

Completion Report. Erection of new 3-classroom Junior High School at Lukula



**The Joseph Karimu Nachina Memorial
Junior High School March 2017**

Background. Receiving the £34,000 we needed for this project was amazing. Communities here are doing so well at sending all their children, particularly the girls, to school. It is uplifting to watch their determination that education, and access to exams should be made available in the village. Without this, Junior High opportunities are limited to those boys who can find somewhere to live 15 miles away. Girls simply cannot do this.

Budget £34,000 to build strengthened 3-classroom block and a store/teachers' room. Work completed slightly over budget at £34,320.

Start Date

The unexpectedly extended rains slowed this down. Materials were purchased and work began 2nd January 2017

Project Report

The building was completed on 17th March 2017

The ground (given by the Chief), was prepared and foundations dug as the ground had dried out remarkably. Locals stepped in to help wherever they were needed.

By 16th Jan they boxed the lintel and then the structure was completed and left to dry for a week before roofing.

There was an unexpected problem due to unlevel ground so that 30 extra lorry-loads of gravel were needed. This had to be transported approx 20 miles and delayed the completion.

The new school uses the strengthened model and should last for many years before needing repair.



Rear of the school showing the reinforced apron which protects the foundation and walls from erosion

Local input

The village women helped tirelessly by carrying materials. There was a lot of water needed and they carried this to the site for us.

There has recently been a change of Government. The new Member of Parliament for this district, Hon Mahama Shaibu, has provided the desks we need for the new school.

The Lukula community requested that this new school be named in honour of Karimu Nachina who, before his death, helped Lukula in many ways.

Outcomes

Of the 250 children who had enrolled in September and had classes outside, as expected, many had dropped out. The new school has already brought a complete reversal and numbers will continue to grow beyond the current 250. But the school will cope. Numbers of boys and girls are equal (March 2017)

The Local Education Service has ensured good, qualified teachers are in place, 13 in total.

These cover maths(2),English, ICT (2), Social studies (2),Religious and moral education, Ghanaian language, Design and technology (2).

Of course, teaching ICT without electricity is tough. It may be many years before this village has the grid extended to reach it so we will continue to explore solar alternatives.

The water to soak the gravel to enable ramping for gravel to compact was another challenge where much more water had to be fetched to meet this requirement. This was however overcome by the further assistance from village women.

This school will remove the major barrier to post primary education for girls. They will no longer have to currently commute long distances or put themselves at risk by living outside of their family and especially during the rainy seasons where too

often they don't make it to school for long periods. This means that girls drop out, as you know.

The women will have relatively more time to monitor closely their children's progress and challenges and to help them .They are keen to see the children have the chances that were not there for themselves



The completed school with teachers office at the left hand end and ramps to allow disabled access to the classrooms.