



Report to Fondation Eagle Chiradzulu 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 Chiradzulu Secondary School.

How we used the grant

We used the grant to provide a fully equipped IT lab for the students and enable them to receive IT lessons for the first time and also to use the facilities for the teaching of other subjects. The IT lab will provide IT facilities for the 500 + boarding students and the nearly 200 open secondary school students that use the lab after 5pm.

Chiradzulu Secondary School



Chiradzulu Secondary School is a co-educational boarding school with 511 plus 194 open distance students. It is situated 45kms from Blantyre, Malawi's second largest city. The students did not have access to IT as a subject due to lack of computers and funds. Now the IT lab, complete with 40 computers, has made a huge difference in the community and is now a centre point for the surrounding schools to meet. Before the donation the school had only four computers. The new IT lab will enrich the students learning with access to an educational research package which acts as a porthole for exercises, videos and textbooks of various different subjects and importantly are available offline.

Refurbishment

CFMS uses the same refurbishment project team for all the IT labs to ensure a high quality of workmanship. The team encountered a challenge when the classroom to be refurbished was changed at the last minute by the school. Extra security bars were required and new windows had to be installed. The appropriate electrical infrastructure was installed, fabricating of desks and installing ceiling fans.



Desk building



Refurbishment of classroom

Computer installation

After refurbishment 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



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Security gate



Completed IT lab



Before



After

Opening Ceremony

The opening ceremony was held on Friday 24th February 2017. The timing of the ceremony coincided with the ITSA trustees visit and was attended by Mr Michael Ratcliffe (ITSA chairman) and Mr Paul Hazel (ITSA accountant), together with the school Mr Juwa (*Senior Inspector of Education*), Mr Mc G Alufandika (*Education Division Manager*) – The Head Teacher Mr Kassam T Suzumire, The Head Senor Chief of the Village , PTA Members, The programme Manager of CFMS Sabina Kulasinghe, CFM Technical Officer Andy Howse, School teachers and students, all were present. Unfortunately, CFMS Board of Directors could not make it due to other commitments.



ITSA Chair and Sabina at opening ceremony



School children

Financial report (Exchange rate Kg60)

Original budget (rate: K960)	MK	GBP
CLASSROOM REFURBISHMENT		
Sub-total	3,119,425	3,249
COMPUTER EQUIPMENT		
Sub-total	4,277,375	4,455
PROJECT MANAGEMENT		
Sub-total	450,000	469
Contingency	384,000	400
TOTAL	8,230,800	8573

Actual budget (rate: K960)	MK	GBP
CLASSROOM REFURBISHMENT		
Sub-total	3,769,920	3,927
COMPUTER EQUIPMENT		
Sub-total	4,316,160	4,496
PROJECT MANAGEMENT		
Sub-total	507,840	529
Contingency	384,000	400
TOTAL	8,977,920	9,352
Overspend		779



Key variances

- The classroom to be refurbished was changed by the school after the original budget was done.
- There was a slight overspend on classroom refurbishment and project management due to the following reasons.
 - 1) Burglar bars were needed for all the windows in the new classroom.
 - 2) Broken windows needed to be replaced in the new classroom
 - 3) New strong door protectors were required in the new classroom.
 - 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 IT lab project at Chiradzulu was completed successfully and is proving to be a huge asset to the school. Chiradzulu is a secondary school about 45 kms to the east of Blantyre and the approx. 705 students now have access to the new ICT learning platform.

After initial challenges with last minute room changes, which caused an increase in refurbishment costs Sabina and her committed team completed the project efficiently and timeously.

The project did come in slightly over budget but was within the total amount that Fondation Eagle transferred to IT Schools Africa – this was due to fluctuations in the exchange rate.

Our UK trustees were thrilled and very moved to be part of the opening ceremony of the IT computer lab to see first-hand the transformation in ICT facilities.

We are delighted to see some positive results coming through from our various schools with IT labs. The Chiradzulu IT lab donation this year was too late for the current MSCE students to sit the MANEB. Please see Appendix C for a report from Zingwanga School. We do not have 2017 exam results yet however some positive trends are available for previous years. From 2015 to 2016 there was a 47 % increase in the number of form 4 girl students sitting annual MANEB IT examinations and a 25% increase in the number of girls passing. In 2016 75% of girls that took the exam passed their ICT examinations. These girls are potentially agents for change in families and communities to alleviate poverty.

In 2017 the total number of students receiving IT training across the school is 879 pupils.



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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.

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 the IT Schools Africa team I would like to thank Fondation Eagle for their continued support without which IT Schools Africa would not be able to continue to transform IT education in Africa.

Thank you

Lucy Pollock



Appendix A

Handover ceremony of IT Lab to Chiradzulu Secondary School

HANDING OVER OF THE New Computer Lab for Chiradzulu SECONDARY 24th February 2017

Handover Ceremony and signing Agreement notes from CFMS, Malawi

Chiradzulu Secondary is a boarding school with 511 students that are all boarders. The school is situated in Chiradzulu district in the Southern Region of Malawi. It has a boarding facility and a school hall for their assemblies. They however, in need of another class room to replace the class we used for the lab. The form 3 students lost their class room to accommodate the IT education in their school, as their original room that we were offered was not suitable for the lab nor as a class for the form 3 students. The students did not have ICT subject due to lack of computers and funds. With the new lab in the area, it has now made a huge difference for the community that it has now been made a center point for all the surrounding school to meet and use their lab for cluster meeting and other different purpose.

The 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, (40) forty Desktop Computers, one (1) Laptop for the Teacher, Laser Printer some stationary, teacher chair, security burglar bars and door protector.

On Friday the 24th February 2017, we officially handed over the lab to Chiradzulu Secondary School. The new lab is a major upgrade of the facilities at Chiradzulu Secondary and to Blantyre District.

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, we were honoured to have our trustees of IT School African in the UK Mr Michael Ratcliffe (The chairman) and Mr Paul Hazel (accountant), together with the school Mr Juwa (Senior Inspector of Education), Mr Mc G Alufandika (Education Division Manager) – The Head Teacher Mr Kassam T Suzumire, The Head Senior Chief of the Village, PTA Members, The programme Manager of CFMS Sabina Kulasinghe, CFM Technical Officer Andy Howse, School teachers and students, all were present. Unfortunately, CFMS Board of Directors could not make it due to other commitments.

The programme opened with student's prayer, poems, drama and songs

Thereafter, the head teacher speech, he welcomed the guest of honour Mr Michael Ratcliffe and observed all protocol. He said, as you all see there is no adjective to describe the room and its contents we can use fantastic, marvellous, fabulous, and many other adjectives but all may not be right to describe this room and how we feel to receive such a gift.



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Thank you very much and may God bless you. He was overwhelmed, very happy and appreciated a lot and asked if IT schools could thank the Fondation Eagle on their behalf.

The Chairman of IT Schools Africa Mr Michael Ratcliffe speech was about encouraging the learners to dream and achieve their goals of what they dream. Making the dream into reality. . He gave a lot of examples of careers and opportunities of how to open those doors when you dream. The students were speechless and confident to follow their dreams using the Morden technology of the IT Education that is provided for them.

The Senior Inspector of education Mr Juwa thanked Fondation Eagle, IT School Africa together with CFMS for the team work for make it the impossible into possible. A dream that the government could not afford to help and made it possible. He encouraged everyone in the school, teacher, students and the head teacher to look after the computers and the school property with extra care and he also promise to visit them frequently to make sure they are making use of the lab and caring for it too.

Thereafter was the cutting of the ribbon by the programme manager of the computers for Malawian school (CFMS) and together with Mr Ratcliffe of IT School Africa (ITSA).

We entered the lab admired the lab and finished with signing of the agreement documents of how to look after the lab.

We ended with a closing prayer and biscuit and a drink.

The ceremony ended at 12:30 pm.



Appendix B

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





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ZINGWANGWA SECONDARY SCHOOL

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All official communications should be addressed to the headteacher

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20th June 2017

ANNUAL MANEB IT EXAMINATION RESULTS AND 2017 ENROLMENT

TOTAL NUMBER OF 2015 CANDIDATES	108
TOTAL NUMBER OF BOYS	72
TOTAL NUMBER OF GIRLS	36

TOTAL NUMBER OF BOYS PASSED	70
TOTAL NUMBER OF BOYS FAILED	2
TOTAL NUMBER OF GIRLS PASSED	32
TOTAL NUMBER OF GIRLS FAILED	4



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TOTAL NUMBER OF DISTINCTIONS	11
TOTAL NUMBER OF CREDITS	50
TOTAL NUMBER OF PASSES	41
TOTAL NUMBER OF FAILS	6
TOTAL NUMBER OF 2016 CANDIDATES	118
TOTAL NUMBER OF BOYS	65
TOTAL NUMBER OF GIRLS	53

TOTAL NUMBER OF BOYS PASSED	54
TOTAL NUMBER OF BOYS FAILED	11
TOTAL NUMBER OF GIRLS PASSED	40
TOTAL NUMBER OF GIRLS FAILED	13

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

2017 STATISTICS



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Number of students receiving IT Training in 2017	879
Number of students sitting for the 2017 MANEB IT Examinations	121
Number of girls sitting the 2017 IT MANEB Examinations	22
Number of boys sitting the 2017 MANEB Examination	99

Best Regards

Steve J.P. Kungala
Headteacher