

Guide to Screening Candidates for FFC Sponsorship

This guide provides advice to selecting candidates for FFC sponsorship and should be understood in conjunction with:

- a. the criteria of qualification as stated in our appeal document (letter requesting partner charities to provide specified number of OVCs at a given time)
- b. the Memorandum of Understanding that FFC and its partners (fund administrating charities) sign as contractual agreement
- c. the overall objectives, selection criteria and procedural setup of FFC as outlined in the charity's documents (such as our mission statement and the FAQ document posted on its website: <http://www.friendsforchildren.org>)

I. Overall Criteria

The aim of FFC sponsorships is to benefit orphans

1. who **LOST BOTH** their parents to HIV/AIDS
2. who have **NO INCOME** or financial support from **OTHER SPONSORS** or **FUNDING BODIES**
3. who **HAVE NEXT OF KIN** to bring them up with love and care, but who **NEED** financial assistance to do so

Despite the above clearly stated conditions for qualification partner charities overlook one or more of the conditions in screening candidates. This leads to selection of candidates who do not qualify (for example, a child who lost one parent, or a child who lives in an orphanage). The rejection that follows is extremely disappointing to hopeful candidates and to all parties involved in the process. To avoid disappointment and unnecessary delays we would like to advice partner charities to apply the criteria strictly. Only OVCs

- who have no father and mother
- who have lost both parents to HIV/AIDS
- who have no income to support themselves
- who can be raised by relatives (preferably a grandparent, but also uncle, aunt, elder sister/brother) with financial support from sponsors

are deemed to meet the criteria for FFC sponsorship

II. Additional Considerations

1. Discrimination

FFC would like to sponsor orphans whose social makeup is a fair representative of the society they come from. Partner charities therefore need to be mindful in screening/selection of qualifying candidates to avoid religious, ethnic, political and sexual discrimination. A group of orphans selected at a given time should have a fair mix

of boys and girls who come from ethnic and religious communities affected by HIV/AIDS from all over Addis Ababa.

Partner charities should also be mindful not to discriminate against children who may be infected with HIV. In fact the selection process should NOT consider health issues lest they raise suspicion of bias.

2. Age consideration

FFC would like its sponsorship programme to be meaningful by helping qualifying orphans become self-reliant and productive citizens when they no longer qualify for sponsorship on grounds of age, that is when they become adults at the age of 18. Meaningful or effectual sponsorship requires long term intervention. In other words, qualifying children of younger age benefit more from the sponsorship, since they continue to go to school for longer periods of time.

Technically all children up to the age of 18 are qualified for sponsorship. But sponsoring orphans at the age of 17, that is for a term of only one year, may not constitute substantive assistance as it only alleviate their destitution for a short period. On the other hand sponsoring children of age five to ten is a longer term commitment. It is onerous on the FFC. Yet it enables the beneficiaries to go to school for many years, and hence to have better knowledge and skills which become assets for employment or further studies.

Fact: In the past we refused to offer sponsorship to a qualifying orphan who was 17 at the time of application; instead we sponsored a child who was much younger.

3. Family considerations

The FFC sponsorship programme is designed not only to sponsor double orphans but also to benefit their extended family. In practice this means a double orphan who has brothers and sisters of minor age is likely to be accorded preference than an orphan with few or no siblings. **The sponsorship programme focuses on individual orphans, but all things being the same, candidates with siblings are given precedence so that they remain as family units.**

When children are orphaned they lose parents, and their grandparents lose children who look after them in their old age. Both lose carers. Mindful of this fact the FFC sponsorship gives **priority to orphans who could be looked after by their grandparents so that both benefit from the financial support.** Furthermore FFC gives more weight to choosing orphan children who will be raised by grandparents who have other minor dependents under their care.

Fact: From current carers of FFC sponsored children

- over a third are grandparents
- about a quarter are elder sister and brothers
- about a quarter are aunts and uncles

Similarly orphans who may be looked after by aunts, uncles or elder brothers or sisters are considered relatively more needy, especially if they are raised in family settings of more dependent

minors. Ideally FFC believes children should be raised by their close relatives, and hence it **rarely considers orphans to be looked after by non-relatives.**

The sponsorship programme as much as it is designed to keep orphans stay as a family unit, it also aims to help as many needy families as possible. This means it can only approve the **sponsorship of one child per family.** As a rule FFC do not award multiple sponsorships to orphans from a single family.

Fact: In the past we had to reject the candidacy of otherwise qualifying orphans when their siblings are already beneficiaries, or to approve one and reject another when two siblings were presented to us as candidates

III. Filling SPF06 (Sponsorship Profile Form)

Common problems with filling SPF06 for a candidate can be grouped into two categories. In the first category are problems that arise from oversight of the selection criteria. These have been discussed in Sections I & II above. Here it suffice to state that if the selection criteria is strictly applied, filling all the questions of the form becomes easy and straightforward.

In the second category are problems that arise from misunderstanding the questions in the form, or from giving insufficient attention to details. The most common ones are giving inaccurate or inconsistent dates and names.

In section 2.3 ‘Siblings’ refer to brothers and sisters of the orphan being considered for sponsorship. The **FULL NAMES** of these siblings should be given (preferably with dates of birth)

To avoid confusion of dates it is **better to give date of birth and death in Ethiopian calendar;** FFC can convert these into European calendar.

In section 3 ‘**Next of Kin (carer)**’ refers to a relative (grandmother, aunt, uncle, elder brother or sister, etc.) who will look after the orphan being considered for sponsorship. A full name of the carer along with date of birth, how s/he is related to the orphan should be given.

In section 3.2 ‘**spouse**’ refers to husband or wife of the carer. Again the full name, date of birth, profession of the spouse should be given.

In section 3.3 children of carers need not be listed: only stating the number of children suffice. ‘**Minor**’ refers to being a child or youth under 18 years of age. Again only the number of children under 18 should be stated in section 3.3.2.

Section 4 of SPF06 is reserved for comments. The space should be used

- to state facts that cannot be provided due to limitations of the form (for example, the candidate's interests, aptitudes, achievements)
- to highlight points which enhance the suitability of the candidate
- to provide explanation for insufficient or unsatisfactory answers given in the preceding sections (for example, why two different father names were given for siblings)
- or any issue of concern which needs due attention