

# CHEMBA SECONDARY SCHOOL

*Update - September 24<sup>th</sup> 2025*



*Lilian Gaula & Pastor Stella (from DCT – Diocese of Central Tanganyika, Dodoma) and the New Women's Dormitory and mess hall on the left, Chemba School.*

## **Summary & School Registration**

The registration of the new Chemba Secondary School is just a week or two away!! Conjester Benjamin is confident that it should be complete by the end of September/beginning of October 2025!

Conjester (Head Teacher) and Zechariah (Diocesan Secretary) from Kondoa have been working very hard on the paperwork to register the school. The registration panel of the government has been to the school several times and asked for a number of additions, including—a separate girl's dormitory; three sciences blocks - Biology, Chemistry and Physics; a library; and a bank of external toilets—all these have now been established.

The final inspection and concluding report of the registration panel is scheduled for Monday, September 29<sup>th</sup>—Conjester is confident that no further requests are expected...we shall see...(the infrastructure requirement for Chemba is already well beyond what most Tanzanian secondary schools are required to provide before they are registered...)



*The New Science Laboratories & Library (on the left), looking from the Classroom block (4 classrooms at present), at Chemba School.*

If all goes well, the formal registration of the school has taken just six months—thanks to the new online registration system (which avoids the application crossing many desks, thus minimising the opportunity for “disruption.” The St Peter & St Paul Primary School, Kondoa, in comparison, took three years to register with three levels of “disruption” delaying the process—at State, Regional and Local Council levels.)

### ***History of the School***

The concept of a new secondary school in Chemba began long before a similar vision for the St Peter & St Paul Primary School in Kondoa. The land in Chemba was given to “*World Vision*” in the 1990s. They used it for social programmes—but as is their mandate, they were required to terminate their activities after 10 years. The land was then given to the Anglican Diocese of Kondoa.

However, because of lack of resources, the Kondoa Diocese was unable to use the land quickly enough—half of the area was transferred to the Local Chemba Council for pension housing for police, teachers and other government workers. However, there is still a large land area remaining—large enough for the secondary school...

On his inauguration in 2012, Bishop Given realised that some work would need to be done on the ground in Chemba to retain the site—so a programme of brick-making and the digging of foundations for the dormitories and main dining hall began. Funding from East Tennessee, USA and New Zealand assisted with the initial buildings, which helped to secure the site.

For an extended period, progress was slow, mainly due to a lack of funding (this was/is a very big project), but also there was a change of priorities—the key early focus turned to the St Peter & St Paul Primary School in Kondoa. The idea was to give students the opportunity to go to primary school first, and then to progress to secondary school, in the usual way.

In 2018, St Peter & St Paul, Tonbridge youth helped make bricks for the men's dormitories at Chemba—along with Bishop Given and his son Amani Gaula.



*Bishop Given and Amani Gaula making bricks for the Men's Dormitories (the brickwork rising on the left), at Chemba, assisted by St Peter & St Paul, Tonbridge youth, in 2017.*

With the Kondoa Primary School fully up and running in 2023 and the graduation of the first primary school children imminent in 2025, an injection of funds accelerated the development of Chemba—to enable the successful primary students to graduate seamlessly to the new secondary school.

The Kondoa Diocese is very grateful over the years as a number of organisations have assisted in the funding of Chemba—among them East Tennessee, USA; New Zealand; the Rochester Diocese, UK; and a number of individuals. It has been a shared experience and a journey travelled by many—we are now very close to the time for rejoicing as the school is finally registered and opened!





*Bishop Given, Conjester & Zechariah in the New Chemistry Laboratory, Chemba School.*

### ***The Opening of Chemba School***

The priority of funding has been to focus on the earliest opportunity to register and open the school. Chemba Secondary School is planned to start in early 2026 with 40 students—one class. Although the Diocese is not allowed to accept students before the school is formally registered, there are likely to be 20 graduating pupils from St Peter & St Paul, Primary School in Kondoa, and a further 20 for across the Diocese, and perhaps beyond. A total of 26 unsolicited applications have already been received. All students applying to the Chemba Secondary School will sit an entry exam, as teaching will be in English and to a high standard.

Although the formal school curriculum will begin in early 2026, it is expected that some students will start before the end of this year—especially to undertake intense English tuition, as a preparation.

There are likely to be 6 teachers initially at Chemba—each able to cover two subject areas (of which there are officially 11). Although most of these teachers are likely to be new, some may switch from the St Peter & St Paul School in Kondoa. Conjester Benjamin will handle teacher recruitment, with the assistance of the Advisory Board of each school. (Please remember that Conjester was the Academic Dean of one of the most prestigious Secondary Schools in Dar-es-Salaam before she came to Kondoa. She has been excellent—we are very lucky to have her in Kondoa/Chemba!!)

The school will offer the full Tanzanian curriculum—all the usual subjects will be offered. These will include Biology, Chemistry and Physics—in new laboratories built for each

subject—enough for 40 students in each laboratory—each provided with water and gas for Bunsen Burners, as per Tanzanian government requirements.

Recently, three phase power has been provided to the Chemba site, and the water bore powered and reticulating water across the entire area.



*The Main Mess Hall at Chemba—there is still quite a bit of finishing to do—although all materials for this are already on-site.*

### ***Chemba School in the Future***

The Chemba Secondary School is designed to commence with just 40 students and will scale-up over the next few years adding a new class each year—40 students at a time. The key thing is to get started as soon as possible—once we have begun, things will start to fall into place (we pray!)

Currently the school has 4 classrooms and therefore the ability to take-up to 40x4 students—160 pupils—sufficient for a 4-year scale-up. Most Tanzanian secondary schools have 8 class rooms and therefore up to 320 students. This is the initial target for the Chemba School, although there is the ability to scale further—the number of 10 class rooms has been mentioned—eventually equivalent to 400 students.

Initial building works have anticipated growth—the men’s dormitories already built, can take 180 students and the new women’s dormitory 20x4—80 female residents. As mentioned, there are 4 classrooms currently—enough for 160 students.

The new library building currently has sufficient books for 40 pupils. Although the curriculum books are provided free to State Schools, to independent schools like Chemba, the books are expensive. The library book collection will be enlarged as necessary. It is expected that computers will need to be added in 2026.

As the Chemba School scales-up over the next few years, there will be further buildings and teachers required. It is anticipated that external funding will be required to complete new buildings—providing further opportunity for those who feel they have missed out so far to donate to this important cause!

The further infrastructure requirements are likely to include:

- An Administration Block—the school will start by renovating the existing Pastor’s house into the new Admin Block on site (presumably new accommodation will need to be built for Pastor Yohan?).
- A soccer pitch and net-ball recreation area—there is space for these on the Chemba site.
- Access to computers—most likely in the Library.
- In, or before, Year 4—new classrooms likely 4-6 needed, and also likely a further dormitory for female students.

BUT the key is to begin—to get the school fully registered and up and running—then we can look to expansion after that!

### ***Action Items***

- Prayer – that the Chemba Secondary School can be registered and opened by early October 2025.
- Prayer – for Conjester Benjamin as she recruits teachers and selects pupils for the school.
- Prayer – as Bishop Given and Conjester set-up a fully functioning Advisory Board to guide and provide strategic input for the school.
- An immediate need—a fence is required around both the girl’s and men’s dormitories. The fencing around the entire property will take some time and cost.
- There are a number of cleaning and finishing activities required – including completion of internal ceiling of the main mess hall, a general tidy-up of the buildings and pathways.

Peter Ruxton – Visiting between September 19<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2025.