

# TWIGAS' HOUSE

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TWIGAS' HOUSE

I AM A TWIGA  
2021-2025



# BE PART OF IT

## About Twigas'House

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Twigas'House is a Swiss non-profit association, active in Gairo, Tanzania. It was founded in 2016 by two sisters, Lara Vila and Sandrine Denti, and is working closely with a local NGO, Bethel Orphan Support Centre.

Together, our goal is to provide a safe and stable environment to 24 orphans in Gairo. In this way, we hope to offer them prospects for their future and independence. The first stage of the project started in January 2018 with the construction of an orphanage, which was completed in June 2020. In this context, Twigas'House is currently working on the second phase of the project, i.e. the official opening of the orphanage and long-term support for the children. The orphanage's activities include: housing and care, healthy food, access to health care and education.

In this regard, we would like to invite all motivated people with a warm heart and willing to commit to supporting the children in the orphanage, to become part of our Twigas'Family!

*Our vision is a world where every child gets the chance to grow in a safe and stable environment and as a result becomes independent.*

We attach great importance to the sustainability of our project. To us, this means the duration of our project over time, but also its adaptation to the changing environment in which we work, and ultimately, to achieve maximum positive impact on the children and the community. In this way we will continue to reflect and find innovative and sustainable long-term solutions to finance our entire project for the children in Gairo.



## Why a Twigas'Family

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Tanzania, a relatively stable country, has been undergoing economic development in recent years. Despite this progress, the rural and decentralized regions remain largely in retreat and face many challenges. More than 50% of the population lives below the poverty threshold which is particularly reflected in Gairo. The city of Gairo is six hours away from Dar es Salaam. It is a rural town with arid land and limited access to water, food, medical care and education.

### TWIGAS'HOUSE IS ALSO...

The house of giraffes!

Twiga means giraffe in Kiswahili (Tanzanian national language). The giraffe is not only one of the biggest symbols of the country, it is also the nickname Chacha, our partner, gave us when we first met in 2012 - because we are quite tall and giraffe like!

The lack of access to basic needs and hard living conditions are great challenges faced by the population in Gairo. Particularly children who have lost parental care remain the most vulnerable.

The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child recognises that children have better prospects for developing their potential in a family environment.

The primary caregivers are parents or legal guardians. However, when parents have died, are not able or unwilling to care for their children, the family or community can usually be relied upon to take care of the child. This is called 'informal care'. It is an opportunity for the child to stay within his/her family. However, in Tanzania, the major challenge in this type of system is the inability of most families to meet the basic needs of children due to extreme poverty and the "burden" of caring for an extra child.

Risks to child safety are also high in the country with regard to sexual and physical violence or forced labour. Therefore, the ultimate responsibility lies with the Government to ensure and secure the child's placement in an appropriate centre, which is called "formal care".



"Formal care" is an option of last resort (UN Guidelines). The Tanzanian Government, through its Social Welfare Division, defines admission and placement procedures. According to the Children's Act (2009), a child can be admitted to a licensed foster home:

- Pending a court decision for care and protection
- On the recommendation of a social welfare officer who has determined that the foster home is the most appropriate place for the child
- With the approval of a social welfare officer, if the child is an orphan and has no parent or guardian family

In Gairo, the local government authorities lack financial means and resources, which hinders their ability to take care of vulnerable children. As a result, they prioritise and support development projects initiated by non-governmental organisations, rather than being directly involved in the provision of care for the orphans and vulnerable children of the district.

This is why Twigas'House is engaged in development cooperation for an independent future for the orphans in Gairo alongside its partner.



# Collaboration

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Since we met with our local partner in 2012 for the first time, we have always favored collaboration. For every decision taken and every stage of the project we work in close consultation and communicate constantly together. Local ownership of the project is in our view key to its sustainability and the positive impact on the local community. The members of Bethel Orphan Support Centre are the primary guarantors of the successful running of the orphanage and are responsible for the children on the ground.



## The *Twigas* beneficiaries

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The direct beneficiaries of the project are the 24 orphans hosted in the orphanage. In addition, the running of the orphanage will benefit not only the seven employees, because of the salaries paid, but also the local economy, by purchasing local goods. Finally, the water well drilled on our land will benefit the neighbouring community which currently has no access to water. Of course, Bethel will continue its current activities at the daily support centre, which welcomes more than 350 children daily. Whenever possible, Twigas'House will regularly assess whether it can also contribute to supporting the daily centre.

## Twigas'House activities

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To ensure that the activities of the orphanage run smoothly and that the children can flourish and grow in a positive environment, we pay special attention to employees hired. Seven dedicated, qualified and motivated people have been selected to work at the orphanage:

- a Matron
- a Manager
- an Accountant
- a Cooker
- a Guard
- a Dada (extra help with cleaning and cooking)
- A tutor will soon join the team for the children's school support.



**From left to right:**  
**Thomas Rioba, Manager;**  
**Herieth Samuel, Matron;**  
**Kizenga Rahma, Dada;**  
**Milka Daudi, Cook;**  
**Japhar Mbegu, Accountant;**  
**Daniel Wilson, Guard.**

## Housing and care

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The children will sleep in the dorms between two and four per room, girls and boys separated. The bathrooms in each of the dormitories include 3 toilets and 3 shower rooms. Children will be able to play and relax in the living room where books and games are available. They can also play outside on the playground. Their chores will be supervised by the Matron and will include duties such as cleaning the room, washing their clothes, doing the dishes and helping in the vegetable garden. They will be accompanied throughout the day, and at night if necessary, by the Matron who sleeps on site.



## Healthy Food

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Our cook will be in charge of preparing meals for the children twice a day. Typical dishes include rice, ugali (a mixture of corn flour and water), beans, potatoes, vegetables, porridge and fruit. Meat or chicken will be served once a week. In the morning, the children will receive tea and a snack.

In Tanzania 95% of the population cooks with charcoal or wood for cooking. These means are very harmful to health but also cause damage to the environment. On our side, we will use a so-called "clean" method, and have chosen to use gas for cooking.





## Access to Education

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Education in Tanzania became cost-free in January 2017. However, there are still some costs associated with schooling, such as the compulsory purchase of uniforms and school material. We will provide everything necessary for children to access the town's ten public schools (kindergarten, primary and secondary). In addition, our aim is also to hire a tutor at the orphanage who will support the children's education by assisting them with homework.



## Health care

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Children will benefit from a health service based on the concept of primary health care. This approach emphasises on prevention rather than treatment. For example, hygiene, general and sexual health training will be offered. In addition, a first general check-up of each child will be organised in order to keep a record of their health status. The 24 children will also benefit from the basic public health insurance "Community Health Fund".

Naturally, should a child get sick, he or she will be taken care of by a local doctor or, according to the seriousness of the illness, by a hospital in the region.



# BE PART OF THE TWIGAS' FAMILY

## Become a Twiga'mama or Twiga'papa

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As a Twiga'mama or Twiga'papa you support a child's daily life, including his meals, access to healthcare and education, and thereby offer him prospects for a future and independence.



♥ Become part of the Twigas'Family by supporting one or more children over a minimum period of 3 or 5 years - the annual costs per child amount to CHF 600 (see budget on page 12).

You will receive ♥

- Two newsletters per year on the life at the orphanage;
- Personalised news about the day-to-day life and school progress of each child.

## Become a Twiga'sista or Twiga'bro

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Become a Twiga'sista or a Twiga'bro by supporting the running of the orphanage, in particular by contributing to the salaries of the employees, fixed costs such as electricity and all other activities that take place at the orphanage, over a minimum period of 3 or 5 years, by contributing CHF 250 per year (see the budget on page 12).



You will receive 

- Two newsletters per year about the day-to-day life at the orphanage.

## Become a Twiga'friend

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We are happy to have friends who wish to become part of the Twigas'Family by freely supporting the activities of Twigas'House or a particular activity that is close to your heart, such as training and workshops on art, sports (...), or participating in the purchase of computers, bicycles (...).



You will receive 

- Two newsletters per year on the day-to-day life at the orphanage.

## Information for Twiga'mama and Twiga'papa

Details on annual costs per child

	Child/year TSH	Child/year CHF
Food	1'149'600	520
Health Insurance	1666	0,80
a) School fees (3-6 years old)	107'500	48,90
b) School fees (7-14 years old)	179'000	81,40
c) School fees (15-18 years old)	245'000	111,40
<b><u>Annual average cost per child</u></b>	<b><u>1'328'432</u></b>	<b><u>600</u></b>

## Information for Twiga'sista and Twiga'bro

Employees salaries and electricity details

	TSH/year	CHF/year
Matron	4'200'000	1910
Accountant	3'600'000	1636
Manager	6'000'000	2727,30
Cook	3'000'000	1363,70
Tutor	2'400'000	1090
Guard	2'400'000	1090
Electricity costs	1'440'000	655
<b><i>Annual average cost for the running of the orphanage</i></b>	<b><i>23'045'000</i></b>	<b><i>10'475</i></b>

## Next Steps

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Are you interested in joining the Twigas'Family and supporting orphans in Gairo?

- Contact us to receive a registration form
- Choose your type of engagement with Twigas'House
- Confirm the duration of your support
- Proceed with the transfer of the donation
- Welcome to the Twigas'Family!

We would be delighted to welcome you to the Twigas'Family and look forward to continuing this adventure with you!

Sandrine and Lara



# THANK YOU

## Contact

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Association Twigas'House

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[www.twigashouse.ch](http://www.twigashouse.ch)

