

# CWUHA visit to Tanzania November 2019



The trustees visited Tanzania on a joint mission, firstly to check on the progress of our sponsored school and secondly to look at the possibility of supporting other projects.

The economy of Tanzania is the second largest in East Africa and tenth largest on the continent. Tanzania, despite its natural resources, remains one of the most impoverished countries in the world with 36% of its population living below the poverty line (21 million people). The average take home earning is 32,080 Tanzanian shillings (£12.33 per month), however the most typical take home salary is 7800 Tanzanian shillings which is around £3 per month.

## Kilimahewa School



The Kilimahewa School has changed little since the last visit in that it is still basically a nursery school, providing early learning for around 85 children. CWUHA has supported the school for over ten years and presently fund school uniforms and meals for over 50 children as well as teacher's salary. Mr Massawe the founder and Headteacher assured us that it was still his goal to take the school to the next level of education but that this was a slow process involving many inspections from the education department and at significant costs. Each inspection



costs 75000 Tanzanian shillings (around £26) per inspector and with usually 5 turning up for each inspection and 5 or 6 inspections a year, the figures soon mount up.



Mr Massawe informed us that once the school receives the certificates required to move to the next level of education, it would have to start charging for pupils to attend to cover the teacher's salary. On a positive note Mr Massawe informed us that around 80% of children from the Kilimahewa School move onto the

next level of education, though this is undocumented.

The children looked well, were very happy and well behaved. We witnessed them being taught Basic English and maths, which they performed with little or no difficulty. They are obviously very happy at the School and are receiving the necessary skills to help in the next level of education.



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**The trustees have reaffirmed their commitment to the Kilimahewa School and will carry on sponsoring children's uniforms, books, meals and one of the teacher's salary for the next 12 months.**

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The other projects we visited are listed below. The overriding theme of these projects was helping underprivileged children mostly through ensuring they received an education.

## **The BAHA Foundation**

The BAHA foundation is an organisation started by two former street kids who now run a successful project offering assistance to other street children. The foundation is run on donations of both cash and food and allows them to ensure the children receive an education along with healthcare, clothing and food.

The foundation also takes time to research the children to see if they have any family in the area they can be either reconciled with or to at least allow them to remain in contact.



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**CWUHA has agreed to sponsor the education, healthcare, clothing and food for two children in the care of 'The BAHA Foundation'.**

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## The Excel Foundation

Similar to the BAHA Foundation but is run by two ladies and helps underprivileged children with their education. The foundation has two facilities, one in Moshi and the second in Arusha. They are inspected by government officials on regular intervals.

Each student signs a contract of commitment and behavioural standards and they are expected to achieve at least a grade B. They have women from the community teaching life skills to the students which includes cooking and personal finance. 70% of the children live in homes with no electricity so the foundation provides solar lights so they can continue their studies at home.



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**CWUHA has agreed to sponsor the education of two of the students in the care of The Excel Foundation**

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## Green Pastures Open School

Includes the Matumaini Child Care Centre. Located just outside Moshi it provides for around 35 children, predominantly AIDs victims aging from 7 – 17. The Green pastures open school provides education opportunities for underprivileged and homeless children. Their goal is to provide quality, reliable and sustainable education to the marginalised groups such as girls and the most vulnerable children whose parents or guardians cannot afford to pay the school fees. They also provide support for children who struggle with education.

## Share Tanzania

This project supports families with their children's education, supports street kids and cares for disabled children. It was very obvious during the visit that it brought back memories for a couple of the trustees who had taken part in the early CWUHA convoys. Many of the children are abandoned, some are evicted from the family homes along with their mothers as it is considered bad luck to have a disabled child.



The facility has a number of small chalets where parents can live with their children, allowing them to work while the child is cared for at the centre.

Below is a passage from their web page.

***Share Tanzania operates in rural Tanzania, in the foot hills of Mount Kilimanjaro. We began in 2014 from humble beginnings.***

***Here at ShareTanzania we believe that a solution to many of the issues we see ourselves and others facing on earth, lay in the simple action of sharing. Sharing our time, resources, love and ideas can help to heal a great deal in this world.***

***Our Mission Statement is clear, to ensure children in crisis find a safe, and loving home.***

***The main focus of our work is in keeping children with families in Tanzania wherever possible, with a children's fund supporting over a 1000 children, we are indeed thankfully achieving that goal.***

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**CWUHA Trustees have given the green light to enter into a three year agreement with 'Share Tanzania' to make them one of our CWUHA supported projects with a goal to help build a purpose built centre for the care of special needs children.**

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It is very difficult to not be impressed with all the organisations we visited. Each of them dedicated to helping vulnerable children, not necessarily disabled or abandoned, with in some cases just poverty preventing them gaining an education. Witnessing their achievements is truly inspirational, it's a real pity we cannot help all of them.

Lenny Crook  
CWUHA Trustee

