



Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From	Period start date			To	Period end date		
	Day01	Month01	Year2023		Day31	Month12	Year2023

Section A Reference and administration details

Charity name

Children of Choba

Other names charity is known by

Registered charity number (if any)

1138096

Charity's principal address

20, Horseshoe Walk

Bath

Postcode

BA2 6DE

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Valerie McGivern	Chair		
2	Stephen Walker			
3	Jemma Bartholomew			
4	Abraham Temu			
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20				

Names of the trustees for the charity, if any, (for example, any custodian trustees)

Name	Dates acted if not for whole year

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address

Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

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Section B Structure, governance and management

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document (eg. trust deed, constitution)	Trust Deed
How the charity is constituted (eg. trust, association, company)	Trust
Trustee selection methods (eg. appointed by, elected by)	Appointed by existing trustees

Additional governance issues (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant, about:

- policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees;
- the charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works;
- relationship with any related parties;
- trustees' consideration of major risks and the system and procedures to manage them.

Children of Choba forms the Education Department of a registered Tanzanian Charitable Trust, Fisherfolks Charitable Development Trust (FCDT) of which Valerie McGivern and Abraham Temu are a trustees.

Children of Choba works very closely with the School Committee of Choba English Medium Primary and Nursery School in Tanzania, of which Valerie McGivern is a member on behalf of the donors. Abraham Temu is also a member (Secretary) in his capacity as Head Teacher.

Both the above organisations are independent of Children of Choba.

As a foreign organisation in Tanzania, Children of Choba is not able to own Choba English Medium Primary and Nursery School. Children of Choba trustees therefore have no legal responsibility (financial or otherwise) to support the school, although we intend to do so for as long as necessary. Our aim at the outset was for the school to eventually be financially independent and we continue to work towards this. We are making good progress and in 2023 the parents contributed 79% of the school running costs.

Section C Objectives and activities

Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document

1. To advance the education of the children of Choba and nearby villages by constructing, running and providing the highest standards of teaching and facilities at Choba English Medium Primary and Nursery Schools. (Choba is a hamlet of Boza village, Pangani District, Tanga Region, Tanzania, East Africa)
2. The prevention and relief of poverty in rural Tanzania, particularly Choba.

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects (include within this section the statutory declaration that trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit)

1. We have now completed the essential buildings at Choba Primary School and are making excellent progress at ensuring the sustainability of the schools by asking the parents to contribute to running expenses according to their ability to pay.
2. We continue to make up the shortfall in running expenses of Choba Primary and Nursery School. Expenses include the following :
 - Salaries (including social security contributions) of 12 primary school teachers, 4 nursery school teachers, 1 office assistant, 3 part time cooks and 4 watchmen
 - Purchase and repair of bicycles for staff and volunteers
 - Text books, exercise books, pens and pencils, stationery
 - Porridge for an average over the period of 330 children every school day
 - Breakfast and lunch for all staff
 - Maintenance of all buildings and assets such as the bore holes and water pumps
 - Printing and photocopying of monthly test and exam papers
 - School trips
 - Water and electricity
 - Transport to school for teachers

In 2023 Children of Choba made a contribution of £6,398 towards the running expenses of Choba Primary and Nursery School. We also made specific contributions of £628 for a school trip to Mkomazi National Park for Class VI, £1,542 for text books for the new syllabus (kindly donated by Rotary Club of Bradford on Avon) and £227 for medical expenses for a 7 year old who broke her arm at school and needed an operation (without assistance she would probably have not been treated). The total contribution of Children of Choba to Choba Primary and Nursery School in 2023 was therefore £8,795.

Children of Choba has funded most of the assets of this school (buildings, desks, books, water pump etc) since the charity was founded in 2010. However, since foreigners and foreign organisations cannot own land (or anything built on it) in Tanzania, Children of Choba does not own the school. We have also funded running expenses - 100% of running expenses to begin with as there were no school fees. It has always been our intention that the school would be self-sustaining one day, and we asked the parents to start contributing towards running expenses in 2014, according to their ability to pay. We have been able to increase these contributions as the parents have started to see the fruits of education, until in 2023 the parents contributed 79% of the cost of running the school. At the beginning of 2023 the trustees agreed that from then on, we would account only for specific donations Children of Choba has made to the school and not include the full expenditure of the school. The school has its own audited accounts according to the law of Tanzania, which are available to any potential donor on request.

3. In 2023 we paid (or made a contribution towards) the school fees and boarding costs for 48 secondary school students, 21 college students and 6 university students, totalling £58,887 (2022 £39,704). The total amount of funding received in 2023 from private individuals for their respective sponsored students was £53,809, but £12,242 of this was not spent in 2023 as some of the donors pay annually in advance. However, in 2023 the fees for the whole year for sponsored secondary students studying up to

O level were paid in December 2023. We have £32,750 of funding designated to be spent on the fees of 7 school and 5 college students whom we have undertaken to pay for out of unrestricted funds until the completion of their various courses in 1 to 6 years' time. From now on, Children of Choba will be increasing our efforts to fund Choba graduates (who are mostly from families living below the international poverty line) to undertake vocational training in courses that will lead to employment. To this end, the trustees have decided to designate the amount above (£32,750) plus £20,000 from our reserves in 2023, to fund secondary and tertiary education of carefully selected Choba graduates for whom we have been unable to obtain individual sponsorship. The maximum paid to sponsor any one student (who is studying Medical Doctor at university) was £2,884 in 2023.

Trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit and consider all the activities we fund in Tanzania to be of public benefit.

Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include further statements, where relevant, about:

- policy on grantmaking;
- policy programme related investment;
- Contribution made by volunteers.

The eventual aim is for Choba Primary and Nursery School to be financed completely by parental contributions so that it can continue long after the present Children of Choba trustees. We are working gradually towards this aim, with the parents contributing 79% of the cost of running the school in 2023 compared to nothing when Children of Choba was founded in 2010. This transition is enabling us to spend more of our funding on the secondary and tertiary education of Choba graduates. However, the school will always be of supreme importance as the graduates would not obtain places at private secondary schools or colleges without the foundation they receive at Choba Primary School.

Valerie McGivern, Chair of Trustees, spent the entire period in Tanzania (2023). Her responsibilities included the following: -

- Fundraising and publicity for Children of Choba in UK
- Supervising all spending of charity money
- Ensuring that the school complies with the Child Protection Policy of Children of Choba, a legal requirement for the sponsorship of the schools

During 2021 Valerie was required to retire in Tanzania but she is still able to fulfil the above roles as a trustee of Fisherfolks Charitable Development Trust and a member of the school committee. During this period she has obtained a small amount of restricted funding towards her living expenses – for details please refer to the Notes to Accounts.

Section D

Achievements and performance

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

At Choba we are not just building a school, we are trying to give each child the opportunity to maximise his or her potential. This was our tenth year as an independent community school after we passed the strict criteria for registration.

In our ninth year of having a Class 7, we have achieved excellent results again. Choba English Medium Primary School performed very well in the National Primary School Leaving Examinations, with a school average over all subjects of 74% - of our 29 students, 6 got an average of A, 22 got B and 1 C. Again, for the second year, NECTA (National Examinations Council of Tanzania) did not publish positions, but we have maintained our marks (in 2021 our overall average was 75%) so it would be reasonable to assume that we maintained our position in the top 5% of Tanzanian primary schools.

Our fifth intake at Choba Primary School (who graduated in 2019) sat their O levels in 2023. Three Choba graduates (2 of whom were sponsored and 1 of whom was at a government scholarship school for special talents) did outstandingly well, with 10 As, 8 As and 1 B and 6 As and 3 Bs. Two further sponsored students got Division I. Seven further students got Division II, 3 Division III and 6 Division IV.

Thirteen students who graduated from Choba Primary School in 2016 sat A levels in May 2023, and 7 got Division I, 3 got Division II and 3 got Division III. Nine opted for university, where 1 is studying Medicine, 2 Accountancy, and the others various subjects including Health Information Systems, Information Technology, and Journalism. One Choba graduate of 2015 who completed her Diploma in Law in 2023 got excellent results and is now studying Law at university. However, she obtained her university place after the close of loan applications, so Children of Choba is still supporting her for 1 year. All new applicants received government loans but none of them got 100%. We continue to support Amina and Zuwena (Medicine) and Hadija (Law) who have a large shortfall. Of the other 2023 A level leavers, 1 deferred his university place, 2 are studying for diplomas and 1 chose to play football.

In 2023 Children of Choba has also paid for the college education (to diploma or certificate level) of 22 Choba graduates who completed their O level studies in 2019, 2020, 2021 or 2022 but who either were not selected for A levels, or chose vocational training over A levels. They are studying subjects that we hope will make them employable – clinical medicine, animal health and production, community development, law, public administration, primary teaching and early years teaching. Five of these students completed their diplomas during 2023, with 2 getting First Class and 3 Upper Second Class. Three students also passed their certificates in primary education. We are now very proud to have 3 Choba graduates employed as teachers at Choba Primary School and 1 at Choba Nursery School.

We continue to be very encouraged by these results particularly as the parents realise the success of the children is due to their foundation at Choba Primary and Nursery School.

In addition to exam success, we are proud that our sponsored students are growing up to be hard working, responsible young people with leadership potential. Many are prefects and leaders at their schools and colleges, and at Franciscan Girls' Secondary School 6 of their 8 head girls have been Choba graduates.

Section E

Financial review

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

We aim to keep at least half our annual expenditure in unrestricted reserve at all times.
We finished this financial year with a total of £141,126 in hand. £37,224 of this is restricted funding and £52,750 designated by the trustees for secondary and tertiary education of Choba graduates. £51,152 of unrestricted funding remains, which is 67% of our 2023 annual expenditure of £75,603.

Details of any funds materially in deficit

Nil

Further financial review details (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant about:

- the charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising);
- how expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity;
- investment policy and objectives including any ethical investment policy adopted.

Grants were received during the year from the Rotary Club of Bradford on Avon (£1,000 restricted to the purchase of text books) and Royal Commonwealth Society (Bath Branch) (£500 unrestricted). In addition Gift Aid of £10,708 was claimed during the year.
Sponsorship of specific children for secondary and tertiary education totalling £53,809 was received during the year. This was entirely from individuals who are friends or contacts of the trustees. None of this was from organisations.

Section F

Other optional information

Section G

Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)	Valerie	McGivern
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Chair	
Date	18/4/2024	

CHILDREN OF CHOBA

PERIOD 01/01/2023 TO 31/12/23

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNTS
EXCHANGE RATE USED 1GBP=TZS 3000

	UK	TANZANIA	UNRESTRICTED FUNDS	RESTRICTED FUNDS Note 9	DESIGNATED FUNDS Note 6	TOTAL
	Notes £					
RECEIPTS						
DONATIONS FOR SPONSORED STUDENTS	5	49,679	4,130		53,809	53,809
GENERAL DONATIONS		15,422	7,846	23,268		23,268
GRANTS	3	1,500	500	1,000		1,500
FUNDING FOR VALERIE MCGIVERN COSTS	9,10	12,500		12,500		12,500
TRANSFERRED TO TANZANIA		-120,000	120,000			
TOTAL		-40,899	131,976	23,768	67,309	91,077
PAYMENTS						
DONATIONS TO CHOBA PRIMARY AND NURSERY SCHOOL						
CONTRIBUTION TO GENERAL SCHOOL RUNNING EXPENSES		6,398	6,398			6,398
SAFARI TO MKOMAZI NATIONAL PARK		628	628			628
TEXT BOOKS	9	1,542		1,542		1,542
MEDICAL EXPENSES DUE TO ACCIDENT AT SCHOOL		227	227			227
		8,795	7,253	1,542		8,795
CONSTRUCTION OF SCHOOL BUILDINGS						
SPONSORED STUDENTS	5	58,887		58,887		58,887
VOLUNTEERS - FLIGHTS ETC	7					
WEBSITE HOSTING		163	163			163
OFFICE EXPENSES	8	0	0	0		0
BANK CHARGES		258	258	0		258
RESTRICTED FUNDING FOR VALERIE MCGIVERN	10					
LAPTOP		300		300		300
ESSENTIAL REPAIRS TO ACCOMMODATION		3,322		3,322		3,322
CAR EXPENSES		1,187		1,187		1,187
CONTRIBUTION TO LIVING EXPENSES		2,691		2,691		2,691
NIC CONTRIBUTIONS						
TOTAL		421	75,182	7,674	67,929	0 75,603
NET BALANCE OF RECEIPTS OVER PAYMENTS		-41,320	56,794	16,094	-620	15,474
STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES						
CASH FUNDS						
HSBC	71,206		6,482	24,724	40,000	71,206
EXIM BANK TANGA TZS		68,680	43,430	12,500	12,750	68,680
EXIM BANK TANGA GBP		399	399			399
CASH IN HAND		841	841			841
TOTAL		71,206	69,920	51,152	37,224	52,750 141,126
LIABILITIES						
NONE		0	0			0



Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/
members of

Children of Choba

On accounts for the year
ended

31st December 2023

Charity no
(if any)

1138096

Set out on pages

Accounts Attached – including Notes to the Accounts

**Respective
responsibilities of
trustees and examiner**

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act, and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

**Basis of independent
examiner's statement**

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

**Independent
examiner's statement**

- In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention
1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Charities Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Charities Act have not been met; or
 2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:

Date:

23/04/2024

Name:

Martin Coles

**Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body**

FCMA, MA(Hons)

Address: 14 Dymott Square, Hilperton, Trowbridge, Wiltshire. BA14 7RW