



2023 NEWSLETTER

Dear Friends of the Changarawe Project,

A warm welcome to our latest newsletter. We hope this finds you well.

2023 marks 25 years since we first started supporting education and welfare projects in Changarawe village. How time has flown! Four years ago, the trustees decided to focus the charity's resources on students in the Nigel Lloyd Fund, in parallel with gradually scaling back our support for other initiatives managed by Childhood Development Organisation (CDO), our implementing partner in Changarawe.

During this period, due to the constraints imposed by COVID, we had been unable to arrange a trustee visit. It was great, therefore, that Rob Watkinson was able to visit Changarawe at the end of June. Please read on for his impressions from his visit as well as updates on the Nigel Lloyd Fund and sponsorship programme, and other news from Changarawe.

As we look back on all that has been achieved over the last 25 years, we also celebrate the continued success of the students we have

supported. We are immensely proud that 13 have now graduated from university, while six more are currently studying for their degrees. We would like to say a very big ASANTE to you, our loyal supporters, for the extraordinary generosity that has made such life-changing opportunities possible for so many young Tanzanians. As Felistas Kalomo, the Project's co-founder and CDO's Executive Director, said in June, "The legacy of our partnership will last forever through the students we have helped to thrive".

TRUSTEE VISIT

"It's always a privilege to spend time in Changarawe but my visit in June felt particularly special given the enforced break in visits due to COVID. Over four days, I held a wide range of meetings with CDO staff, Board members and beneficiaries of the projects financed by the Changarawe Project."

Since the last trustee visit in November 2019, nearly all of the CDO team has changed. It was wonderful to meet in person the talented and dynamic colleagues we've come to know over

email, and to catch up with some familiar faces, including of course Felistas. A large dose of warm Tanzanian hospitality, served up against a backdrop of the Uluguru mountains, is always good for the soul!

Over the last few years the trustees have begun scaling back financial support to CDO, in line with CDO diversifying its sources of income and becoming self-sufficient. It was particularly uplifting, therefore, to learn that CDO has recently secured two significant three-year contracts, with the Tanzanian NGO Tanzania Early Childhood Development Network and the British company ViV Healthcare. These projects draw on CDO's expertise in childhood development and the training of community healthcare workers and teachers, and provide a solid foundation for the next phase of CDO's independent growth.

The buildings and facilities established by The Changarawe Project are in good condition, with the recent addition of a large roof to the main courtyard and a small hostel within the grounds of the Nigel Lloyd Study Centre. The construction of the hostel was funded by the smart idea of making bead bracelets in Morogoro which were then sold in Ireland by a couple who had visited CDO a few years ago. The hostel rooms are let to students at Mzumbe University and generate a regular income for CDO. Internet access at the Study Centre has been upgraded and rainwater harvesting installed.

During my visit, CDO received confirmation that four Nigel Lloyd Fund students who completed Form IV in 2022 had got the grades to progress to Form V for A-Level studies. This wonderful news was made all the more special when I learned that among this group was Besta, the daughter of Helena Nicholaus, who contributed so much over 18 years as a teacher and

then headteacher at Zawadi School before, tragically, passing away in 2018. I had the honour of visiting Besta, her father and two younger siblings to pass on the good news that her A-Level studies will be supported by the Changarawe Project."



Felistas congratulating Besta Nicholaus

Nigel Lloyd Fund

We have not accepted new students into the Fund since the start of 2020. As a result, we now support a total of 101 students (from an historic peak of 150) to attend local primary and secondary schools. In addition to a package of basic necessities - including uniform, school books, mattress, mosquito net and sanitary products - which all students receive, the majority also benefit from access to school feeding programmes, which we fund.

All Nigel Lloyd Fund students have access to the well maintained Study Centre, which includes a library and 15 computers. The students enjoy using Whizz, an innovative online course to teach

mathematics, and also benefit from basic IT education, which is provided by Diaz, CDO's IT and Orphan Welfare Officer.

The trustees are committed to supporting all of these 101 students until they complete their respective educational journeys, with the last cohort finishing Form IV of secondary school, when they take national exams, in 2029.

Sponsorships

Since 2015, we have run a sponsorship scheme to enable the most able Nigel Lloyd Fund students to go on to further studies in the form of A-Levels or vocational courses, at schools and colleges across the country. So far we have supported 64 students (33 girls and 31 boys). 34 have taken A-Level courses (eight of whom are currently enrolled) and 30 have taken vocational courses, in subjects such as tourism, human resource management and teacher training (12 of whom are currently enrolled).

This has only been possible thanks to some very generous supporters. Thank you so much.

The trustees fully intend to support any Nigel Lloyd Fund student who, over the next six years, performs sufficiently well at Form IV to qualify for further studies. Thanks to several recent one-off donations, we feel confident in being able to provide this support, but we would still be delighted to hear from anyone who would like to become a sponsor. If you are interested in learning more about this opportunity, please email changaraweuk@gmail.com.

Working with CDO, we are continually tracking the progress of previously sponsored students. As noted above, no fewer than 19 have gone on to university studies and a number have found employment, which is a real achievement in Tanzania's very tough job market.

Bibi Babu Programme

We continue to support 52 older members of the local community who are themselves carers of children in the Nigel Lloyd Fund, through welfare packages and monthly social gatherings.



Peter, CDO's driver, being recognised for his long-standing service and dedication



CDO Board meeting during trustee visit

The project plays an important role in alleviating the loneliness of some of the oldest and poorest village residents, as well as ensuring that their health is regularly checked. As with students, we stopped accepting new entrants to the programme a few years ago.

Money Matters

Our recent focus has been on predicting the level of costs likely to be incurred in Tanzania over the remaining life of the charity (with 2032 as the predicted date for completion of the very last cohort of vocational courses). Not least thanks to several very generous legacies, we have concluded that the current level of cash and investments held is broadly sufficient to cover the expected outgoings, and we will therefore keep to our plan of not embarking on any major new fundraising. We remain extremely grateful to those supporters who continue to provide regular donations that will enable us to build up a buffer fund to cover future costs increases over the decade as a result of inflationary pressures.

Further information on our financial position and expenditure in Tanzania can be found in our 2023 Annual Report, which is available on our website.

STAYING IN TOUCH

The trustees are always delighted to hear from the charity's supporters and can be emailed at changaraweuk@gmail.com. If you would prefer to receive e-versions of future newsletters, or no longer wish to hear from us, it would be greatly appreciated if you could let us know.



Nigel Lloyd Fund student receiving a care package from Susan, CDO's nurse