

Newsletter December 2025

On December 3, 2025, the graduation ceremony for the children of the Nursery School took place in the Hans Schmid Hall. It was a day of celebration and a milestone in the history of Chikola in two respects:



The oldest children were celebrating the end of their kindergarten attendance and now they are looking forward with great anticipation to entering the first grade in January. And for the first time, they do not have to move to another school but can stay in the village. The dream of having its own primary school is coming true. Children, parents, teachers, staff, the entire village are looking with full optimism towards a hopeful future!

Am Ambition: Let's build up a Primary school

During our visit to Chikola at the beginning of the year, we heard this wish again and again: We urgently need a school. The public school in the next village is hopelessly overburdened and is also glad when its number of students does not continue to increase, as there are not enough classrooms and teachers. The parents also signaled their willingness to pay something according to their means to help finance the expansion from a nursery school into a primary school.



Two New Classrooms

A great stroke of luck is helping us to tackle this task. The Schmid Foundation is prepared to support a long-term expansion to a primary school and has instructed us to draw up a plan for it. Preparations are in full swing, but the real challenge is for the team on site.

The administrative hurdles alone for registering the school must be overcome, but we are receiving support from various parties.



What helps us is the intention of the village community to support this project with the ultimate goal of being able to pay the new teachers themselves. The school is to remain a non-profit organization and will be open to all children in the village.

What is very encouraging: In the four years since the founding, awareness of the importance of education has visibly grown. This is also reflected in the steadily increasing number of students; over 100 children are already enrolled, and more will join with the opening of the 1st grade.

We now look forward to next year with great excitement; we expect many new experiences from which we can then assess the further course of action. Will financing by the parents be at least partially possible? Do we need other new employees besides teaching staff? etc. We will report on the progress of the project as it develops.

You can find out more about our future plans and goals already achieved on our newly re-designed website:

marieschool.ch

It is important to us to show that every donation flows undiminished into the school project, and we are proud of the impressive achievements, made possible by your support.

Asante sana

