

Volunteering opportunities in Kenya with Aid2Africa.co.uk

This document contains the various sections from the web pages in our volunteering in Kenya section.

If you're looking for a life-changing experience that will benefit other people, then read on. We have set up a number of volunteer programmes and one of them could be just right for you.

Introduction

Aid2Africa has a volunteer base at Moi's Bridge in the west of Kenya, a friendly town about 220 miles from the capital, Nairobi. Moi's Bridge is a town with the all too common problems that high infection rates of HIV and AIDS bring. There is a substantial slum/shanty area of the town and most of the work you will engage you with that community. The volunteer base is based around local family hosted accommodation. In Kenya, life moves at a pace which is never hurried. African time is the term you often hear used. The people are warm, friendly and welcoming. Despite the poverty that permeates through rural life you are met by smiling faces and hospitality that belies the needs of the community. This is an ideal place to spend time and experience volunteering abroad.

Kenya has some of the very best Safari opportunities in Africa and it is easy to "plug into" a Safari as part of your stay in Kenya. The Masai Mara, with its huge herds of migrating zebra and wildebeest, is home to the BBC's Big Cat Diaries since 1996. It is just one of many reserves which are well managed and provide the visitor with almost unbelievable views of the wildlife.

Maurice Chesoli's description of his home town

(Pastor Maurice and his wife Evelyn manage the volunteer programme for A2A)

"Moi's Bridge is a small Town in the West of Kenya. It is about 370 km away from Nairobi, and 20 km to Kitale, a town to the northwest, but 80 km to Eldoret a town to the southeast. It is a friendly small town with the all common problems that high infection of HIV and AIDS bring. The people are warm, friendly and welcoming despite the poverty that they under go through life in this area. The area is very safe and a good place to live and work."

Where is Moi's Bridge?

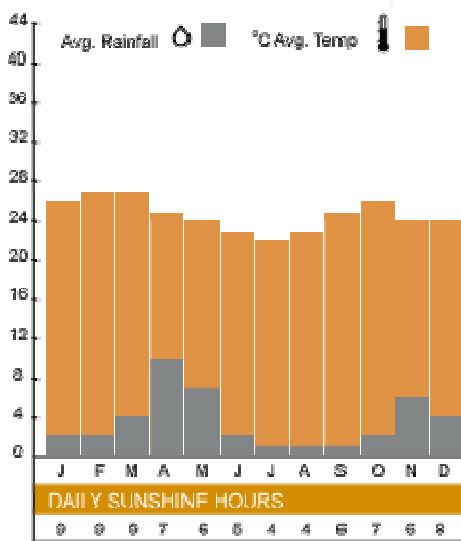
Moi's Bridge is a small town in the western part of Kenya. It is just north of the equator and you cross the equator when you travel from Nairobi to Moi's Bridge. Nairobi is 370km (220 miles) SE of Moi's Bridge.

You can find it on Google Earth or Google maps. The Google earth reference is **0 52.80 N 35 7.1000 E**



CLIMATE

The climate of Kenya is as varied as its physical structure. Climatic conditions vary from the tropical humidity of the coast, through the dry heat of the hinterland and northern plains, to the cool air of the plateau and mountains. Despite Kenya's equatorial position, Mt. Kenya is perpetually snow-capped. The coastal temperature averages 27°C (80°F), and the temperature decreases by slightly less than 2°C (3°F) with each 1,000 ft (305 m) increase in altitude. The capital, Nairobi, at 1,675 m, has a mean annual temperature of 19°C. The arid plains vary from 21°C to 27°C (70°F to 80°F). Seasonal variations are distinguished by duration of rainfall rather than changes of temperature; most regions of the country have two rainy seasons, the long rains falling between April and June, and the short rains between October and December. Average annual rainfall varies from 5 inches a year in the most arid regions of the northern plains to 70 inches a year near Lake Victoria. The coast and highland areas have an average of 40 inches per year. (from The Africa Guide site www.africaguide.com)



Location: Nairobi

chart from Kuoni web site www.kuoni.co.uk

The seasons in Moi's Bridge:

Wet Season – May, June, July, August, Sept and October

Hottest Months – part of November all December, January, February, March and part of April

Who volunteers?

Our volunteers are enthusiastic, hard-working, self-motivated people who are able to work under their own initiative. They will not replace local Kenyans and take away their jobs. Rather they assist them with the various projects Aid2Africa is involved in. Volunteers are also realistic. They know they won't change Africa, but know they will build on earlier work and success to make a difference to the lives of some of the local people.

Age Range

Our volunteers are usually aged 21 years upwards, and are typically between 23 and 35 years old. While we are able to consider applications from applicants under 21 years old, we may need to look carefully at the application before accepting it. There is no upper age limit. As a volunteer abroad, you will be part of the team, and it's important for you all to work as part of the team. It may be that you could make friendships during your stay that will last a life time. You could even enjoy your time in Kenya so much that you return, even if only for a short visit.

The volunteer programmes

All of our projects tend to be focused on finding sustainable solutions solve a wide variety of problems faced by the local community. While we fully understand our volunteers' desire to 'make their mark' during their stay, it is important to remember that, once they have returned home, the people and the projects need to be sustainable. We take advice from people who have many years experience in this field before getting involved with any project. All too often, in Africa, we have seen Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) bring money and Western expertise to a project, only for the project to fail once the NGO has left because the local people have neither been given the training nor the money to keep it going.

Education for children who would otherwise not receive it or who would benefit from extending their educational experience is one of our key areas of work. Education equips the child for the rest of their life.

There is usually some renovation, repair or other building work that you can get involved in. Volunteers work alongside local people and do not replace them. We will pay the local builders the rate for the job and that will generally include any work done by volunteers.

Working in schools

The Waymarks Centre is a recognised school with an established staff. There is scope for volunteers to work with the children in a range of capacities from teaching to in class support and small group work.

TERM DATES: 2009

1ST TERM – FROM MON 5TH JAN – FRI 3RD APRIL

2ND TERM – FROM MON 4TH MAY – FRI 7TH AUGUST

3RD TERM – FROM MON 7TH SEPT – FRI 27TH NOV

inclusive.

N/B: During holiday months, holiday tuition is organized for at least 2-3 weeks at the school. So even when schools are on holiday, there is still lots for a volunteer to do with the children.

We have links to other schools in Moi's bridge where volunteer support would be greatly appreciated.

Working in Health Care

there are clinics and hospitals where trained health care workers would find a warm welcome and lots to do. If you want more information about this area of volunteering please contact us and we will send you information relating to your particular interest or the town/area's general needs.

Working with local churches

we have links with a number of churches in Moi's Bridge that have various outreach programmes both in the town and in other parts of western Kenya. We can supply information relating to these projects on request. They typically range from the evangelistic work of the church to practical support within various communities.

Environmental Projects

we are currently investigating the potential for a number of environmental projects. We are keen to establish sustainable projects that will safeguard the centre long term. Among the projects we are looking at are fruit tree planting and fish farming.

How long would your placement last?

We would prefer our volunteers to make a commitment of at least three months, although shorter stays can be arranged (see below)

Short stays

Realistically, you will not be able to achieve a tremendous amount during a short stay, but you will be able to get involved with some projects. Your stay will also give you the benefit of experiencing life in a rural area of Kenya.

Getting to Kenya

It is difficult to recommend a particular travel agent, although [Trailfinders](#) in the UK (visit their website to find the relevant phone number) has been consistently very good, although they have no on-line booking facilities. Another travel agent worth contacting is [Key Travel](#), who are based in the UK and specialise in arranging travel for charities. They can organise journeys starting in any country, not just from the UK. It's important to go with whoever gives the most personal attention and makes the most effort to find the best deal. Most budget/student ticket agencies along with airlines are now accustomed to catering to 'open-jaw' tickets — flying into one destination and out of another.

On the [Costs involved page](#) you will find a link to a price comparison site for flights if you wish to book that way.

Please note that it is very important to take out good travel insurance when purchasing your airline ticket so that, if you are unable to travel to Kenya due to a medical problem, for example, you can get a refund on your ticket.

Nairobi to Moi's Bridge

Moi's Bridge is 370km (220miles) from Nairobi so if your flight into Nairobi arrives during the day you will need to book hotel accommodation in Nairobi for that evening (and for your return). Some travel agents will arrange pick-ups or you may prefer to use a taxi - carry your own baggage - it may cost more than you expect if you use the services of one of the many pushy willing "volunteers" who will offer their services to carry your luggage to the Taxi. If there are a number of people arriving together from different destination we will put you in touch with each other so you can perhaps stay at the same hotel and maybe share transport to Moi's Bridge.

Nairobi to Moi's Bridge by a hired Taxi. This is most convenient and reliable means of transport especially for visitors from abroad. Maurice will meet volunteers at the Nairobi Jomo Kenyatta Airport or at their hotel and accompany them to Moi's bridge.

Hotel accommodation at Nairobi plus Breakfast will be KES 2500 per person per night. (you can pay a lot more depending on the type of hotel you stay in)

On a bus each person will pay KES 1000 from Nairobi to Moi's bridge. (£10)

A taxi (one way) could cost KES 18,000 to drive from Nairobi to Moi's bridge. It seems expensive at over £160 for one person OK if there are a few people to share the charge. We are looking at various alternatives - watch this space and have got it down from 25,000 to 18,000 so far)

Out and about from Moi's Bridge

During your stay you will want to visit other places locally or even further afield. If you want to go on Safari (highly recommended) we can help you plan it before you go out to Kenya. In general it can be cheaper to pre-book but we will make sure you are aware of the options.

Locally the nearest larger town is Kitale only 20 km away and you can easily get there by local transport. Either your host family or Maurice or Evelyn can give you up-to-date information about times and fares. If there are a number of you it may be worth hiring a Taxi for the day. This could extend the range of places and sites you see, Eldoret is another large town about 70 km back towards Nairobi. Again you can get up-to-date information when you are there.

Local transport to Kitale is frequent but can be unreliable at times especially in the evenings.

The return bus fare is KES 160 per person

Local transport to Eldoret is frequent but can be unreliable at times especially in the evenings.

The return bus fare is KES 340 per person.

Taxis are readily available. To Kitale it would cost KES 2200 for the return journey.

A taxi to Eldoret including return would be KES 4500.

Always agree the price with the driver first, tipping for good service is acceptable. Remember, you may want to use a taxi many times during a stay at Moi's Bridge.

Swimming at Soy Club is always open to visitors at a cost of KES150 per person. Soy is between Moi's Bridge and Eldoret, nearer Eldoret than Moi's Bridge.

Kitale club is a private club in Kitale but open to visitors at a cost of KES 200 per person for swimming.

Volunteers will have the opportunity to visit local game reserves & parks if they desire so during their spare time.

Communications

E-mail: There are internet cafes / cyber cafes in Kitale which are quite reliable and cost about KES1 per minute - about 60p or US\$1 per hour. Maurice has access to email via his mobile phone. Currently there is no electricity at the accommodation.

Mobile (Cell) Phones: There is good coverage and we strongly advise our volunteers to bring a mobile (cell) phone with them (make sure it is "unlocked" and can be used on any network). You can buy a SIM card in most of the towns in Kenya, and top up vouchers can be purchased nearly everywhere. SIM cards cost from KES 50 - KES100. Top Up Cards can be bought with values from KES 20 to KES 1000. If you text your family and friends with your Kenyan mobile number, they will be able to phone or text you directly. We are going to put in a solar charging unit for mobile phones at the centre since at the moment you have to take your phone to a shop to get it recharged - make sure your battery is good before you go!

Telephone: There are telephones in Moi's Bridge but international calls are always prone to problems and high charges

Skype Phone: If you want to keep in contact with people back home, we would suggest that they phone using Skype which is VOIP (Voice Over Internet Protocol). By using Skype Out, calls cost £0.045 per minute from the UK to a Kenyan mobile (cell) phone. Alternatively, they can use cheap phone call providers like [Planet Talk Instant](#). (only 6p a minute to a Kenyan Mobile from the UK)

Post: The postal system is erratic but seems to work. The last small parcel we sent to the school from the UK took 3 1/2 weeks to get there (October 2008). There is a PO Box for the Centre that you can use.

It is suggested that you do not promise friends and family a specific date you will be in touch after arriving as there are so many factors involved — including lightning striking the phone lines! A week to two week 'deadline' after arriving at Moi's Bridge is a much more sensible approach.

What are the costs?

Cost of the Programme (accommodation only)

The cost of the Aid2Africa volunteer programme at Moi's Bridge, Western Kenya is based on a non-refundable deposit of **GB£125** or **US\$250** plus an additional amount dependent on the duration of your placement.

Examples for a:

3 weeks stay would be deposit £125 plus £375 making a total of £500

12 weeks stay would be deposit £125 plus £1,100 making a total of £1,225

(please see the table below). **Please also make sure you read our [Refund Policy](#).**

Table of placement costs for accommodation ONLY

Placement	Plus either GBP	or US\$
1 week	£125	\$250
2 weeks	£250	\$500
3 weeks	£375	\$750
4 weeks	£500	\$1,000
5 weeks	£575	\$1,150
6 weeks	£650	\$1,300
7 weeks	£725	\$1,450
8 weeks	£800	\$1,600
9 weeks	£875	\$1,750
10 weeks	£950	\$1,900
11 weeks	£1,025	\$2,050
12 weeks	£1,100	\$2,200
13 weeks	£1,150	\$2,300
14 weeks	£1,200	\$2,400
15 weeks	£1,250	\$2,500
16 weeks	£1,300	\$2,600
17 weeks	£1,350	\$2,700
18 weeks	£1,400	\$2,800
19 weeks	£1,450	\$2,900
20 weeks	£1,500	\$3,000
21 weeks	£1,550	\$3,100
22 weeks	£1,600	\$3,200
23 weeks	£1,650	\$3,300
24 weeks	£1,700	\$3,400
25 weeks	£1,750	\$3,500
26 weeks	£1,800	\$3,600
Accommodation for additional weeks beyond 26 are charged at	£50 per week	\$100 per week

While we do not recommend it, there are some local hotels which provide accommodation. These would typically add around £50 or \$100 per week to the accommodation costs. More details on request to A2A by email.

Refunds policy including cancellation. Please read carefully.

The deposit of **GB £125** or **US \$250** is **non-refundable**. As it is very difficult for us to fill volunteer places at short notice if someone cancels prior to starting their placement or leaves the programme early, we require a 8-week notice period, and we can only refund any money already paid in excess of 8 weeks from cancellation of, or departure from, the volunteer placement. For example, if your placement is for 24 weeks and you decide to leave after eight weeks, you would be entitled to a refund equivalent to the cost of the last four weeks of your placement period (i.e. placement length of 24 weeks minus 8 weeks spent at Moi's Bridge minus 8 weeks notice period = 8 weeks). Refunds would be refunded at the rate of the last weeks. Please remember that nearly all of the money you pay for your placement goes directly towards running our charitable projects in Africa.

Duration of Placement

As stated, we would prefer our volunteers to make a commitment to a minimum of 12 weeks, although shorter stays can be arranged. It is important to recognise that, although the volunteers will benefit enormously from their experience at Moi's Bridge, our main responsibility is to provide consistent and effective assistance to the community.

Getting Started on your placement

When you reach Moi's Bridge, Kenya, you will be introduced to the Aid2Africa staff and volunteers. Maurice and Evelyn, our Kenyan Managers Responsible for Volunteer and Community Liaison, will provide an introduction to Moi's Bridge, the projects and the volunteering opportunities. Although there will be guidelines and some structure, there is a high degree of flexibility, and we encourage individual volunteers to use their initiative.

What does the money pay for?

You will be responsible for the costs involved in getting to your base (i.e. flights, in-country transport, etc.). The payment to Aid2Africa pays for the accommodation and services. The balance is used to fund the projects run by Aid2Africa, together with paying for staff, and it is the charity's main source of funding — the money is used carefully and effectively to improve the lives of and opportunities for the local communities.

You will be responsible for food costs, which are operated through an individual or volunteer "kitty", and these costs are about **GB£0.75** or **US\$1.50** per day, plus any extras like drinks and transport. Most volunteers allow about **GB£7.50-GB£15** or **US\$15-US\$30** per week for food and all extras. There is a table below, showing the costs of some items, to give you a flavour of local prices (Jan 2009)

Extra costs, flights etc

You should allow for the following costs — but shop around: the website has links to some possible suppliers.

- Flight from the UK: **£400 to £600** dependant on a number of factors.
- Travel medical insurance: £15 or US\$30 per month.
- Malaria prophylaxis: £0.20-2.20 or US\$0.40-4.40 per day, depending on what your doctor recommends. To get up-to-date prices, go to the [Travelpharm website](#) (UK only)
- Vaccinations: approximately GB£150 or US\$300, depending on what your doctor recommends.
- Visas: GB£30 for GB passport holders. Other nationalities need to contact the Kenyan High Commission in their country for visa details.

- Accommodation, taxis, etc. in Nairobi at start and end of trip.
- Monthly costs at your base, including food, drink and some local travelling: GB£40 -100 or US\$70-200 per month depending on how you live.
- Many people visiting Kenya want to include a safari to one or more of the excellent game reserves in Kenya. We can offer you some help and advice about these but the cost is dependant on a number of factors such as duration and location.

Cost of Food

*Remember that included in your accommodation charge is payment for someone to cook and prepare food **but not** the cost of the food.*

You should be able to eat quite well for about KES 200 per day per person buying food from a local market. Obviously the more you buy extras the higher your weekly costs. A average figure of around £20 per week is reasonable. This would not include luxury items!

Some locally available items and costs (JANUARY 2009)

A bottle of Coca Cola, Sprite or Fanta is KES. 25

A bottle of water is KES. 35

A bottle of beer is KES. 100 *

Eggs, pumpkins, pineapples, avocados, garlic, ginger, etc each KES. 10 – 50

Tomatoes, onions, potatoes, sweet potatoes, green beans, etc. per heap or bundle Kshs.20

Lemon each KES.6

Scones (bread rolls) each KES.10

Guavas, pawpaw each KES.35

Fish KES. 50 – 300

Chicken each KES.300 -450

Rice per Kg KES.80

Beans per 500gms KES.40

Bread per loaf KES.35

Flour per Kg KES.80

Cigarettes per packet KES.100 **
Spirits per bottle KES.150 – 700 *
Charcoal per large bag KES.700
Paraffin per litre KES.70
Firewood per bundle KES.70

*while we have included prices of alcoholic drinks, most of the Africans we know are generally quite abstemious so we would ask you to be sensitive to this.

** if you do smoke please do not smoke inside the accommodation or when there are children present. In an environment of poverty encouraging children to get hooked on an expensive habit could generate unforeseen problems in the future.

Placement Availability:

Please note that we may not be able to accommodate you for your preferred dates. This is because we can only take a maximum of 6-8 people at one time, and some times of the year are more popular than others. If possible, we will offer you alternative dates.

Accommodation

Is a ten minutes walk from the centre. It comprises of 4 bed rooms, 1 sitting room and 1 kitchen. It is part of the same building that Maurice and his family live in. It provides a high level of security for volunteers and their possessions. There are notes about general security which apply to travellers in developing countries. In some circumstances it may be necessary for volunteers to share. The accommodation is comfortable but luxurious it is not. The toilets are traditional pit latrines with a washroom.

One of the staff will prepare meals from the food bought in the market by volunteers. Volunteers are welcome to join in the cooking and preparation and learn something of traditional Kenyan cooking.

Be assured that this place is good for volunteers to live in despite the fact that there is no electricity and flush toilets. We are sure volunteers will really enjoy the African way of living in the rural of Kenya.

Maurice and his wife Evelyn will welcome you and be your main contacts during your stay. They will be the first point of contact in case of any problem arising.

Health Care

Within Moi's Bridge there is adequate local health care provision. You need good health insurance that will cover any costs which could be potentially incurred in Kenya. The list below of suggested items to bring includes some items that would fall into this "Health Care" category

The Health Centre is open from Monday to Friday all day and Saturday half day. Sundays and Public holidays remains completely closed. There is a Catholic mission dispensary which operates all days and nights, Monday to Saturday, and during public holidays.

What should I take or leave at home?

Laundry can be done daily at no charge if soap is provided. Therefore, only the basics are needed: a few pairs of shorts, T-shirts, a hat, lightweight long trousers and a long-sleeved shirt for mosquito protection, a fleece or jumper and socks for the evenings, and a good rain jacket and sturdy shoes for the rainy season.

While working at the school or health centre, sarongs or skirts are essential for women and long trousers advised for men. Although poverty is extreme, in general Kenyans pride themselves on dressing nicely and have little respect for 'slobby' looking people. In general, having tidy and reasonably clean long hair will get you a lot further with Kenyans in terms of respect than any length of scraggly or dirty hair.

Toiletries are available in Moi's Bridge or Kitale but should ideally be brought from home as the quality and price is questionable, although most things are available, including tampons. It has become somewhat of a tradition in Africa for previous guests, managers and volunteers to leave behind unwanted clothes and belongings for the staff and villagers at the end of their stay. These are immensely appreciated!

We suggest you consider bringing the following items with you:

A Petzl Tikka or Zipka series headtorch is a must, together with a supply of good batteries as the ones available locally are of variable quality. (It really isn't worth buying a cheaper make of headtorch as previous volunteers have found that they have broken early on and then they've been left with nothing.)

A [Pacsafe Travelsafe](#) in which to keep your valuables

Mosquito repellent. Malaria is not a major problem in Moi's Bridge but it is sensible to take adequate precautions.

Sun protection cream - remember you will be very close to the equator.

All medications, including malaria prophylaxis, and a simple medical kit

Multi-vitamin supplements (as the local diet can sometimes be limited)

Special sauces, spices, etc., especially from Asian shops

Spare camera battery, lots of memory cards, and a 4GB flash stick to store your pictures on — you will take many more pictures than you think!

Magazines and books (although you can become a borrowing member of the library)

Spare padlocks and keys for your chalet and luggage

A sleeping bag, although not essential for Moi's Bridge, is useful whilst travelling

An umbrella if you're volunteering during the rainy season

All items that are not absolutely essential should be left at home. Although petty crime is rare, items such as radios, walkmans, video cameras, cell phones and laptops — even fancy underwear — seem to create unnecessary temptation in poor countries. If you have such items it is better to keep them out of sight - that includes washing lines!

Online Photo Storage

Kodak Gallery www.kodakgallery.co.uk provides free online storage of photos for up to one year without charge. It, unlike some other online storage site lets you retain copyright to your photos – worth checking before you sign up to a site. Online storage does provide a backup to your photos that could never be replaced should something happen to your camera or memory card.

Security

Most of what is in this section is common sense and applies to visitors almost anywhere in the world.

We try to ensure that the local people know and understand the role of volunteers in Moi's Bridge and this extends an extra level of security to them. Kenya has a lot of very poor people and Moi's Bridge is no exception, it is part of the reason we are working there. This level of poverty can lead to a low level of petty crime which most Kenyans are horrified by. It is therefore necessary to follow some fairly simple and common sense guidelines to help avoid problems.

Applying for a volunteer placement

IMPORTANT

Before you do anything else please read the first page of this application form

Aid2Africa.co.uk Volunteers Our volunteers are enthusiastic, hard-working, self-motivated people who are able to work under their own initiative. They will not replace local Kenyans and take away their jobs. Rather they assist them with the various projects Aid2Africa is involved in. Volunteers are also realistic. They know they won't change Africa, but know they will build on earlier work and success to make a difference to the lives of some of the local people.

Costs: Please make sure that you know how much it will cost you to join our volunteer programme. Full details can be found in the [Volunteering](#) section of our website under the heading [How much does it cost](#). The scale of charges for accommodation and basic services – cooking is found in the table. You have to pay for your flight to Kenya, insurance, vaccinations, food and any other items you may wish to buy while in Kenya. The [How much does it cost](#) page gives guidance on the cost of living in a rural community in Kenya. should be paid in full at least four weeks before your placement starts. Our **Refund Policy** is as follows:

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weeks. Please remember that nearly all of the money you pay for your placement goes directly towards running our charitable projects in Africa.

Placement Availability: Please note that we may not be able to accommodate you for your preferred dates. This is because we can only take a maximum of 6-8 people at one time, and some times of the year are more popular than others. If possible, we will offer you alternative dates.

Starting Your Placement:

When you reach Moi's Bridge, Kenya, you will be introduced to the Aid2Africa staff and volunteers. Maurice and Evelyn, our Kenyan Managers Responsible for Volunteer and Community Liaison, will provide an introduction to Moi's Bridge, the projects and the volunteering opportunities. Although there will be guidelines and some structure, there is a high degree of flexibility, and we encourage individual volunteers to use their initiative.

It often takes time to settle into the much slower way of life that is typical of many African countries. It is sometimes quite a culture shock to wake up in a rural community where the normal western facilities just do not exist. Most people find they can settle to the new lifestyle after a few days but Maurice and Evelyn are always available to talk through the cultural difference you experience.

Short Stays: Realistically, you will not be able to achieve a tremendous amount during a short stay, but you will be able to get involved with some projects. Your stay will also give you the benefit of experiencing life in a rural area of Kenya.

Volunteer Programme: We always try to provide some degree of flexibility. Initially we will assign you to a project to get you up and running. This initial period will give you chance to get a feel for the community you are living and working in. If you are staying for longer than just a few weeks then you can look at what the needs of the community are beyond just our structured projects. Wherever possible we try to be as flexible as possible but the long-term needs of the community must take priority. In general, because the local community has so many needs, we feel it is better if long term volunteers find their 'niche' once they have had time to talk to the other volunteers, the Co-ordinators, and our project managers.

We expect the vast majority of volunteers have the time of their lives, but a few may find it difficult to become fully involved. You will get the most out of the programme by being enthusiastic, resourceful and imaginative – and it's important to remember that you will get out of it what you put in.

Volunteering Information: Please make sure you have read **all** the information in the [Volunteering](#) section of our website so that you understand fully your role as a volunteer. This includes the Child Protection section. To make life easier, for those who prefer to have a printed version to peruse rather than just the on-screen version when it is something important, we have put all the sections from the several web pages together as a PDF. You may find some repetition of information for which we apologise, but it is better in twice than missed! You will find it where you download this document.

Christmas and New Year, and School Holidays: Please note that the period between Christmas and New Year is very quiet – the schools are closed and most people in Kenya are on holiday. It give volunteers a time when they may take the opportunity to take a trip to Uganda, Tanzania, Mozambique, or further afield.



Child Protection

Aid2Africa.co.uk is committed to ensuring that all children involved in our projects are kept safe from all forms of harm and ill-treatment.

Everyone involved in the work of Aid2Africa projects has a part to play in keeping children safe. Aid2Africa will follow procedures to ensure that:

1. Volunteers are suitable to work with children by ensuring that effective recruitment procedures are followed (interview, vetting & references)
2. Volunteers are briefed about the way they should behave towards children and that they are provided with a Code of Conduct
3. Any complaints, allegations or concerns receive appropriate attention and steps are taken to ensure the safety of all concerned

Volunteers are encouraged to:

1. Co-operate with Aid2Africa 's vetting arrangements and provide the necessary documents and/or consent to ensure that criminal records checks can be completed
2. Follow Aid2Africa's Code of Conduct at all times and take action if they witness or suspect someone else is behaving inappropriately
3. Bring any complaints, allegations or concerns to the attention of Aid2Africa without delay - regardless of the circumstances

Volunteers are suitable to work with children by ensuring that effective recruitment procedures are followed (interview, vetting & references)

All volunteers applying to participate in a Aid2Africa project involving children should be interviewed by an approved interviewer. This may be a face to face interview or may be conducted by telephone. This interview will include questions about the applicant's motivation and previous work experience with children and young people. Following interview, successful applicants will be offered a place on the Volunteer Programme, pending satisfactory references and vetting.

Aid2Africa requires appropriate official vetting enquiries to be carried out prior to volunteer participation. The acceptable forms of vetting vary from country to country. Any costs associated with vetting must be met by the applicant. Aid2Africa may take steps to ensure the authenticity of any official documents received.

Aid2Africa will not permit the involvement of anyone who has been convicted of a sexual offence. In all other cases, any criminal convictions revealed will be reviewed by Aid2Africa 's Co-ordinators, before confirming acceptance on the programme.

Volunteers should also provide a reference from a reputable source. A reference form will be provided to all successful applicants. Referees will be specifically asked whether they know of any reason why the applicant should not work with children.

Volunteers are briefed about the way they should behave towards children and provided with a Code of Conduct

Volunteer Africa will require volunteers to commit to our Child Protection Policy. The declaration form signed by volunteers will include a statement to the effect that;

"I have read, understood and agree to comply with Aid2Africa's Child Protection Policy. While on the project I will follow the Code of Conduct provided. I have never been convicted of a criminal offence against a child and there are no reasons why I should not have substantial, unsupervised, contact with children."

Code of Conduct

Aid2Africa's Code of Conduct seeks to ensure that children are kept safe from harm and that volunteers are not placed in a compromising position. This is as much about protecting the volunteer as the child. If you have any doubts about cultural issues talk to Maurice or Evelyn Chesoli about it. They will be able to give you the Kenyan perspective.

Do put the Code of Conduct into practice

Do remember that Kenyan culture will be different to your own

Do plan activities, which involve more than one person being present, or at least are within sight/hearing of other volunteers

Do work with other volunteers as a team

Do respect a child's right to personal privacy

Do listen to children's views and concerns

Do encourage others to discuss attitudes/behaviour they do not like

Do remember that someone else might misinterpret your actions

Do recognise that caution is required even in sensitive moments, such as when dealing with bullying or bereavement

Do NOT permit abusive peer activities (e.g. bullying)

Do NOT allow children to stay in volunteer accommodation

Do NOT play rough physical contact games with children

Do NOT have any inappropriate physical or verbal contact with others

Do NOT jump to conclusions about others without checking facts

Do NOT show favouritism to any individual (e.g. money, gifts etc)

Do NOT give excessive gifts to children or their families (donations can be made through Aid2Africa)

Do NOT make suggestive remarks or gestures to children, even in fun

Do NOT ignore others who do not put the Code of Conduct into practice

Bring any complaints, allegations or concerns to the attention of Aid2Africa without delay - regardless of the circumstances

Volunteers should report any complaints, allegations or concerns to Aid2Africa without delay - by either contacting Trustee or the managers of volunteer project. (Peter Wrigley at Aid2Africa.co.uk by text or phone on +447933768161. Maurice or Evelyn Chesoli in Moi's Bridge)

Any complaints, allegations or concerns receive appropriate attention and that steps are taken to ensure the safety of others.

Aid2Africa will take seriously any complaints, allegations or concerns made against volunteers or those connected with our projects. The response to complaints, allegations or concerns against volunteers will be managed by one of Aid2Africa's Co-ordinators. The staff of host agencies may be asked to support any information gathering or deal with communication difficulties; however Aid2Africa will remain responsible for all decisions regarding a volunteer's continued participation in the programme.

Aid2Africa reserves the right to suspend any volunteer's involvement with its projects and may do so pending investigation of any complaints, allegations or concerns. Volunteers will be informed of any such action by Aid2Africa staff or their representatives. Volunteers will only be permitted to resume their participation where this is approved by one of Aid2Africa's Co-ordinators.

Allegations of a criminal nature will be brought to the attention of the local Kenyan Police. Volunteers are subject to Kenyan law while in the country. A number of countries have laws enabling the prosecution of their citizens for offences committed overseas. Aid2Africa may pass details of any complaints, allegations or concerns received to appropriate law enforcement agencies in a volunteer's home country.

The response to complaints, allegations or concerns against the staff or others connected with host agencies will be managed by one of Volunteer Africa's Co-ordinators. Aid2Africa is not responsible for the management of other organisations. Any complaints, allegations or concerns received will be passed to the responsible officers of the appropriate organisations. In the event that the responsible officers of the organisation are the subject of the allegations, Aid2Africa may pass relevant information to the Kenyan Police.

Aid2Africa may suspend its involvement with other organisations that do not take appropriate action to protect children. The decision to suspend involvement with other organisations will rest with one of Aid2Africa's Co-ordinators.

Aid2Africa will co-operate with any bone-fide investigation resulting from one of its projects. Legal constraints regarding the release of information of third parties (such as the UK's Data Protection Act and other nation's equivalents) will be observed; in these circumstances advice may be sought from appropriate sources.

Charity details:

AID2AFRICA.CO.UK LTD
Registered Charity in England and Wales number 1119045
Company registration number 6147907

Email: admin@aid2africa.co.uk

Website: www.aid2africa.co.uk

'phone: +447933768161

(this is a mobile so texts are the best way to contact via phone as it is often left unattended for periods of time in the day)

Registered address

Aid2Africa.co.uk
12 Briars Close
Nuneaton
Warwickshire
CV11 6LQ UK