



IT SCHOOLS AFRICA

Report to Fondation Eagle Mulanje Secondary School IT Lab Project

Introduction

In March 2016 Fondation Eagle donated £7,458 to IT Schools Africa, for the completion of one IT Lab at Mulanje Secondary School in Malawi. The school had very limited IT facilities and wanted to improve their inadequate equipment so more students could sit the national IT exam and also to encourage using ICT for teaching resources.

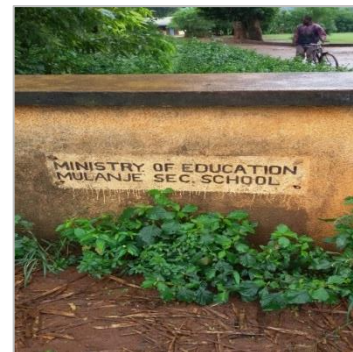
How we used the grant

For this project we had decided to support schools outside of Blantyre, rather than continuing to focus on urban schools, as per previous projects. In addition, we chose a school that required less refurbishment work to help keep the costs down.

Mulanje Secondary School

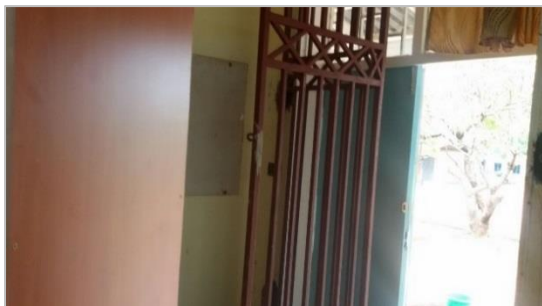
The town Mulanje is in the southern region of the country and is about an hour and half drive from Blantyre. It has a population of over 20,000 people. Mulanje Secondary School has 500 students. Before the donation the school had just seven computers. The new lab with 41 computers will enable the school not only to provide IT to its students but also to seven neighbouring schools.

The room that would be used as the IT lab already had a well maintained roof (with ceiling boards), window and door security bars, tiled flooring and they also had two existing air conditioning units.



Refurbishment

With considerably less work to do in terms of refurbishment than previous IT projects, Mulanje took just a week to complete. The team quickly got to work, carrying out the electrical work first, before fabricating the desks and painting the room.



Security bars already in place



Electrician wires the classroom



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Donation plaque



Ready for the opening ceremony



Before



After

Computer installation

Due to size of the space in the classroom it was decided to install 40 computers instead of the 35 originally planned, as well as the teaching laptop. This will mean that five additional students can take IT as a subject. The installation was carried out by Chris Scutt, one of the CFMS Trustees.

Opening ceremony

The opening ceremony was held on Friday 15th April 2016. The ceremony was attended by Mr. Cryton Tambal (Senior Inspector for Secondary Schools) – The Head Teacher Mr Wilfred L Nyapwala, The programme Manager of CFMS, Sabina Kulasinghe, the two IT teachers and fellow staff, students. Members of the ITSA team (through Skype) were also present. The lab was officially opened by Chimwemwe Juwa, Senior Inspector of District Education. See Appendix A for the report from Sabina.



Financial report

Exchange rate K1, 100

Original budget (rate: K1,100)	MK	GBP
CLASSROOM REFURBISHMENT		
Sub-total	1,945,000	1,768
COMPUTER EQUIPMENT		
Sub-total	4,514,400	4,104
INTERNET ACCESS		
Sub-total	395,000	359
PROJECT MANAGEMENT		
Sub-total	800,000	727
Contingency		500
TOTAL	7,654,400	7,458
Difference	-29,264	473

Actual budget (rate: K1,100)	MK	GBP
CLASSROOM REFURBISHMENT		
Sub-total	2,003,364	1,821
COMPUTER EQUIPMENT		
Sub-total	4,736,300	4,306
INTERNET ACCESS		
Sub-total	300,000	273
PROJECT MANAGEMENT		
Sub-total	644,000	585
Contingency (not used)	550,000	500
TOTAL	7,683,664	6,985

Key variances

- More computers were installed than the original 35 budgeted for. It became clear once the desks had been fabricated and installed that there was additional (and potentially wasted) space. Given the impact of each computer on the numbers of students able to learn, it was decided to install an extra five computers, taking the total to 40 plus one teaching laptop.
- Savings were made on the transportation of goods to Mulanje from Blantyre and the accommodation for the labourers. Due to the distance from Blantyre it was necessary for the electrician and carpenter to stay on site for the duration of the project.



Conclusions

The project was completed well within the planned timescale and were operational after one month of the first start date. The school was one of the first to be selected outside of Blantyre (where our office is based) which brought an additional factor to the management of project; travel to and from the site. However, this did not cause any real issues; Sabina managed this by accommodating the labourers (the carpenter and electrician) at the site location. This meant the projects could be completed in a timely manner and minimised their travel expenses.

Sabina was able to install an additional five computers in the lab. This will allow more students to have access to IT as well as ensuring a high standard of quality education. More computers helps to reduce the computer – student ratio.

We are delighted to see the positive exam results for Zingwangwa School for 2015 (see Appendix C for full report). The form four students, 118 in total achieved an 80% success rate for the national MANEB Computer Studies Exam. Without the two new IT labs this it would not have been possible for so many students to sit and pass their exams.

We are immensely proud of our achievements in Malawi having now successfully installed eight IT labs to schools in the country. We are also pleased that we have been able to work in new areas; supporting more students in more remote parts of the country. We hope to continue to provide more labs in Malawi and we are also focusing on a similar project in Zambia; working with a community run school to provide IT Education to the students.

In due course 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.

I'd like to take this opportunity to extend my personal 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 Mulanje Secondary School

HANDING OVER OF THE New Computer Lab for MULANJE SECONDARY 15TH APRIL 2016

On Friday 15th April 2016, we officially handed over the lab to Mulanje Secondary School. With a completely refurbished room, forty one computers, one laptop for the teacher, wireless network, digital projector, laser printer, internet access, and five ceiling fans (as the school already had two of their own air conditioner units in the lab, but they were not effective). The new lab is a major upgrade of the facilities at Mulanje secondary. The new lab will enable to offer IT training to many more pupils in the school and its seven surrounding schools.

In declaring the new lab opening, *Mr. Cryton Tambal (Senior Inspector for Secondary Schools) – The Head Teacher Mr Wilfred L Nyapwala , The programme Manager of CFMS Sabina Kulasinghe, the two IT teachers and fellow staff, students, a few members of IT Schools African (through Skype) also were present.*

The programme opened with a prayer by one of Teachers, followed by Mr Wilfred introduced everyone present followed by the Senor Inspector Mr Cryton cutting the ribbon as we entered the lab.

While we were in the lab everyone admiring the lab, the head teacher Wilfred opened with his speech. He thanked everyone for coming and thanked CFMS for their hard work to get the lab finished quickly and to IT School Africa and Fondation Eagle, extending their profound thankfulness for gift they could never have dreamt of coming true. It was to their surprise, that they did not think it was going to happen so soon when they heard the good news. He assured us as agreed; they will increase the enrolment of “girl child” studying computer lessons at their school. Also, to do all they can in their power to maintain the status of the lab room and always make use of their lab to its fullest. He also asked that now that we handed over the facility to them, the friendship should not end there. He hopes that this donation will continue to other schools too.

The Programme Manager of The CFMS Mrs S Kulasinghe also had to give a speech. She gave introductory remarks of the IT Schools Africa and CFMS history and encourages the students to make use of their IT lab, as this is their future at the same time to look after it and not to bring their flash disks to infect viruses in the computers.

Also, she talked about how CFMS identifies which school to assist. We ended with a closing prayer, then signing agreement between Mulanje School, Ministry of Education and CFMS.

The whole ceremony started from 10:20am to 12:00 pm.



Appendix B

Headteacher's report on IT Lab - Mulanje Secondary School

Mulanje Secondary School
P.O. Box 61
Mulanje

27th July, 2016

To : Computers For Malawian Schools

LETTER OF APPRECIATION

I hereby write to express our sincere gratitude for the donation of 41 computers, laptop, projector, internet connection and refurbishment of the computer lab.

Prior to this donation the school had only 10 usable computers. It was very difficult for us to offer Computer lessons to our learners. The computer lessons were not effective as one computer had to be used by 4 learners. We had to limit the number of students taking Computer Studies against their wishes. But now its good news during lessons every learner is allocated a computer.

The donation of computers and projector helps us to add variety to our methods of teaching in all subjects. Last term all teachers showed interest in learning how to use computer technology to make their teaching livelier. Members of staff now have access to images, graphics, pictures and animations which have greater appeal to learners than plain textbooks. This is helping our learners to understand concepts in detail.

The school is now planning to roll out computer studies to all learners in the next school year (2016-17). In the past, computer studies were being offered selectively to a few form three and four learners due to lack of computers. But now we will make sure that all our learners are given the opportunity to learn computer so that by the time they complete their four year studies they are computer literate.

We promise to take care of the donations so that they benefit learners who will be walking along the corridors of this school for a long time.

Yours faithfully


W.L. Nyapwala
HEADTEACHER





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Appendix C

2015 exam results from Zingwangwa School



ZINGWANGWA SECONDARY SCHOOL

Private Bag 46, Soche Blantyre 4 Malawi

Cell: +2651663153

Date: 12 May 2016

REPORT ON STUDENTS PERFORMANCE BASED ON 2015 MANEB COMPUTER STUDIES EXAMS

TOTAL NUMBER OF 2015 CANDIDATES	118
TOTAL NUMBER OF BOYS	65
TOTAL NUMBER OF GIRLS	53

TOTAL NUMBER OF BOYS PASSED	53
TOTAL NUMBER OF BOYS FAILED	9
TOTAL NUMBER OF GIRLS PASSED	41
TOTAL NUMBER OF GIRLS FAILED	15

TOTAL NUMBER OF DISTINCTIONS	3
TOTAL NUMBER OF CREDITS	37
TOTAL NUMBER OF PASSES	54
TOTAL NUMBER FAILS	24

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