

KARIS KIDS: IMPORTANT UPDATE



Thank you for your ongoing generous support of Karis Kids, which is so much appreciated by your family in Kampala. This letter is to inform you of a very important change about inflation which requires your attention as soon as you can.

Ugandan Inflation

For some time, the Karis Kids team have been concerned that the effectiveness of the services we deliver in Kampala for our families is being eroded by inflation. In November 2013, the charity Compassion had to increase their child support donations from £21 to £25 per month per child because of inflation in Uganda. With this in mind, we have reviewed the amount needed and have calculated a new rate per Ugandan family of £62 per month. We would be really grateful if you would agree to this increase.

Price Rises

"in Uganda a loaf of bread that cost 32p in 2009 now costs 49p an **increase of over 50%**. A school uniform that cost £5.08 in 2009 now costs £6.46, an **increase of 21%**"

Source: Compassion International

Secondary Education and Vocational Training

Karis originally aimed to provide families for orphans and to help those families afford basic needs, including primary education. This has been a great success. Karis children gain a better primary education and achieve better examination results than they would have done otherwise. In addition, primary schools have been able to retain teachers and, as a result, children not involved in Karis have also benefitted.

Life Chances & Secondary Education

"A secondary education transforms children's life chances, especially for girls. Every **extra year of secondary school adds 15% to 25% to a girl's future wage**. Girls with a secondary education are **three times less likely to contract HIV** and their **future children are more than twice as likely to survive beyond the age of five**. [...] In Uganda, 72% of secondary school-aged children are not in school. The majority of Uganda's young people leave primary school for the job market but struggle to secure work because they do not have the necessary basic knowledge or skills."

Source: <http://www.arkonline.org/education/uganda>

Recently, it has become clear that primary education alone will fail to help our children and their families to escape poverty. The life chances of boys and especially girls are significantly improved each year they spend in secondary education or vocational training (VT). Completing post primary education puts children in a much better position to find proper employment and help support their own families.

So we have been looking at ways to fund post primary education. When we discussed this issue at the recent Karis Kids leaders meeting in March, it was suggested we informed the link families (i.e. you!) about this need. So as well as looking at other ways of funding, we would like to give you the opportunity to help with this need.

On the second page, we have identified which of your children (if any) require support for secondary education.

Summer Camps

The Ugandan Karis teams have told us that the annual Karis summer camp, whilst popular, creates a significant overhead on them – it typically takes about three months work of effort to plan, organise and run. In addition, it is an expensive venture, costing £15,000 each year.

Therefore, we have decided to cancel the summer camp in 2015 and run it bi-annually instead. We are concerned that cancelling this year's camp will be a disappointment to our children, so we are planning (at least) two 1-day celebrations this year where children can have fun as well as receive some mentoring and encouragement.

Any existing funding that has been allocated for summer camps will be used for the celebrations and for the summer camp in 2016.