

## **Student Sponsorship Programme**

Alongside our move to a Primary School Development Programme SCC is also making changes to the Student Sponsorship Programme (SSP) with the aim of maximising its impact.

SCC believes that every year of education a student completes not only provides him or her with improved economic opportunities but also provides less tangible life benefits such as improved health, better ability to make informed choices, improved protection of general human rights and reduced violence. As a result, SCC's Student Sponsorship Programme is being changed to target students from the most disadvantaged communities who would not otherwise be able to continue their secondary education. Although the SSP target areas may overlap with those selected for the Primary School Development Programme the two programmes, with differing selection criteria, will not be linked as is currently the case. To maximise resources the SSP is best targeted at a commune rather than a village level since there is generally one secondary school per commune.

### **Target Area Selection Process**

SCC selects target communities showing the highest poverty rates and the highest secondary school dropout rates. Within these communes, villages with the highest poverty rates are given top priority for inclusion in the programme. In this way we can ensure that support is provided to students from the most disadvantaged areas.

### **Student Selection Process**

Within the target villages SCC works with local authorities to announce the programme and distribute application forms to grade 6 graduates and their families. We visit each applicant at home to interview the student and his/her parents about the family situation and interest in continuing education. The applicants are objectively scored and sponsorship recipients are selected based on the following criteria:

- Applicant successfully completed grade 6
- Applicant comes from a disadvantaged and/or vulnerable family
- Applicant's parents are supportive of him/her continuing his/her education

There is an appeals process for community members thereby ensuring fair administration of the sponsorships.

### Currently sponsored students from the 2004 - 2007 intakes

SCC has a commitment to the currently sponsored students and this commitment will continue for the duration of their further education.

### Support

Through a mutual contract SCC and students will commit to 3 years of support for lower secondary school. This will include, as at present, the provision of books and other educational materials, uniforms and fees. Students progress will be measured through objective criteria, including exam results and attendance.

Upon the successful completion of lower secondary school students will have the opportunity to apply for further sponsorship for upper secondary school. This serves to reassure the student's commitment to their further education and to give the programme flexibility.

### Teacher Sponsorship

With our transition to the Primary School Development Programme, SCC is committed to helping all teachers in the supported schools through on-going training programmes. Development of a school will also have a finite time frame. For these reasons we are withdrawing the direct individual teacher sponsorship programme in favour of a more inclusive commitment to all of the teachers.

### Donor Student Matching

The change to the current Student Sponsorship Programme will enable SCC to more effectively target and increase the numbers of students committed to their further education. We are very aware of the operational overheads inherent in the implementation of both new programmes and in seeking to contain these we have decided not to continue with matching students to donors. This will reduce the administrative workload and enable us to maximise our staff time.

Whilst we will no longer be providing details of specific students, donations specified for the Student Sponsorship Programme will continue to be applied in that way.

*16<sup>th</sup> August 2008*