



Talking points

Background

Upendo Foundation Australia has been operating for 15 years and funds an NGO in Tanzania called Upendo Foundation Australian Children's Home, with its own board of directors.

In Australia everyone who works in Upendo Foundation Australia is a volunteer.

Upendo Home is a rented property in Siha, Tanzania, on the lower slopes of Mt Kilimanjaro. We have 6 staff members to meet the government rules for an orphanage – a director, a cook, a carer/teacher, a matron, a patron, and a security guard. The last three are always present overnight to keep everyone safe.

We have 22 children aged 2 years old to 18 years old. We currently have three older family, one who is at University and two at trade school.

Our promise to each child is that we will care for them in a family environment until they can look after themselves in the community. This means finishing high school, gaining a trade or studying at University. Note that only around 3% of children complete high school in Tanzania.

Children's backgrounds

The UN has estimated that there are around 1.5 million orphans in Tanzania.

Our children come to us for all sorts of reasons. Most are referred to us by Government social welfare authorities.

Most have suffered from some kind of trauma. Many problems stem from extreme poverty. Over 30 million people in Tanzania live on less than \$2 per day. Examples of problems:

- Abandonment at birth
- Pure orphans resulting from death from HIV and Aids

- Physical abuse victims
- Child labour
- Extreme poverty and pure neglect
- Superstition and witchcraft
- Child brides

Our plans for the future

We bought land last year which has been a long-term dream of ours. We can now build a proper home for our kids and take in more needy ones. We want to be able to grow our own food and start a business that will generate funds in-country. Your donations, large or small, will help us to achieve this goal.

Our Safaris

One aspect of our fundraising efforts has been to start running bespoke safari tours to the Serengeti and other national parks across Tanzania and Kenya. We partner with experienced boutique tour operator RAW Africa EcoTours who donate their profits to Upendo Foundation.

On our unique immersion tours, you not only get up close and personal with the amazing wildlife, but you'll also meet the people and learn about their culture. Each tour finishes with a visit to Upendo Home where our guests spend a couple of unforgettable days meeting our adorable children. You will leave Africa with new friends and the warm satisfaction that your visit has helped change the lives of many children and adults.

Some other facts

- Tanzania is one of the poorest countries in the world. Of the 63 million people around half of them live on less than \$1.50 per day. (Ref *World Bank*.) 15% of working aged people are in paid employment. 54% are classed as self-employed. There are no old age pension or unemployment benefits.
- UN and others say there are 1.3 to 1.5 million orphans in Tanzania.
- A 2018 report, published by UNESCO and UNICEF, estimated that around two million children, aged seven to 13, were not in school in Tanzania. In addition, only around 30 per cent of children aged 14 to 17 were enrolled in secondary education, while just 3.2 per cent were enrolled in the final two years of school.
- Across Tanzania there is one physician for every 17,000 people. (Australia has 1 per 250 people and we still complain)
- Every year, 11,000 mothers die during childbirth in Tanzania. That is 30 women every day, or one death every 50 minutes. The main reasons being lack of access to quality healthcare and in most cases completely preventable.
- Every day in Tanzania 283 children under 5 will die, mostly from simple and treatable causes like diarrhoea.
- Over 34% of children under the age of 5 are stunted and nearly 45% of women of childbearing age are anaemic according to government statistics.
- 42% of girls aged 15-19 living in poverty have had a live birth or are pregnant. Abortion is illegal in Tanzania. It is illegal to provide contraceptives to a girl under 18.
- A third of women over the age of 10 in Tanzania cannot read or write and women with no education have on average 6.9 babies.
- According to a report from the Centre for Reproductive Rights, more than 55,000 pregnant students were expelled or forced to drop out of school from 2003 and 2013.
- UNICEF mentioned that education in Tanzania was a serious impediment to early marriage and women with a secondary education were 92 percent less likely to be married by the age of 18 than women who had attended primary school only (*UNICEF, 2007*).
- The Oak Foundation revealed that there is also a need to support children in developing healthy relationships perspective as 68% of adolescents in a study mentioned that it is okay for them, a boy or a girl, to be asked to have sex by a relative in exchange for money or a gift (*Oak, 2019*).
- International charity CARE calls it the multiplier effect: based on decades of research when one woman escapes poverty, she brings 4 others with her. She is less likely to die of childbirth and more likely to have healthy babies because of better nutrition, better hygiene and healthcare practices.
- Some state schools have up to 150 children in one class with only one teacher.
- Swahili is the local language, but it's been mandated that classes be held in English. However, many teachers have very little or poor English.
- Upendo Home children go to private "middle English" schools. The standard of teaching is much better than the state schools.

