



Strategic vision 2020-2024



1. Introduction

Child Care Africa (CCA) is a Dutch foundation established in 2019 to improve the future prospects of orphans and vulnerable children in Africa (see: cca-f.org).

With a lot of love and limited financial means, we help children in a hopeless situation to build a better future. We improve their access to education and basic needs. We help them to avoid the poverty trap and to be a meaningful contribution to their family, community and country.

2. Goals and ambition

Child Care Africa (CCA) Foundation contributes to a world where all children enjoy safety and access to education, healthcare, safe drinking water, food, shelter, protection and the fulfilment of children's rights. Orphans and vulnerable children (OVC's) in Africa, especially in rural and marginalized places, often lack opportunities to complete their education and to build a better future. Their situation is often hopeless. CCA was founded to give them hope and essential support. The following Biblical scripture inspires and motivates us to continue supporting children, at least until they complete their education:

“And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not”
(Galatians 6 : 9)

3. How we work

We realize our vision by working together with local development initiatives in Africa, such as schools, hospitals, women associations, local foundations, churches, social enterprises, etc. We are convinced that transformation is most effective when it comes from within. Our local partners know the language, culture, society and challenges affecting their community. With the right support, local initiatives can address these challenges and find effective ways to lift themselves out of poverty and thrive.

Our partners work with our “CCA partnership guidelines”, explaining our expectations and best practice tools. An important aspect of our cooperation with local partners is the coaching and mentorship. We help our local partners with the programme implementation, quality reporting and documentation and standard financial accountability. We want to see our local partners grow and become independent and professional partners, with a strong focus on children and youth.

Our activities include:

1. Sponsoring vulnerable children until they complete their education (vocational training, diploma, university).
2. Counselling and monitoring the spiritual and psychosocial development of the children
3. Improving access to healthcare and medical attention for children with special needs
4. Maintaining contact with parents / caretakers
5. Sensitizing communities about the rights of children



We focus on vulnerable children and youth in marginalized communities. Our education sponsorship programme targets among others:

- Orphans without a (able) caretaker
- Children with elderly / sick / disabled parents or caretakers
- Children living in poverty
- Children of single (teen) mothers or widows
- Children forced to stay at home due to cultural norms and values
- Children living with HIV, chronic illness or a disability
- Child victims of abuse, neglect, (sexual) exploitation, female genital mutilation or child marriage

An important aspect of our programme is the serious screening of children. All children are visited at home and screened thoroughly, before they are included in our programme. We obtain information from neighbours, relatives, community members and religious leaders to verify the child's story. Objectivity and transparency towards the local community are very important. Everyone should be able to understand why these specific children were selected for our sponsorship. CCA does not discriminate. We seek for an equal balance between geographical, political, ethnic and religious characteristics. We do however select a minimum of 60% girls and a maximum of 40% boys and we include a maximum of 2 children per family. We don't discriminate based on age. Some of our beneficiaries were forced to drop out of school due to financial challenges. Others start in the first class of primary school. Our supported children receive basic sanitary and scholastic needs, such as a mattress, soap, pens, exercise books and menstrual pads.

Besides the selection process with local partners, we respond to emergency situations. Such as young girls who escaped from their husband or circumcision. Or children rescued from child trafficking or (sexual) exploitation. When we receive cases from the police or the hospital, we first confirm the story by means of a home visit and information from key persons. The identification of beneficiaries is an important and sensitive process.

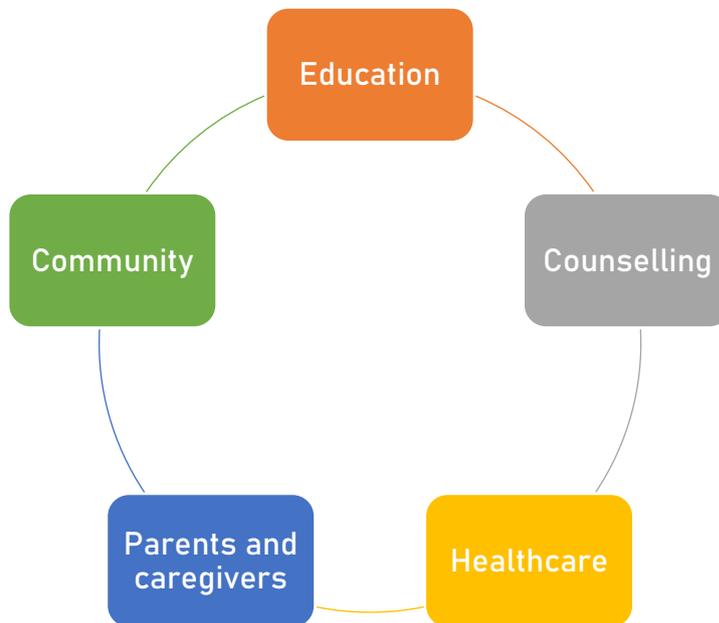
We believe in maintaining close relationships with the parents and caretakers. They remain ultimately responsible for the child(ren). We sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the parents and caretakers, stipulating the tasks and responsibilities of all parties. Parents and caretakers sit together with our local partners and agree to a financial contribution.

Students sponsored in tertiary education also sign an MoU with CCA and our local partners. After completion of their education, they begin to sponsor a new student to join primary school. This improves the sustainability of our programme and decreases the dependency on foreign donors.

Our vision is holistic. That means that CCA (in cooperation with parents and caretakers) supports everything that is essential for the child. Such as: food, clothes, shelter, education, medical attention and spiritual and psycho-social counselling. Children with special needs receive medical attention from a specialized hospital.



Our main focus is the support of vulnerable children. But where necessary, we may decide to extend our support to improved safe water supply, business and employment, improving the quality of education or for example the theological training of pastors.



4. Where we work

We work in areas in developing countries in Africa where we can really make the difference. These are often remote and marginalized areas, where literacy rates are low and few children have the opportunity to complete their education, due to financial, geographical or cultural barriers.

We usually work in areas where the presence of development partners focused on children is low. In 2020, we focus on three areas within the Karamoja region in Northeast Uganda. In 2021, we plan to establish connections with other potential partners in other areas and countries. We shall consider a variety of options, such as the Central African republic, DR Congo, Zimbabwe, Northern Ethiopia and South-Sudan.

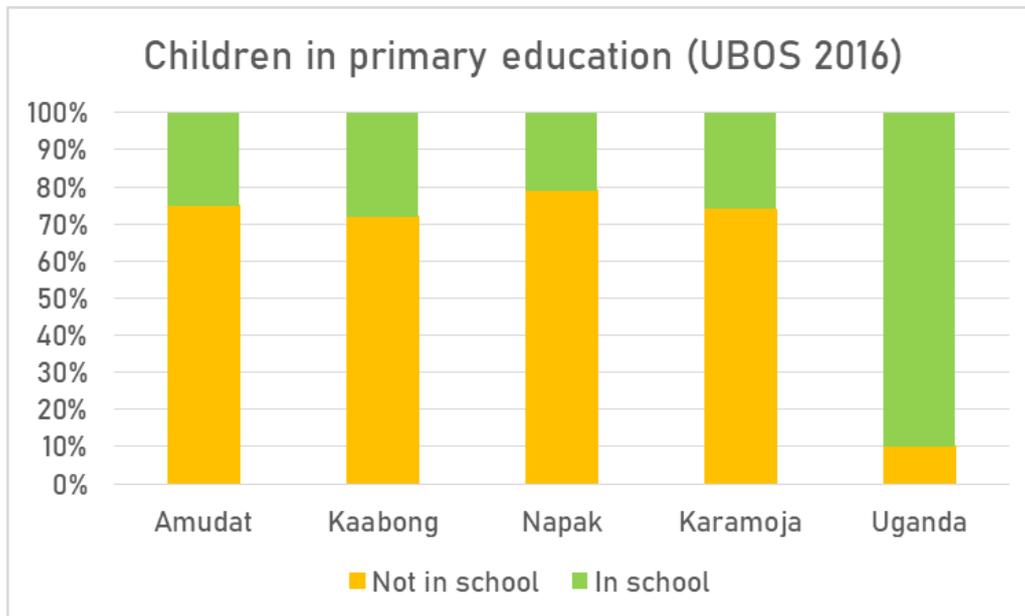
4.1 Karamoja

Karamoja is a remote and marginalized area in Northeast Uganda, bordering South-Sudan and Kenya. Karamoja was characterized by cattle-theft and violent conflicts between tribes for many decades. The government disarmament in 2009 resulted in relative peace and security, creating some space for the local communities to develop.

Karamoja is largely inhabited by nomad tribes. Its population attaches great social, cultural and economic value to cattle. The local communities depend on their livestock and small scale agriculture in the rainy season for survival. Persistent droughts affect crop production and livestock, resulting in rising poverty levels, hopelessness and alcoholism. Karamoja was classified in 2016 as one of the world's poorest areas. 61% of the 1.2 million inhabitants live in absolute poverty. It's remote location,



violent past and traditional nomad culture have resulted in low development rates. Only 5% of the adult population can read and write and only one out of every four children attends primary education. With 17%, continuation to secondary education is even lower, especially among girls.



Women in Karamoja give birth to an average of eight children, three times as many as in capital city Kampala. Chronic poverty and large family-size have negative consequences for the development, health and education of Karamoja children. Parents often lack the financial means to support (all) their children to access schools. Or they refuse to pay for their children's education, due to cultural norms and values. Boys in pastoral tribes are traditionally responsible for cattle keeping and girls are married off at a young age in exchange for a good dowry. It is extremely difficult for children living with HIV or a disability to build a better future, due to stigma's in the local communities.

As a result, 86% of the young population in Karamoja have never been to school and are either not working or in a vulnerable employment. This is extraordinarily high, compared to 5% in Kampala. The current situation increases the likelihood of idle youth to get involved in crime, mental health problems, violence, conflicts and drug abuse. The majority of the population in Karamoja is poor due to a lack of employable skills. With poor education, the Karamoja region loses opportunities for girls and young people to delay child bearing, get skilled and in position to contribute to the regions and national development. Low education levels result in an influx of skilled work force and economic activities from outside of the region. We believe this offers plenty opportunities to make a tangible difference.

4.1.1. Amudat

Amudat district is located in eastern Karamoja, bordering Kenya. The local Pokot population suffered terribly during the decade long war with neighbouring tribes. During these decades of insecurity, many families fled to relatively safe areas in Kenya, where they felt at home among their tribe mates. Upon return to Uganda after the disarmament, they found a total lack of roads, healthcare and schools. Many facilities have been created since and the traditional Pokot population is slowly starting to embrace education. Where illiteracy is currently at 95%, we recognize that a growing percentage of about 25% of all children between 6 and 12 years old accesses primary education.

Female Genital Mutilation is part of the Pokot culture. This cultural tradition mutilates young girls for life and creates a lot of health risks. After circumcision, girls are often married at a young age (12-15 years). Boys are responsible for taking care of the livestock, instead of going to school. These violations of children's rights are perceived as normal and accepted in the Pokot culture.

It is due to these child protection concerns that CCA started in 2019 with the support of 48 orphans and vulnerable children in Amudat. The demand for support remains high. With the necessary training and support to our local partner “Hope for the Children (HFC)”, we will continue to expand our programme in Amudat. Early 2020, we approved a budget for the support of 94 students, a combination of primary, secondary and tertiary education. In addition, we provide primary schools in Amudat with materials (mattresses, soap, exercise books, etc.).



4.1.2. Kaabong

Kaabong district is located in the far North of Karamoja. The Ugandan authorities disarmed a large part of Karamoja in 2009, but Kaabong remains relatively insecure due to its proximity to war-torn South-Sudan and its porous borders with Kenya. Kaabong district is largely inhabited by the Karamojong tribe and a minority tribe called the Ik. Kaabong has a prolonged dry season and offers few economic activities to its largely illiterate population (82%). One in every four children has access to primary education, due to financial or cultural constraints. Only 7% of all children is able to access secondary education. There is a huge demand for support in Kaabong.

School drop-out after primary school results in early marriage, teenage pregnancy and a continuation of the poverty cycle. To avoid these risks and to offer opportunities to youths, we joined hand with “Action for women and Awakening in Rural Environment (AWARE)” (35 children) and “Karamoja Peace and Development Agency (KAPDA)” (14 children). In 2020, we signed contracts with these two partners to support a total of 49 children; 48 in secondary school and one in a tertiary institution. The number of students is likely to grow over the following years.



Besides scholarships, we support primary schools with the essential scholastic requirements to retain vulnerable children in school.

4.1.3. Napak

Napak district in Karamoja is one of the known places of origin of the east-African child trafficking¹ circuit. Families (often under false pretences) sell their children for about 5 euro's to traffickers, who force them to work as street beggars, housemaids, in sexual exploitation or child labour. To prevent exploitation, (sexual) violence and child trafficking, CCA wants to offer vulnerable children and families better alternatives in the form of education. Besides that, we want to sensitize communities about the risks and offer returnees or rescued children better future prospects. We have been looking for a suitable and child-centred local partner in Napak since late 2019.

5. Partners

CCA works with local partners who know all the ins- and outs of the local language, culture and community. We coach and mentor these local initiatives. It is due to our mentoring and training that “Hope for the Children (HFC)” was able to transform itself from a group of passionate and enthusiastic well-wishers into an organization with the capacity to implement the sponsorship programme. In Kaabong, we partner with KAPDA and AWARE. In Napak, we started our partnership assessment in 2019.



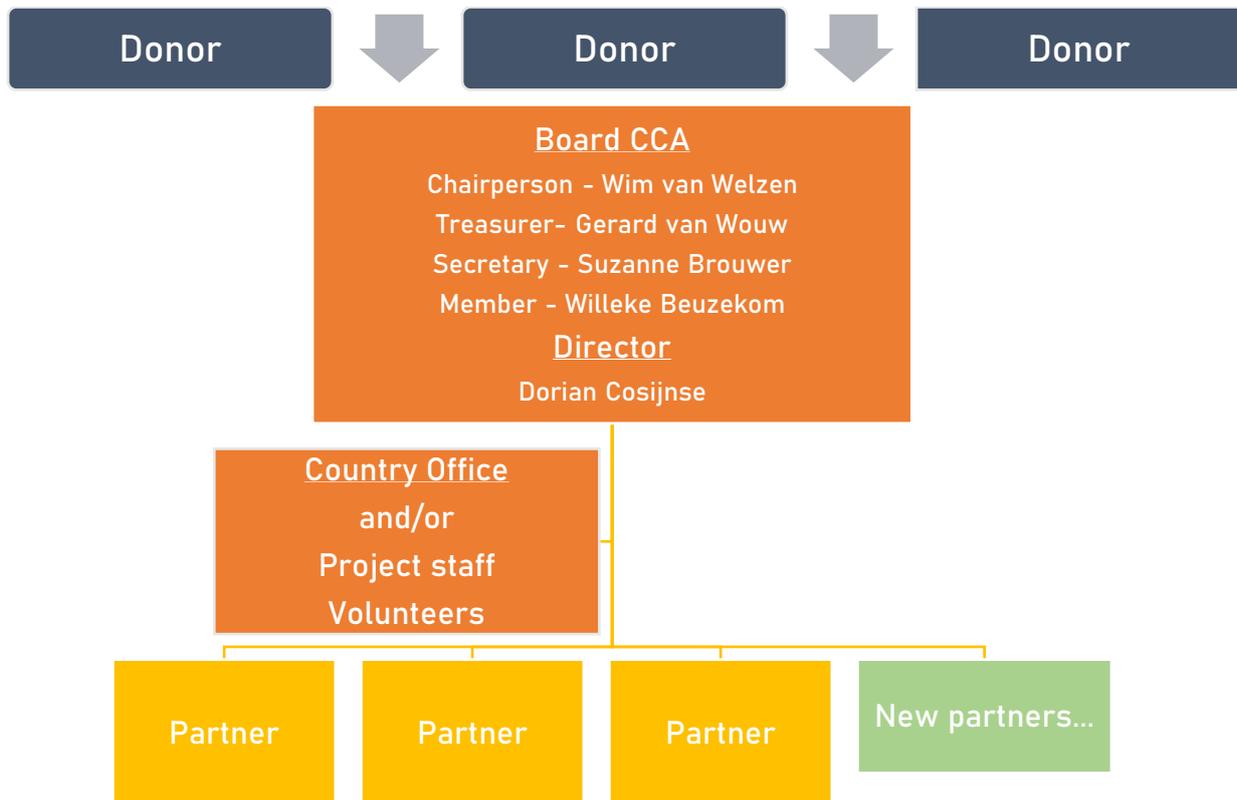
We hope to enter into a partnership to address child trafficking in Napak district in 2020. Our choice for new partners is mostly based on the intrinsic motivation, the principle of non-discrimination, focus on children and their experience working in the community. Find more information about partnerships and grand application on our website: <https://cca-f.org/selection-of-partners-and-grant-application/>



¹ https://www.newvision.co.ug/new_vision/news/1511526/trafficked-karimojong-girls-al-shabaab

6. Our structure

The Board of CCA has five members. The director (Dorian Cosijnse) is fully paid by one donor to work for CCA, on the ground in Africa. We can assign certain tasks and responsibilities to our volunteers in the Netherlands and abroad. Volunteers in the Netherlands work without payment. Volunteers abroad can enter into an MoU with our board. All volunteers fall under the supervision of the director and will be approved by the chairperson of the board.



7. Finance

CCA's activities are sponsored by donors, on a regular or once-off basis. We started our activities in 2019, with the support of "WVS consulting", a holding of companies in the Netherlands. In 2020-2024, we expect to expand our programme with the support of companies, private donors and other support.

The table below indicates the estimated costs per student in euro's. These costs may vary, based on the local partner, school and the characteristics of the child. The costs include: beddings, scholastic requirements, school fees, food, safe shelter, medical costs, psychosocial support and monitoring.

A strict agreement with our local partners is the balance between a minimum of 80% direct expenditure and a maximum of 20% indirect expenditure. Deviations from this rule are only acceptable during the first year of implementation (minimum 75% direct vs. maximum 25% indirect).

Our local partners submit a termly narrative report with an overview of expenditures. At the closure of every year, they submit a narrative annual report and a financial report. The CCA treasurer checks these overviews and performs an audit in the offices of our local partners.

	Year 1 (annual sum)	Year 1 (monthly sum)	Following years (annual sum)	Following years (monthly sum)
Primary school (day-scholar)	120,-	10,-	120,-	10,-
Primary school (boarding)	360,-	30,-	300,-	25,-
Secondary school	600,-	50,-	480,-	40,-
Tertiary education	660,-	55,-	660,-	55,-

7.1 Other activities

Besides child sponsorships, we deliberately choose to support some of the primary schools with basic scholastic- and sanitary requirements. With a mattress, mosquito net, soap, vaseline, etc. we can help vulnerable children outside of our programme to complete their primary education. In doing so, we also prevent our beneficiaries from obtaining a “special status” in their schools, because they (often) have more than other pupils.

In Amudat and Kaabong, we have recognized the need for safe shelter for girls during holidays. Some girls are at risk of forced marriage and can't find safety with their relatives or in a foster family. These girls stay in a safe place during holidays and receive vocational skilling training during the holidays.

As mentioned: our main focus is the support of vulnerable children. But where necessary, we may decide to extend our support to improved safe water supply, business and employment, improving the quality of education or for example the theological training of pastors.