



# Familia Moja

## Nursery Sponsorship Program



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## *About Familia Moja*

### **Background**

Familia Moja Foundation was founded on 21st March 2023 in Zanzibar. The Familia Moja Foundation is a not-for-profit organisation established on 21st March 2022 in Zanzibar. Our Executive Committee (Board) is comprised of 5 members - 3 founder directors and 2 general board members. None of the Executive Committee receive any salary remuneration but two of the founders (Tim Spooner - Chairman) and Aishati Nzomukunda Abdallah (Head of School) work on a day-to-day operational basis.

Our primary aim is to help children from disadvantaged backgrounds break the cycle of poverty through education.

We operate from our wholly owned and managed 2,800 sqm site in Bwejuu which has been purchased rather than rented but is owned by the Familia Moja Foundation.

We currently have 7 staff members in Zanzibar - the 2 founder members plus 3 teachers, a part-time cook and a security & general maintenance manager. Apart from the Chairman, all of our team are Tanzanian with all but the Head Teacher being from Zanzibar.



### **What we do**

We currently operate a Nursery & Day Care School to provide free education, food and healthcare to underprivileged children from Bwejuu and surrounding villages who might otherwise not get any education until starting Primary school at 7 years old.

We aim to support children from challenging backgrounds so as to ensure they can get a high quality education that prepares them for their future education when they graduate to Primary School. Education is of the utmost importance in breaking the vicious cycle of poverty.



We provide free food to the children as well as clean drinking water to ensure they are well nourished and developing physically. Making sure the children are well nourished has many advantages from an education perspective over and above their general development, health & wellbeing:

- Healthy, well nourished children miss less school through illness.
- Ensuring children are well nourished ensures they can focus during classes.

Making sure they get at least 2 meals a day on a regular basis makes a noticeable difference. Healthy, well educated and balanced children are better able to leverage their education to become productive members of their community in the future.

All of the children who attend our Nursery & Day Care School are provided with free access to medical, optical & dental care - 365 days a year. The parent/guardian calls us even when the child is not at school and we collect them, take them to the hospital and pay for the consultation and medical fees as well as ensuring proper follow-up to make sure the treatment is successfully completed.

Where possible, we also provide additional clothing to both the children and the Bwejuu community at large.



## *About Familia Moja*

### **Day Care & Nursery Schools**

Attending Day Care is not compulsory and there is a grave shortage of Day Care centres in Zanzibar with generally only private, fee paying options available. Consequently, fewer than 5% of children attend Day Care.

Attending Nursery School is not compulsory and an estimated 75% of children in Zanzibar do not have access to any Pre-School. Whilst many government schools do provide Nursery facilities within their Primary Schools there are too few, the facilities are generally lacking and the parents are still required to make small monetary contributions and pay for learning materials etc . As a result, many children only start their education at Primary, by which time they are significantly behind in their educational, physical and emotional development. There are a mixture of schools which teach in either Kiswahili or English in Zanzibar.

### **Primary School (6 Years - Ages 7-13)**

Primary School is compulsory for children who are 7 to 13 years old and covers 6 years (Standard 1 to Standard 6). The 6 years for Primary school is a recent change (made in 2023) from the previous 7 years, which is a first step in reducing the age at which children leave Primary School as previously Primary School leavers were 14. Future changes will bring this more in line with education in other developed countries. Students have to complete a total of six standards and pass their yearly exams. Even after the abolishing of Primary School tuition fees in 2002, there are many parents who struggle to send their children to school due to payments for school uniforms, testing fees, learning materials, school supplies and after-school lessons. Government Primary Schools are taught in Kiswahili while most private schools are taught in English.

At the end of Standard 6, students must pass the Primary School National Examination in order to receive a Primary School Certificate and attend a government Secondary School. Students who fail the test may apply to a private Secondary School, however these schools are unaffordable for most students and so many children drop out of education at the end of Primary School.

### **Secondary School & Further Education**

Government Secondary School is compulsory for all children who pass the Primary School National Examination. Since the classes are instructed in English, it makes it extremely difficult for students who are transitioning from government Primary Schools, where they were taught in Kiswahili, to Secondary School. As a result, many students drop out before completing their first few years in Secondary School. Children from low income families need a lot of additional financial support and extra tuition in order to pass their exams during the first few years in Secondary School.

Secondary School is divided into two levels:

- Ordinary level is for 4 years (Form 1 to Form 4). After passing the Form 4 exams, students receive a Certificate of Secondary Education Examinations (CSSE).
- Advanced level, which is for 2 years (Form 5 to Form 6). Only the students who come top in the CSSE exams are selected and proceed to the Advanced Level. The majority of Advanced Secondary Schools are boarding schools which means that there are several costs which need to be paid including boarding fees, mattress, living allowance etc.. After passing Form 6, students receive an Advanced Certificate of Secondary Education Examination (ACSEE) which allows selected students to enrol into University.

Those students who are not selected to go to Advanced Secondary School can go to one of a number of Specialist Colleges and Educational Institutions to study for a Certificate and then a Diploma. Once a student has been awarded a Diploma they can also enrol into University.

Students passing their Form 6 ACSEE can apply to enrol into University although to do so requires the student to get a full student loan. Sadly, not all students can get a loan to cover their full tuition, accommodation and living costs so unless their families can cover this they are unable to take up their place at University.

There are also other educational opportunities such as technical, vocational, and professional schools where students can be certified and trained in a range of different fields. However there is not sufficient of these to cover all potential students and the costs of attending are often not affordable for their families.



## *Why Nursery Sponsorship*

Familia Moja wants to ensure that the children who attend our school can do so free of charge and that our project is sustainable. Many other NGO's whilst providing reduced cost schooling still charge a contribution fee, which the poorest and most needy families cannot afford.

Through the Familia Moja Nursery Sponsorship Program (NSP), we can generate funds to not only help ensure a child's education, food and healthcare is covered, but also provide additional support by buying them their school uniform (including shoes) and a backpack.

We provide all of the children who attend our school in Bwejuu, Zanzibar free education, food and healthcare. Our students come from challenging backgrounds and without financial support they would struggle with their education and drop out of school - at Pre-School (i.e. Day Care & Nursery) many would not even start their education until Primary School, by which time they are already behind academically, physically and mentally. Only about 5% of children in Zanzibar attend Day Care, and 75% of children never attend Preschool at all. NSP allows us to ensure we can not only cover a child's education, food and healthcare but also provide additional much needed assistance providing them with a free school uniform including shoes and a backpack.



## *Selection Process*

Students are selected based on their living circumstances. Our process involves visiting students' homes to fully understand their family circumstances – income, living conditions, attitudes to education (both students and parents) as well as checking with the local village leader (Sheha).

At this stage of their education there is no need to select students based on their current academic levels as most will have had no education at all when they first join the school. We want to give every child an equal opportunity to develop and flourish.

## *Sponsorship Packages*

Our Sponsorship package is very straightforward and costs \$20/month or \$200/year if paid for a year in advance (as there are additional administration and bank charges associated with regular monthly payments). What the student gets:

- Free education - no registration fee or ongoing fees
- Free food (currently porridge at break) and water
- Free healthcare including optical & dental
- Free school uniform (t-shirt with logo, shorts or skirt, socks and shoes)
- Free backpack



### *Minimised Costs Means Maximum Impact*

Only the local Zanzibari staff (3 teachers, part-time cook and security/maintenance manager) get paid a salary. The management staff (General School Manager & Head Teacher) do not get paid a salary which minimises costs. Therefore, you can rest assured that your sponsorship money is being maximised to ensure the children get all of the support and facilities they need including well trained local Zanzibari teachers, stationery (exercise books, pencils, rubbers, sharpeners, Rehm paper), teaching aids, painting materials, toys, sports equipment, food, clean drinking water and free medical consultations and treatment.

As a result, our sponsorship fee is considerably lower than most other such programs which generally charge 50-60% more to go towards Management staff overheads.

Sponsoring a child provides them with access to an education they would otherwise miss out on and allows them to develop physically, emotionally and academically. It ensures that these children are ready and better able to thrive and grow when they start Primary School, which is crucial for their personal development and future opportunities. It helps break the cycle of poverty by empowering them with knowledge and skill they need and improve their overall quality of life.





## *What You Get As A Sponsor*

Apart from knowing you have given a child the amazing gift of education, as a sponsor you will receive updates via email two times per year:

**June Update** ; A copy of your child's mid-year grade card plus a picture of a drawing done by your sponsored child.

**December Update** ; A copy of your child's year-end grade card plus a picture of a Christmas card made by them.

You are most welcome to send us a letter and pictures through email, which we would love to pass on to your sponsored child. as the children really love to get to know the sponsor and their families and it can be useful additional education exposing them to life from different countries and cultures.

You will also get a Thank you letter from Familia Moja at the start of your sponsorship confirming payment has been received.

*The Sponsorship Process - As Easy as 1-2-3*

**STEP 1**

If you are interested in sponsoring a child, please contact us via email at [sponsorship@familia-moja.org](mailto:sponsorship@familia-moja.org) or send us a WhatsApp message on +255 678 432 665. We will send you back a list of children waiting for sponsorship with a picture and brief background of the child. Please note that we ideally look for a multi-year (2 year) commitment from all our sponsors to cover the full period of their current school stage. However, if at any point you do not wish to renew your sponsorship, we request that you give us at least three months' notice so that we can attempt to find a new sponsor for your child.

**STEP 2**

Once you have chosen which child (or children) you wish to sponsor then you confirm this via email and if you have any questions we will be only too happy to answer them for you. We will send you an email to confirm bank details for an international bank electronic funds transfer (EFT). You can choose the payment schedule that best suits your needs (monthly or annually). Please note that the annual cost for monthly payments is slightly higher than a one-off annual payment due to additional monthly admin to check for payment and for monthly bank charges incurred for each bank transfer. If you prefer you may also pay for both years in one payment.

**STEP 3**

Once you have completed the payment and we have received the funds we will advise you via email and your sponsorship will start immediately. We only ever advise children's families that their child has been sponsored once the payment has been received from a sponsor. You will be sent your thank you letter from Familia Moja confirming your sponsorship is up and running and including a recent picture of the child you have sponsored.



### *Contact us*

If you have any questions regarding the Nursery Sponsorship Program or about your sponsored child, please feel free to contact: [sponsorship@familia-moja.org](mailto:sponsorship@familia-moja.org), WhatsApp Tim Spooner on +255 678 432 665 or you can find further contact information on our website: <https://familia-moja.org/contact/>

We passionately believe that every child has the right to an education - your sponsorship is another measurable step in the right direction to ensuring the children of Zanzibar get that right.



