

## WHV – Lamu Old Town

### Lamu Old Town, Kenya

Cultural property inscribed on the World Heritage List (2001)

### PROJECT DATES

19 August - 30 August 2024

**THE SITE** - Lamu Old Town is the oldest and best-preserved Swahili settlement in East Africa, retaining its traditional functions. Built in coral stone and mangrove timber, the town is characterized by the simplicity of structural forms enriched by such features as inner courtyards, verandas, and elaborately carved wooden doors. Lamu has hosted major Muslim religious festivals since the 19th century, and has become a significant centre for the study of Islamic and Swahili cultures.

**OBJECTIVES** - The project aims at safeguarding the unique Swahili culture and architectural heritage of Lamu Old Town, protecting its historical significance and preserving its distinctive architecture. It promotes cultural diversity, involving the local community in conservation, balancing tourism with sustainable development and enhancing international recognition of its cultural and historical value.

**ACTIVITIES** - The volunteers will support the establishment of a Youth Heritage Council, conduct community workshops, and organize interactive educational programs to empower and engage the community in preserving Lamu Old Town. They will also implement a digital awareness campaign, lead community-led preservation initiatives, and form partnerships with NGOs and international organizations to support sustainable development and cultural heritage conservation.

**PARTNERS** - Lamu Old Town Residents Association, Digital Marketing Agencies.

**AGAPE Centre of Hope**

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