Shimbwe Development Trust

2025 Annual Review

Executive Summary

Since 1997, the Shimbwe Development Trust has worked to improve the quality of life for the people of Shimbwe Ward, on the slopes of Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania, by advancing access to clean water, healthcare, and education. 2025 was a year of renewed momentum. With its Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) status now established, the Trust welcomed £5,000 in income - including generous foundation and individual gifts and long-awaited proceeds from a community fundraiser that its previous banking arrangements had prevented it from receiving. As we approach our 30th anniversary, these foundations position the Trust to complete its long-running water project and deepen its impact in the years ahead.

Governance & Operations

Following its transition to **Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO)** status, the Trust now operates as a distinct legal entity, able to own property, enter contracts, and hold banking facilities in its own name. In 2025 this new structure delivered its first tangible benefit: the ability to receive and bank donations - including proceeds from fundraising events and non-digital gifts - which had not been possible under previous arrangements. This unlocks a far wider range of fundraising avenues for the future.

Fundraising Highlights

A highlight of 2025 was the receipt of proceeds from the Trust's 25th-anniversary fundraiser. Held on Bank Holiday Monday, 28 August 2023, at the Grove Tavern in Tunbridge Wells, the event featured live music, a barbecue, and a raffle with prizes donated by local businesses, raising £1,000. Because the Trust's former bank accepted only digital payments - not cheques or cash - these funds could not be deposited at the time. The move to CIO status and modern banking finally enabled the £1,000 to be received in 2025, alongside major gifts of £1,000 from The William Brake Foundation and £3,000 from Elizabeth and John Bell, bringing total income for the year to £5,000.

Key Strategic Priorities for 2026

- **Water Project Completion —** Directing newly raised funds toward the piping materials required to complete the community water project — our most urgent need.
- **Beneficiary Outreach —** Strengthening direct connection with the people we serve, providing consistent access to information, resources, and advice.
- **30th Anniversary Campaign —** As we approach three decades of service, documenting our impact through videography and stakeholder testimonials to inspire renewed support.

Financial Summary

2025 saw the resumption of financial activity following the CIO transition, with £5,000 in total income received into the charity's account. No expenditure was recorded during the reporting period; funds are held to advance the water project. Income for the period is summarised below.

Date	Amount	Source
03/10/2025	£1,000.00	The William Brake Foundation
15/10/2025	£1,000.00	Grove Tavern fundraiser (held 28 Aug 2023; banked 2025)
03/12/2025	£3,000.00	Elizabeth & John Bell
Total Income	**£5,000.00**	**Received into the CIO charity account**

Acknowledgements

We extend heartfelt gratitude to all who supported us in 2025 - with special thanks to The William Brake Foundation, to Elizabeth and John Bell, and to everyone who gave to and attended the Grove Tavern fundraiser. We also thank our founder, trustees, and volunteers, whose dedication sustains our work. The Shimbwe community's continued trust remains the foundation of our success.