

Report to Fondation Eagle St Anthony Community School IT Lab Project

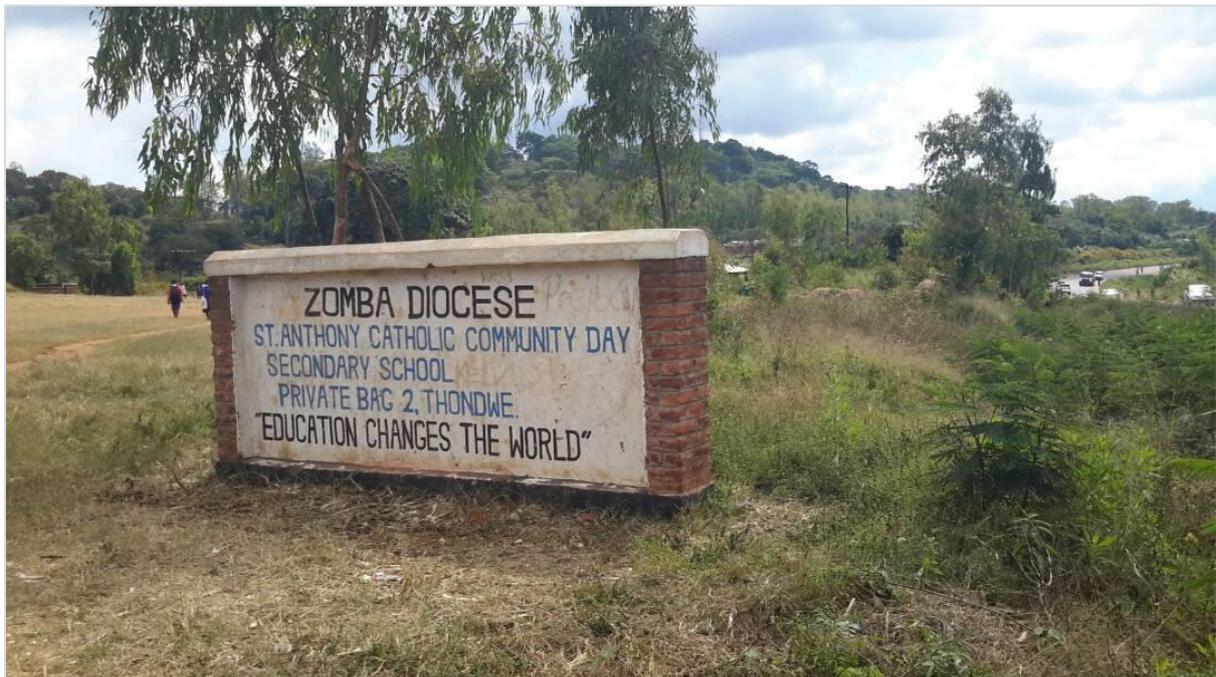
Introduction

In August 2017 Fondation Eagle kindly donated £15,247.00 to IT Schools Africa, for the completion of an IT lab with a generator at St Anthony Community School in Malawi. The project was completed within budget with an underspend of £29.

How we used the grant

We used the grant to provide a fully equipped IT lab for the students and teachers so they can benefit from accessing ICT. The lab has 34 computers, printer, projector and teacher's laptop as well as a generator. This is the first time we have supplied a generator for a lab.

St Anthony Community School



St Anthony Community School lacks basic resources and receives little funding. The new lab will allow its 536 day and 453 open distance students access to ICT. It will also encourage students to use the facilities to study for their other school subjects.

The school expects there to be fewer cases of students leaving school early as many will be interested to benefit from the new IT facilities. In addition it will provide a vital IT access point for the local community with 1,000 people expected to benefit from the new lab.

Refurbishment

The classroom required substantial building work as two windows were installed in place of the large vents next to the entrance. This was necessary to prevent dust getting into the room. The ground outside the room also needed considerable work for drainage purposes as well as. This also involved extending the steps leading up to the classroom.

Refurbishment to the exterior of the classroom



Before and after pictures of the work being carried out to install two glass windows, add steps to the classroom entrance and seal the ground area at the base of the exterior wall.

Installing the cabling



Tiles laid and benches completed



Installing the generator

Due to the remoteness of the school we fitted a generator to ensure there is a constant supply of power. Without it the classes would be affected by the intermittent mains power. A purpose built structure was built for the generator to keep it secure and cool. We purchased a smaller generator than originally planned due to an increase in prices after the budget was confirmed.



Computer installation

The classroom was equipped with 34 computers, whiteboard, projector, laptop for the teacher and a printer. The computers were installed by CFMS technicians and the work was carefully overseen by our Programme Manager Sabina Kulasinghe. We included four extra computers to fully utilise the space available.



Before



After



Opening Ceremony

The opening ceremony was held on Tuesday 19th September 2017. Present on the day: Mr Mc G Alufandika (Education Division Manager), Hon John Chikalimba (Zomba Constituency and Member of Parliament), Mr Ephraim Mapemba the head teacher, Sabina Kulasinghe Programme Manager of CFMS and Phil Pile, Board Member of CFMS, as well as the school teachers and students. The head teacher expressed his profound thanks to IT Schools Africa and Fondation Eagle; commenting that the lab is a *"Gift they could never have dreamt of coming true."*



Signing of the agreement



Phil Pile cutting the ribbon



Sabina talking about the importance of ICT to the teachers and dignitaries on the day



Financial report (Exchange rate K960)

Actual budget for St Anthony Community School				
Exchange rate GBP to Malawi Kwacha	960			
	Budgeted cost MK	Budgeted cost GBP	Actual cost MK	Actual cost GBP
Classroom refurbishment				
Re-wiring materials	1,250,000	£1,302	821,934	£856
Labour	300,000	£313	150,000	£156
Painting materials/locks/ceiling fans	200,000	£208	512,720	£534
Labour	100,000	£104	200,000	£208
Fabrication of desks materials	700,000	£729	1,020,246	£1,063
Curtains	100,000	£104	62,085	£65
Signage	15,000	£16	17,000	£18
Teachers chair	50,000	£52	90,000	£94
Ceiling fans	208,000	£217		
Whiteboard and stationary	146,425	£153	186,000	£194
ADDITIONS				
Tiler fee			250,000	£260
Tiles, adhesive, grout and strips			1,291,950	£1,346
Building materials			507,109	£528
Labour	250,000	£260	350,000	£365
Computer equipment				
Refurbished computers x 30 budgeted - 34 installed	2,595,000	£2,703	2,958,000	£3,081
Refurbished laptop x 1	100,000	£104	100,000	£104
Win10 licences x 35	148,800	£155	134,400	£140
Projector ACER X113 MULTIMEDIA	400,000	£417	400,000	£417
Ceiling mount	20,000	£21	25,000	£26
Printer	366,000	£381	366,000	£381
Printer cartridge	90,000	£94	90,000	£94
VGA cable 20m	21,000	£22		
Internet access				
Wireless cards x 30	720,000	£750	-	
20m CAT5E cable/20m VGA cable	80,000	£83	237,466	£247
Router	55,000	£57	76,000	£79
CAT5E 200 MTS cable from classroom to receiver (MTL radio connection)			450,000	£469
Broadband for 6 months			360,000	£375
CMOS batteries for x 5 desktops			12,000	£13
ESCOM (power) units for the school			20,000	£21
Generator (diesel) - 10KVA	5,280,000	£5,500	2,079,350	£2,166
Project Management				
Hire of transport from Blantyre to ST ANTHONY	400,000	£417	400,000	£417
Transport from Blantyre to ST ANTHONY for staff & accommodation	250,000	£260	293,957	£306
Transport for the Manager to oversee the project (vehicle hire)	100,000	£104	264,000	£275
Transport for the Manager to oversee the project (fuel)			396,000	£413
Petrol for running genset to power tools			275,691	£287
Technical support				£0
6 monthly maintenance visits	360,000	£375	360,000	£375
Contingency	480,000	£500		£0
TOTAL	14,785,225	£15,401	14,756,909	£15,372
Underspend			28,316	£29

Key variances

- The classroom refurbishment cost more than originally budgeted due to the two new windows that had to be put in and building work to seal the exterior wall at ground level. This was to reduce the dust getting into the classroom and to ensure it is waterproofed. This is highlighted under 'Additions' on the budget and cost £2,499.
- We bought a less powerful generator (10KVA instead of 22KVA) costing £3,334 less than budgeted because:
 - 1) The original quotes were based on non-brand models and unfortunately these had sold out at the time the project was started.
 - 2) We have taken advice on having a smaller model and believe it will still be suitable for the lab.
- We spent money on fuel (£287) for the generator for the tradesmen to work. The area we are working in has no electricity during the day, with power only coming on late at night.
- We installed 34 computers instead of 30 due to the space available once the desks had been fabricated, at a cost of £3,081 instead of £2,703.
- Money was saved by using cables instead of wireless cards, to network the lab. This saved £750. Although originally we planned not to provide the Internet for the school, we agreed to provide it (for six months) at their request, due to the fact that we had spent less than budgeted for on the generator. This cost a total of £1,204.
- Manager's transport cost more than we had budgeted for; this was due to, Sabina having to use her family's car to visit the project, so vehicle hire has been factored in to the budget to compensate for this. We will have to consider this for all new projects as this won't be an option in the future.

Conclusions

Another successful project completed in a very timely manner, despite the challenges of having limited power during the daylight hours. Sabina's team were forced to work after dark when the power supply returned which meant using the generator (bought for the IT lab) but actually would have been an issue had they not have had it!

There were some unexpected changes, the additional building work required to make the lab better protected against dust and rain. However, Sabina was able to manage this and with less money spent on the smaller size generator it was affordable.

The project underspend came to £29.

We are tremendously proud of our achievements in the country and we hope to continue to provide more labs in Malawi; the total number of labs we have provided in Malawi is now 13. Our vision to expand into new countries is becoming a reality, we are supplying schools in Ghana and we are hoping to develop a new country programme in Kenya. We are also exploring new opportunities with other organisations and are excited to have planned a new project with UK charity, RIPPLE Africa. The project is to build a computer lab and library at Kapanda Secondary School in Northern Malawi.

We hope Fondation Eagle will look favourably on an application for this project as we believe this could have a significant impact on the local area; providing opportunities for the students and the community to help improve their education and job prospects.

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

Overseas Manager

IT Schools Africa

lucy@itschoolsafrica.org

Appendix A

Handover ceremony of IT Lab to St Anthony Community School

On Tuesday 19th September 2017, we officially handed over the lab to St Anthony Catholic Community Day Secondary School. With a completely refurbished room, thirty four computers, one laptop for the teacher, wire network, digital projector, laser printer, scanner internet access, white board and stationary and three ceiling fans and a generator.

The new lab is a major upgrade of the facilities at St Anthony secondary as the school is a remote school and is a community school. The new lab will enable to offer IT training to too many more pupils in the schools and its surrounding schools.

In declaring the new lab opening, Hon John Chikalimba (Zomba Constituency and Member of Parliament) – The Head Teacher Mr Ephraim Mapemba, Mr Mc Gregory SR Alufandika (Education Division Manager) The Head Chief, The surrounding Chief, The programme Manager of CFMS Sabina Kulasinghe, Mr Phil Pile (The Board Member of CFMS), PTA Chair, Mother Group, the two IT teachers that will be teaching the class, and fellow staff, and students, all were present.

The programme opened with one of Teachers Mr Maganga introducing everyone present followed by the EDM and CFMS Board Member of cutting the ribbon as we entered the lab.

While we were in the lab everyone admiring the lab, the head teacher Mr Mapemba opened with his speech. He thanked everyone for coming and thanked CFMS for their hard work to get the lab finish in One week time, before the school opened for the first term. He also thanked IT School Africa and Fondation Eagle extending their profound thankfulness for “gift they could never have dreamt of coming true” specially the school itself has nothing to show for, as it is just a community school different from normal state secondary school.

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 extend studying computer lessons at their student’s day and afternoon ones too. Also, they promised 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 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 ITC 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. She also asked everyone to be each other’s monitor.

We also had the EDM promising to help in any way he can to make sure all the schools in Malawi that have received the computer lab donations, they will look after them and also he encourage more teachers to take interest to learn how to use them too.

Hon John promised to help CFMS with our clearing issues with MRA and wants to see CFMS and Fondation Eagle on the map assistance our country moving forward with the modern technology in developing our Malawian children for better tomorrow.

There was so much said and hope their actions will speak and stand out for them.

The Whole ceremony started from 10:20am to 1:00 pm.

Appendix B

Head teacher's letter of acknowledgement on IT Lab – St Anthony Community School

The Headteacher,
St. Anthony Community Day Secondary School,
P/B 2,
Thondwe
25th September, 2017.

The Manager,
Computers for Malawian Schools,
P.O Box 2035,
Blantyre

Dear Sir /Madam

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RECEIPT OF AN IT LABORATORY AT ST. ANTHONY COMMUNITY DAY SECONDARY SCHOOL

We write to express our heartfelt acknowledgement of receipt of an IT laboratory at our school, St. Anthony that include the following:

- 34 REFURBISHED COMPUTERS
- SCANNER
- ROUTER
- TEACHER'S LAPTOP
- ACCER X113 DIGITAL PROJECTOR
- NEW HP LASER PRINTER
- 3 CEILING FANS
- WHITE BOARD
- 42 SWITCHES

- NEW BUILT IN DESKS
- INTERNET AND NETWORKING
- CLASSROOM REFURBISHMENT
- CLASSROOM WIRING
- CLASSROOM REDECORATING
- TEACHER SUPPORT FOR ONE YEAR
- 2 VISITS PER YEAR BY TECHNICIANS
- 1 GEN SET

We very much thank FONDATION EAGLES FUND through COMPUTERS FOR MALAWIAN SCHOOLS for the donation.

We promise to keep the computers clean and safe. We have put in place mechanisms of safety and ASSET RECOVERY PLAN to add/replace the damaged computers at least five per year.

Once again thank you very much for the timely donation



Ephraim Mapemba

Headteacher

