



IT SCHOOLS AFRICA

Report to Fondation Eagle Ntonda Secondary School IT Lab Project

Introduction

In November 2016 Fondation Eagle donated £18,857.00 to IT Schools Africa, for the completion of two IT labs at Ntonda and Chiradzulu Secondary Schools. Both projects came in slightly over budget (Ntonda £9428 and Chiradzulu £9352) but still within the total amount received from Fondation Eagle. (This was due to exchange rate fluctuations). There was a final underspend of £77.00 on total projects completed against total monies received. This report covers Ntonda Secondary School.

How we used the grant

For this project we continued to expand to more rural areas outside of the Blantyre area. The students will gain access to IT for the first time and this will have a huge impact on their learning experience and future career / life opportunities. Access to ICT is a key driver for the development of any society in today's world and will empower the local disadvantaged community.

Ntonda Secondary School



Ntonda School is about 160kms to the north of Blantyre, in the district of Ntcheu, Malawi. Ntonda is a co-educational secondary school with 405 students. There are no other schools in the same area and many students travel from 20kms away just to get to school. Before the donation the school had no computers. The new IT lab will enable students to be taught IT as a subject for the first time and also for the teaching of other subjects. The new lab with 40 computers will provide students from very rural areas opportunities that they otherwise would be unlikely to experience. The classroom already had appropriate security, burglar bars at the windows, robust barred doors, and heavy duty locks.

Refurbishment

CFMS uses the same refurbishment project team for all the IT labs to ensure a high quality of workmanship. Construction of the lab involved complete refurbishment of the room to facilitate the new ICT Lab with appropriate electrical infrastructure, fabricating of desks and installing ceiling fans. Although this computer lab is handed over, the classroom is very hot. They may need an air conditioner in the near future.



Fabrication of desks



Refurbishment of classroom

Computer installation

The classroom was equipped with 40 computers, whiteboard, projector, laptop for teacher and printer. The work was carefully overseen by our Programme Manager Sabina Kulasinghe to ensure equipment is correctly installed.



Donation plaque



Ready for the opening ceremony



Before



After



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Opening Ceremony

The opening ceremony was held on Monday 30th January 2017 and attended by Mr Mdimba Banda (Desk Officer for Secondary School of Education) – The Head Teacher Mr Laston T Mwala, The Head Senior Village Chief, PTA Members, The programme Manager of CFMS Sabina Kulasinghe, Electrician Joe Ndawa, The head chief, and fellow staff, students, all were present. Unfortunately, CFMS Board of Directors could not make it due to other commitments.



Students singing at opening ceremony



Visitors tour of IT lab

Financial report (Exchange rate K960)

Original budget (rate: K960)	MK	GBP
CLASSROOM REFURBISHMENT		
Sub-total	3,069,425	3,198
COMPUTER EQUIPMENT		
Sub-total	4,277,375	4,455
PROJECT MANAGEMENT		
Sub-total	1,010,000	1,052
Contingency	384,000	400
TOTAL	8,740,800	9105

Actual budget (rate: K960)	MK	GBP
CLASSROOM REFURBISHMENT		
Sub-total	3,336,305	3,476
COMPUTER EQUIPMENT		
Sub-total	4,316,000	4,496
PROJECT MANAGEMENT		
Sub-total	1,013,760	1,056
Contingency used for extra refurb	384,000	400
TOTAL	9,050,065	9,428
Overspend		323



Key variances

- There was a slight overspend on classroom refurbishment and project management due to the following reasons.
 - 1) Cost of the electrician increasing from the time of budgeting and time of project work.
 - 2) Overspend on extra painting required due to poor quality of walls.
 - 3) New strong door was required with extra cost of purchasing materials and labour.
 - 4) More travel was required between the site and Blantyre office by Programme manager.
- The contingency amount for the project was used to cover these extra expenses of the classroom refurbishment that could not have been predicted.

Conclusions

The project was completed successfully within the timescales and is fully operational. Ntonda School is situated 160 kms north of Blantyre and continues our future direction to offer IT lab facilities to more rural, disadvantaged communities. The lab not only gives access to IT to the students but gives wider access to the local community.

Sabina managed extra challenges during the project with additional requirements including materials, labour and transport costs which caused an increase in costs however she dealt with these effectively and professionally. The project did come in slightly over budget but was within the total amount that Fondation Eagle transferred to IT Schools Africa due to fluctuations in the exchange rate.

Sabina continues to do excellent work in Malawi and at time of writing has successfully installed ten IT computer labs. She commented that "never in their wildest dreams would they have thought, they would see or touch a computer. It was like a dream coming true "

One of the Ntonda students mentioned that ""Nowadays, for many jobs you need to use Computers." "This can help me to go to University, because I want to be a Doctor. In the office of a Doctor, there are many computers required and it will help me to use them because I need to know it in my School."

We are tremendously proud of our achievements in the country and we hope to continue to provide more labs in Malawi. Recently we have provided two similar projects in Zambia and in the future our vision is to extend our work to other countries like Kenya, Mozambique, Botswana and South Africa. The IT projects facilitate children's education, enhancing job prospects and transforming the wider African economy.



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We hope Fondation Eagle will look favourably on an application for another lab in one of these countries; we have received so much positive feedback from schools and other charities, we truly believe the labs are making a very real difference.

On behalf of everyone at IT Schools Africa we would like to take this opportunity to extend our thanks to Fondation Eagle for their generosity in supporting not just this project but for all of their support we have received over the last few years

Thank you

Lucy Pollock



Appendix A

Handover ceremony of IT Lab to Ntonda Secondary School

HANDING OVER OF THE New Computer Lab for NTONDA SECONDARY 30th January 2017

Handover Ceremony and signing Agreement notes from CFMS, Malawi

Ntonda Secondary Schools is a Day Schools situated in Ntcheu District, Central Religion. It does not have a boarding facility and a school hall for their school assemblies. Students travel about 20 kilometers to get to school.

Some students use personal bicycles to get to school. Majority of the students leave their parents home and rent a small house and share rent with their fellow students, just to be near the school. All these students are selected to go to this school, moreover, they have no choice but to learn from that school.

Although the students learn ITC as a subject they have not had an opportunity to touch a Computer. Some claimed that they have not seen a computer physically.

Construction of the lab involved complete refurbishment of room to facilitate ICT Lab with appropriate electrical infrastructure and Ceiling Fans (7), The Lab was fitted with Whiteboard, Projector and provided with (40) forty Desktop Computers, one (1) Laptop for the Teacher, Laser Printer and some Stationary. Although this computer lab is handed over, the class was very hot. They may need an air conditioner in the near future and networking their computers.

On Monday 30th January 2017, we officially handed over the lab to Ntonda Secondary School. The new lab is a major upgrade of the facilities at Ntonda Secondary and to the whole Ntcheu District. Of the 33 secondary schools that are surrounding the school.

The new lab will enable to offer IT training to many more pupils and teachers in the schools and its surrounding schools.

In declaring the new lab opening, *Mr Mdima Banda (Desk Officer for Secondary School of Education) – The Head Teacher Mr Laston T Mwala, The Head Senior Village Chief, PTA Members, The programme Manager of CFMS Sabina Kulasinghe, Electrician Joe Ndawa, The head chief, and fellow staff, students, all were present. Unfortunately, CFMS Board of Directors could not make it due to other commitments.*

The programme opened with the student's drama, poems, singing, vote of thanks from the head, the chief Headman, PTA, The Ministry of Education representatives. CFM programme manager had to say a speech of who we are and how they were chosen to be gifted with this precious gift in their school. Then there after was the cutting of Ribbon by the Mr Mdima Banda; entered the lab followed by a prayer by one of the students.

We ended with a closing prayer, then signing the Agreement between Ntonda School, Ministry of Education and CFMS.

The ceremony started at 10am and ended at 1:30 pm.



Appendix B

Head teacher's letter of acknowledgement on IT Lab – Ntonda Secondary School

FROM: The Headteacher, Ntonda CDSS, P/Bag 51, Matale, Ntcheu.
Tel. 0994518010. Email: lastontramwala@gmail.com

To: The Manager, cfms, Box 2853, Blantyre.

CC: The Director, IT for African Schools.

CC: The Eagle Fondation

Re: Acknowledgement of 40 desktop computers

On behalf of all Ntonda CDSS students, all teachers and all parents and my own behalf, I would like to acknowledge the reception of 40 desktop computers, 1 laptop, 1 printer, 1 projector, 7 overhead fans, furniture and window curtains.

I would like to thank the manager of cfms, the director of IT African Schools and the donor (Eagle Fondation) for the marvelous donation you have offered us.

This donation Will greatly assist our students and teachers to be exposed to the modern world despite being in a rural area. Students will start taking computer studies and this will make our students to have no challenges with their tertiary education. Those that will not make it to university, will have an advantage over their counterparts in terms of getting employment, for offices nowadays need someone who is computer literate. Teachers will benefit from these computers in preparing their lessons. The community will as well benefit by having tuition lessons, which in turn will assist the school in generating funds for computer maintenances.

As a school, we are planning to tighten the security by employing additional security officers, installing an alarm and fixing more security lights in the campus.

Lastly, I would like to greatly appreciate your effort to reach us here with this great donation. May God bless you.

Yours faithfully,
Laston T. Mwala