



‘Containers for Africa’ Project Guidelines

We are delighted your school is interested in participating in our **Containers for Africa** program!



Unlike raising money for a big charity that then sends it on to Africa, filling a container with desperately needed goods gives you and your team members the assurance that your efforts will directly benefit rural communities in Tanzania and Kenya.

This document contains guidelines for how to obtain a container, what is suitable to pack inside, some ideas for encouraging your fellow students to contribute goods, and how to arrange shipping to Africa.

Please keep us up-to-date with your project by sending emails to info@careforafrica.org.au as your project progresses. Please include some pictures of the container and the people working on the project so we can put them on our website and in our newsletters. If you need advice or assistance at any time, please let us know.

Good luck!

Step 1: Fundraising

It costs about \$6,500 to purchase and ship a 20' container to Africa. You will need to secure this amount before you can get started. There are lots of ways you can do this, including walkathons, rummage sales, raffles etc. You could also approach one of your local service clubs, explain what you are doing and ask if they will assist with some of the project costs.

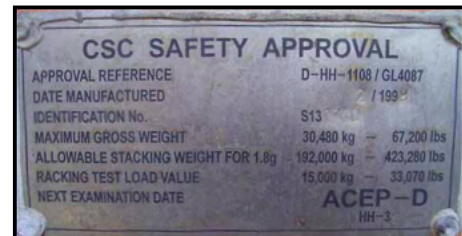
Step 2: Contact Us to be Allocated a Community

Contact the Foundation and we will match your school to a community in rural Tanzania or Kenya. We will provide you with as much information as we can about the community so you can include this when promoting your project.



Step 3: Get a Container

You will need a second-hand 20' container, at a cost of around \$2,500. They are not that easy to get as they need to be plated showing that they are seaworthy for international transportation. The plate is on the side of the container and shows the month and year of its expiry (if it has expired it needs to be re-certified which is a costly procedure).



Before you make your final selection, check that your container:

1. Hasn't got any holes or cracks in walls and roof (stand inside, close both doors and look for any light coming through cracks or holes etc.)
2. Has doors that can be operated easily.
3. Has locking devices and handles that function properly.
4. Has no adhesive labels from previous cargo, e.g. IMDG placards (dangerous goods labels are only allowed, when dangerous goods are inside).
5. Is completely dry inside (wipe out all condensation or white frost in order to avoid corrosion and moisture damage to your cargo).
6. Is clean, odourless and free of dirt and cargo residue.
7. Doesn't have any nails or other protruding objects that might damage the cargo.

Once you have your container, get a local moving or trucking company to bring it to your school and put it somewhere convenient and visible. They will probably do this for free once you explain your project to them.

Of course, you'll need permission from your School Principal to have the container on school grounds for about eight weeks while you gather donations.



Step 4: Gather Suitable Donations

You'd be surprised what can be put to good use in a desperately poor rural community in Tanzania or Kenya. Items for your container don't need to be new, but please don't forget everything you send has to be in tip top condition as it may be the only piece of clothing, shoes, pencil or whatever each child ever gets, so they will treasure and nurture your gift forever:

- Used bicycles can make a real difference to someone's life. It's even better if the bike has a basket on the front.
- Laminated posters from classrooms (eg. multiplication tables, maps, vocabulary etc.)
- Educational toys and games (Kids Scrabble, Pictionary etc.)
- Most schools don't have chairs or desks, or for that matter books, writing materials or paper to write on. You can pack "school kits" into cloth bags, backpacks or empty shoe boxes (each one gets a pen, pencil, colouring pencils, pencil sharpener and an exercise book or pad of paper)
- Reading books for children, reference books for primary schools, old encyclopedias etc.
- Old typewriters (don't forget replacement ribbons)
- Sporting equipment including soccer balls, footballs, skipping ropes, soccer boots, gym shoes, running shoes
- Hats, sunglasses, school shoes, school clothing, small backpacks, etc.
- Basic hand tools such as hand saws, hammers, pliers, wrenches, planes, chisels, tape measures etc.
- Basic building supplies such as nails, screws, bolts etc.
- Sunscreen, coal tar soap or Selsun shampoo

If you want to get really ambitious and approach some of your school's parents or local businesses:

- A 240V TV with DVD player and some educational DVDs
- A Lister diesel generator (single-piston; parts aren't available for other brands even though they may be cheaper here)
- A small photocopier (with lots of toner or ink and heaps of paper)

Some things to avoid include liquids of any kind, compressed gases, perishable goods like food or seeds, electrical kitchen appliances like toasters, blenders etc.



Step 5: Pre-packing

You will need to use strong cartons and high-quality packing tape. Boxes should not be too large or heavy and should be packed without empty space inside (otherwise they split open when others boxes are placed on top). Items such as tennis balls, stuffed animals and small children's books should be used to fill voids in boxes. Don't let boxes get too heavy. Soft objects can be packed in bags.

You must properly label each box or bag otherwise it has to be opened and examined and the other end to determine what's in it. If possible boxes should have uniform items. If a box has T-shirts, write how many T-shirts. If a box has textbooks, the label should include subject, title, grade level and the number of books inside.

Step 6: Decorate the Container

Talk to the Art Teacher in your school. A really fun project for younger grades is to get them to paint the outside of the container with whatever they feel like showing. Maybe they could paint pictures of each other, or of Australian animals or scenes. Let them use their imagination and see if they can have the brightest, wildest container yet!

Step 7: Stuff the Container

Packing a container is not simply a matter of piling everything in and shutting the doors.

You should take the time to prepare a "stowage plan" prior to stuffing your container. This will allow you to achieve optimal utilisation of the container's capacity, to simplify and increase the speed of packing and unpacking, and to work out whether bracing or other securing aids will be needed.

There are different ways to prepare a stowage plan. You can draw a scaled drawing of different views or you could stack some of your cargo inside a rectangle drawn on the floor to the same dimensions as the inside of your container.



The Peter Hewitt
Care for Africa
Foundation Inc.

When packing boxes and bags into your container, check that:

- a) there is no empty space inside
- b) each is properly labeled
- c) each is securely taped.

When cartons are to be stacked several layers on top of each other, the lowest layer must be capable of supporting the upper ones. Don't pack heavy boxes on top of light ones. Put bags on top.



Pack the container right to the top, without any gaps above. If you can't avoid gaps at the top, on the sides or at the back by the door, be sure to use appropriate lashing or bracing to ensure your stacks of goods can't move or topple over in transit. Don't under-estimate the bumps and strains your container will be subjected to as it makes its way from your school to rural Africa!

Hapag-Lloyd, one of the world's largest shipping companies, has published an excellent booklet on how to pack a container. You can download and print a copy from www.hapag-lloyd.com/applets/Cont_pack.pdf

Step 8: Ship the Container to Africa

Once your container is packed, you will need to arrange for it to be trucked to your nearest major port. You can probably get one of your local moving or trucking companies to do this for free once you explain your project.



Once you've made these arrangements, contact us and we will arrange for Patricks International Freight to ship the container to Mombassa, Kenya. Patricks also take care of all the necessary export and import documentation.

The cost of shipping from the east coast of Australia to Mombassa is normally around \$4,000. We will be able to get a fairly accurate estimate early on in the project, based on where the nearest port is to your school.



Step 9: Local Shipping to Destination

This leg of the trip is the most difficult to organize from Australia and it is really important to arrange for someone trustworthy and reliable in Kenya to make sure the container reaches its destination.



The Foundation has excellent contacts in Kenya and Tanzania to ensure that the container gets to the community we have allocated to your project.

In some cases, it may be possible to schedule your container's arrival in Africa to coincide with a visit from members of the Care for Africa Foundation. In this case, if you can raise the extra funds to cover travel costs, it is possible for representatives of your school to travel to Africa and see the container being opened and help with the distribution of the contents.

Step 10: Receive Feedback from your Allocated Community

We will, where possible, arrange for photographs of your container being opened and the contents being distributed so you can show your fellow students the results from of all your hard work.



What Happens to the Container Afterwards?

Your container will have windows put in the sides and be used for storage at the school or local hospital in your allocated African community. The container shown here is now a medical clinic!

Questions

If you have any questions now or at any stage during your Container for Africa project, please feel free to get in touch with us. Our contact details are at the bottom of this sheet.

