CHILD DEVELOPMENT THROUGH SPONSORSHIP PROGRAMME  
(CDSP)  
CHILD SELECTION CRITERIA

Compassion desires to work with the neediest and most vulnerable children that it can reach with its programme. Therefore, it is vital to have a means by which to assess the relative poverty and vulnerability of different children in the community. Reaching the neediest children possible is rooted in a commitment to integrity both in the programme and with sponsors.

All registered children are selected based on objective criteria that establish their need and their ability to benefit from the programme.

The selection criterion includes the following:
- Both non-Christian and Christian families
- Both boys and girls
- Low family income and low family assets
- Chronic illness and/or malnutrition
- Inability to attend school or progress in school
- Physically or mentally impaired (if an appropriate programme is available for them)
- Orphaned, abandoned or exploited (if an appropriate programme is available for them)
- Between the ages of three and nine (no child who has reach his or her 10th birthday can be registered for first-time entry into a project)
- Good access of the child to the church location – generally this is considered being within an approximately 30-minute walk from the home
- Evidence that the child is likely to be non-transient and stable within the community
- Use of written background information on the child and assessment of the poverty of the child and the child’s family
- Interview of parent(s) or caregiver(s) in order to assess the poverty of the family and their willingness to permit the child to participate in Christian training and other required activities and to be able to explain to them the child selection process
- A visit to the child’s home
- No more than three children from the same family may be registered for a programme. A Field Office may choose to limit this to fewer than three children per family
- Children cannot be registered for sponsorship if they are being sponsored by another organisation