- For the purchase of goods and services for the direct benefit of the children in the program
- To inform and update sponsors and facilitate their personal relationship with their sponsored child
- For community education in Australia



*Approximately **20 PER CENT** is allocated to cover all administration and fundraising costs in Australia.*

Using a small portion of donations for fundraising allows Compassion to provide even greater support to the children in our program. For every dollar spent on fundraising, we receive more than seven times that in return, which allows us to assist even more children with a much wider range of development activities.

CAN GIFTS BE SENT TO SPONSORED CHILDREN?

Yes, there are two ways you can send gifts to your sponsored child:

- 1 A financial gift, such as a birthday or child gift, family gift or Compassion centre gift, can be organised through your Compassion My Account at compassion.com.au/myaccount. You're also welcome to call us on 1300 22 44 53 and organise a financial gift by phone. One hundred per cent of child, family and centre gifts are sent through Compassion to the child development centre, where staff members assist the children and/or families in the purchase of appropriate goods.
- 2 Small gifts of paper or cardboard, such as postcards, stickers, bookmarks and posters, can be attached to your letters to your sponsored child, and we will forward them for you.

"Gifts [from Frank's sponsor] have been helping us a lot. In the previous years, we would use it at home for food and clothing ... In [2016], we [bought] a canoe because fishing is the thing I know how to do best. It meant I could make more money than I used to for my family."

—JACKSON BARAGULA, FATHER OF FRANK, A SPONSORED BOY IN TANZANIA



PHOTOGRAPHY BY BEN ADAMS

**Religion that God our Father
accepts as pure and faultless
is this:** to look after orphans
and widows in their distress
and to keep oneself from being
polluted by the world.

CAN SPONSORS VISIT THEIR SPONSORED CHILD?

Yes! You can visit your sponsored child in his or her country by notifying Compassion's Field Experience team at least two months prior to the intended visit.

A Compassion staff member from the country office will accompany you to visit the child on the day and help you with translation. Compassion also hosts group Insight Trips, which you are welcome to join.

"When we finally arrived to meet our precious sponsored children, we couldn't wait to see the smiles on their faces. Little did we know, our [own] lives would be changed..."

—SALLY EVERINGHAM, COMPASSION AUSTRALIA SPONSOR



For more information visit compassion.com.au/get-involved/insight-trips

WHEN DO CHILDREN LEAVE THE CHILD SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM?

The age at which children can complete the Child Sponsorship Program is between 18 and 22, depending on the country they live in. You will receive notification when your sponsored child is ready to graduate, or if your sponsored child has exited the program.

We know that after building a relationship with your sponsored child it can be a shock if the child leaves the program prior to completion, so we will do our best to give you advance warning and help answer your questions. A number of children depart from the program prematurely for a variety of reasons, including changes in personal circumstances or if their family relocates. One of the best reasons for a child leaving the program is because their family no longer needs Compassion's help.

Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it.

—PROVERBS 22:6

HOW DO I SPONSOR A CHILD?

Since 1952, sponsors like you have partnered with Compassion to build powerful connections with children living in poverty, changing not just individual lives but entire communities.

As a sponsor you have the opportunity to invest in a child's life and see God work through your prayers and encouragement to create real change.

So visit compassion.com.au/sponsor and click “sponsor a child” today—and begin a relationship more powerful than poverty!

And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

—COLOSSIANS 3:17

PHOTOGRAPHY BY BEN ADAMS



THANK YOU

for considering changing the life of a child
through the Child Sponsorship Program.

*Dear children, let us not love with words or
tongue but with actions and in truth.*

—1 JOHN 3:18





**SEARCH FOR
COMPASSIONAU**

COMPASSION AUSTRALIA

PO Box 1, Hunter Region MC NSW 2310

Phone: 1300 22 44 53 | Fax: 02 4935 5099

ABN 67 001 692 566

compassion.com.au

Christ-centred | Child-focused | Church-based