



# Newsletter

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SEPTEMBER 2022

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# 1 / What has been happening on Chole?

It has been a tough last two years. COVID 19 has had a devastating impact on tourism, and the Chole Mjini Tree House Lodge was no exception.

The Lodge has always been the engine of the development project on Chole, supporting employment, procurement in the local community and, in partnership with The Chole Mjini Trust Fund - raising funds and helping facilitate project management with SHIMACHO\* the implementing organisation on Chole.

\*Shirika ya maendeleo Chole (Chole Development Organisation)



Despite these challenges, we are pleased to say that the development project on Chole has continued throughout the pandemic.

In response to the late Village Chairman's Mzee Bacha's vision, we articulated our mission to support two generations on Chole, helping them to access education that opens doors for them nationally and internationally.

**The funds that have been donated through the Chole Mjini Trust Fund have continued to be focussed on delivering this mission.**

## 2 / Our Achievements

We are extremely proud that this endeavour, sustained with your help over the years, has reaped reward such that our small island community of 1300 people can now boast:

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226

Form 4 leavers

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19

Diploma holders

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40

Certificate holders

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28

Bachelors degree graduates

Not only has this project raised educational standards amongst the Chole community, it has also raised aspiration and attainment. Many of our alumni are now working in the public sector– as civil servants, teachers and public health officers and private sector- mainly in tourism on Chole, Mafia and Zanzibar, but also for NGO's.

This success has begun to make a contribution towards an improved quality of life on the island, making early steps towards a more sustainable community - our mission is halfway completed.

**This is quite an extraordinary achievement, and it could not have been achieved without those people who have supported the Trust over the years.**

# Chole's Graduates

## Bachelors Degree Graduates

Selemani Mohammed Hassan	2011	Arts	Shambu Ally Rashid	2022	Art in Sociology
Authman Tawakali	2012	Social Work	Fatima Mbaraka Selemani	2021	Business Admin
Hassan Nahoda Hassan	2012	Health Admin	Hadia Ahmadi Simba	2022	Business Admin
Omari Shehari	2013	Public Admin	Rajabu Saidi Makungu	2022	Art in Sociology
Hussein Sadiki Zaidi	2013	Art in Education	Abdallah Selemani Kimbau	2022	Arts with Education
Halum Hassan	2013	Art in Education	Mwema Imamu Ally	2022	Science and Industry
Khalidi Juma	2014	Procurement	Athuman Seif Abdallah	2022	Art – Local Govt
Zubeda Bahari	2015	Science with Education	Mohammed AbdulRahman	2021	Clinical Officer
Mahazi Shehari	2016	Art in Education	Mohammed Ally Kingi	2022	Art in HR
Hisan Tawakali	2016	Business Admin	Faki Sadiki Bakari	2019	Business Admin
Mohammed Hassani Zaina	2016	Business Admin	Mwanakame Ahmad Simba	2022	Arts with Education
Fatuma Hassani Bhai	2018	Business Admin	Bakari Maburuki	2023	Arts with Education
Makungu Kirobo	2017	Art in Education	Hassan Ahmad Simba	2023	Science with Education
Authman Ahamadi Bhai	2018	Accounting & Finance	Aisha Abdullahamani Bakili	2023	Arts with Education

# 3 / *Chole and the changing world*

We have opened the Lodge this season with hope in our veins, with the anticipation of sharing this beautiful space with our guests once again in the 2022/23 season.

People, who have deferred travel a few times since the pandemic and travel restrictions began March 2020, are finally making it to Chole Island.

**It's wonderful to finally be able to welcome guests old and new into the lodge!**



COVID19 has made us acutely aware of the vulnerability of depending on tourism for sustainable livelihoods as people lost their jobs and were forced back to harvesting natural resources from the land and sea.

This has not been good for the environment which, together with the acceleration of changes arising from climate change, is putting the economic sustainability of life on Chole and the Mafia region at further risk.

**We believe that this is a challenge that needs to become an integrated part of our future work.**





## 4 / *What does the future hold?*

During the pandemic we were able to help Chole Island and neighbouring Jibondo Island join SMILO a global organization dedicated to networking small islands to address issues of sustainability.

Our village Chairman will soon be heading to Portugal to attend his first SMILO AGM. This a great start, but we see the need for practical projects which enable local people to marry sustainable utilisation of resources and conservation with the development of their community.



Over the next few months, we will be updating you about new plans for our work in Chole and the wider area.

**Education will continue to be at the heart of this approach**, allied with a conservation project on the inhabited islands in the Mafia Island Marine Park that we hope will help to sustain the environment for future generations of local people and visitors alike, and create sustainable employment into the future.

5 /

## *What have we been spending your money on?*

Over the years, more and more children have been passing on to secondary school and tertiary education, and the cost of funding these activities continues to increase. At the same time, the collapse of tourism has badly impacted the income to the Trust.

**We are experiencing the perfect financial crunch,** but despite this we have continued to run the Chole Kindergarten and provide school scholarships to secondary and tertiary students into 2022.

The annual recurrent budget for Chole Mjini Trust Fund/ SHIMACHO activities is about TShs 125,000,000, or about £44,500/ \$53,000. We show how this is being spent on the next page.



Activity	Students p.a./People benefitting	Main budget items	% of total budget
Kindergarten	60 children – also greatly benefits women who have more time for economic activities	Food, teacher salaries, cooks, watchmen, educational activities, maintenance	17
Secondary school Form 1–4 scholarships	104	Student Stipend @ 300,000/- per student	25
Form 5–6	4	Stipend @ 1,500,000/- per student	9
Tertiary support	12 Certificate & Diploma 8 Degree	Stipend @ 1,500,000/- for Certificate or Diploma 1 Stipend @ 2,500,000/- for Diploma 2 and Degree Studies	40
Health Centre Support	Chole Community	Salaries for cleaners and quarterly grounds maintenance	0
Learning Centre	Secondary school Tuition and adult education	Teachers and Tutors, computer maintenance, solar supply	0
Administration	Chole Community	Executive committee monthly meetings Village council meetings – annually Bookkeeper and Treasurer Annual Audit	9

# 6 / *Our Funding Challenge*

Maintaining this level of support has had an inevitable impact on our reserves.

We have already had to take some tough decisions over the last two years including withdrawal of our support for the Health Centre, now handed over to the District Government to manage.

Now we are facing the prospect of the closure of the Learning Centre, which has key support role for students.

**Without action, we will have to further reduce the support we can give. This is something we are obviously keen to avoid.**



Our current forecasts suggest that we are going to hit a funding crisis in 2023, which over time will mean that we will not be able to support the same level of students.

**We have to make decisions about how many students we can support by the end of 2022, so the time for action is now.**

We therefore need to get creative about fundraising and we hope that you will be willing to be part of this effort in the coming weeks and months.

**For now though, we would really welcome any offer of increased support for this valuable work. If you feel you are able to increase your support for the students of Chole, we would be immensely grateful.**



# 7 / Please Donate

The huge difference in purchasing power between western economies and Tanzania means small amounts go a very long way.

- £ 15/ US\$25 per month will pay for a form 1-4 secondary school pupil's bursary to attend school on Mafia for a year;
- £ 35/ US\$55 per month will pay for a form 5+ secondary school or diploma pupil's bursary for a year on mainland Tanzania
- £ 70/ US\$110 per month will fund a student at university for a year, with half the amount advanced as a loan repayable on graduation to benefit later students.
- £100/US\$155 per month will fund an English Language Teacher in the Learning Centre

There are two ways you can donate to this valuable work:

**To make a one-off donation**, please go to our website: <https://www.choletrust.org/>

**To discuss establishing or increasing a regular (monthly or annual donation)** please e-mail our Chole Project Lead, Anne de Villiers: [anne.k.dev@gmail.com](mailto:anne.k.dev@gmail.com), or our CMTF Chair, Keith Mitchell: [kmpba@aol.com](mailto:kmpba@aol.com)

Follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).



*Thank you!*