

Report to Fondation Eagle Namikasi Secondary School IT Lab Project

Introduction

In March 2016 Fondation Eagle donated £11,596 to IT Schools Africa, for the completion of one IT Labs at Namikasi Secondary School. Prior to the project the school had very limited IT facilities, they 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 selected a school outside of Blantyre, so that the lab would provide access to IT facilities for a students in a more rural area. Previously having chosen schools in the Blantyre area (the country's second largest city), we felt it was necessary to expand to new areas to broaden our scope.

Namikasi Secondary School

Namikasi Secondary School is approximately an hour and a half drive from Blantyre, north of the city.

Before the project the school had very limited IT facilities, with just 12 computers for over 1,400 students. The head teacher wanted to be able to offer IT lessons to all students, as per the Government requirements.



Refurbishment

Although the ceiling and roof did not need any work, the room needed re-wiring, the floor had to be re-tiled, burglar bars had to be fitted, desks fabricated and an air conditioning unit was installed.



The room is prepared ready for work to begin



Security bars for the door and windows



Preparing the walls ready for school colours



Installing the external air con unit



Before



After

Computer installation

It was agreed to install an extra ten computers (as well as the laptop for the teacher), taking the total to 51 computers (including the laptop). They have a large class size at Namikasi, so by installing 50 computers, it means that all of the students can take the class. The work was overseen by Sam Kulasinghe, a Trustee for CFMS. His technical skills as ever are invaluable at this stage in the projects, to ensure the equipment is correctly and appropriately installed.



Financial report

Original budget (rate: K1,100)	MK	GBP
COMPUTER EQUIPMENT		
Sub total	5,035,650	4,578
CLASSROOM REFURBISHMENT		
Sub total	4,325,000	3,932
PROJECT MANAGEMENT		
Sub total	950,000	864
INTERNET ACCESS		
Sub total	395,000	359
AIR CONDITIONING		
Sub total	950,000	864
SECURITY IMPROVEMENT		
Sub total	550,000	500
Contingency		500
TOTAL	12,205,650	11,596
Difference	-33,941	469

Actual budget (rate: K1,100)	MK	GBP
COMPUTER EQUIPMENT		
Sub total	5,457,760	4,962
CLASSROOM REFURBISHMENT		
Sub total	3,785,831	3,442
PROJECT MANAGEMENT		
Sub total	1,165,000	1,059
INTERNET ACCESS		
Sub total	540,000	491
AIR CONDITIONING		
Sub total	900,000	818
SECURITY IMPROVEMENT		
Sub total	391,000	355
Contingency	550,000	500
TOTAL	12,239,591	11,127

Key variances

- Some of the computer equipment was slightly cheaper than originally budgeted for; the printer, projector and wireless cards all resulted in savings of approx. K200,000 (£200). The difference of K422,110 was due to more computers being installed. Again due to the amount of space it was decided to install more computers, to make the most effective use of the room.
- Savings were made under classroom refurbishment; the white board was less than half what was originally budgeted and the school provided the curtains for the classroom.



- Expenses for project management were more than budgeted for; more frequent travel between the site and the Blantyre office was made by the programme manager.

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 extra ten computers in the new 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 B 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

Letter from Mr Lone Bilima (Headteacher at Namikasi School)

NAMIKASI SECONDARY SCHOOL



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To : Lucy Pollock, Overseas Operations Manager
IT Schools Africa, Unit 8 Mead Road
Ind Estate
Cheltenham
Glovcestershire
GL53 7EF



Cc : Computers for Malawi Schools

Copy : The Division Manager, South West Education Division, Private Bag 386, Chichiri, BT3

: Sabina Kulasinghe, Project Coordinator, Computers for Malawi Schools

A REPORT ON A COMPUTER LAB DONATION TO NAMIKASI SECONDARY SCHOOL.

1.0. INTRODUCTION.

Namikasi Secondary School is a proud beneficiary of an amazing donation by IT Schools Africa Program that targets deserving institutions wishing to include IT in their curriculum offered. The institution used to have a very tiny lab infested with termites. The teachers and the school would not contain the mites. In addition, many learners were unable to access IT due to limited pieces and space. IT Schools Africa generously responded to an honest request for donation by the then Head teacher of the School, Steven Kungala. He laid the very background to the donation in question by making application and providing basic information about the status of the lab then, number of learners on the roll and how many accessed IT. Statistics of learners passing IT in MSCE/O-Level examinations, revealed that since IT was introduced at Namikasi in 2011 to date participation as well as results have not been good enough.



IT SCHOOLS AFRICA

At the time of application the total number of learners who would benefit from the Lab was One thousand one hundred and eighty one. This number included both normal entry and Open and Distance Learners (ODL). Among day school there were two hundred and twenty three boys and two hundred and thirty eight girls.

Before Computers for Malawi Schools donated the Lab, a total of one hundred and eighty Pupils received IT lessons due to limited and malfunctioning computers

1.1. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT/THANK YOU

We, as a school, would like to sincerely thank the Donor, IT Schools Africa through Computers for Malawi Schools for the donation. It will go through a generation of students admitted in this institution. The lab will now increase numbers of students accessing IT the school.

Once again we would also thank the Ministry of Education Science and Technology as well as Government for their efforts in designing policy to introduce young people to IT.

1.2. THE DONATION

Computer for Malawi Schools did the following for Namikasi Secondary School lab:

- Refurbishing computer Lab
- Rewiring of the Lab
- Tiling the lab floor
- donated 50 computers
- Donated 1 printer
- The installation of 2 air conditioners
- Donated 1 projector
- Installed 50 internet cards into the computers
- Donated Router
- Subscribed 6 months internet
- Stationery for the printer and white board
- 1 Laptop for the teachers

A total of fifty computers was donated. The donation reaches out to a whole class at once where each pupil sits on their own piece instead of cramming together sharing limited computers.

1.3. WHO BENEFITS

The Lab has increased access to IT lessons especially for the girl-child. The school will train a generation of IT learners in a single four year period who eventually go out of the secondary school education better prepared for the world

Plans are underway to extend the lessons to the community around Namikasi Secondary School for those interested to be exposed to IT. This will be done particularly during summer holidays when pupils are on that long recess.

1.4. SECURITY FOR THE LAB

Enough attention is given to the Lab to ensure it benefits the child. As a school we plan to continuously fumigate the room to mitigate termites attack whose concerns the donor has already registered. We intend to deploy a full time watch-guard at the lab and



install sensitive alarm system and security lighting. We will open a log book that records personnel taking the keys from the Head teacher's office. These and other measures will secure the lab.

1.5. TRAINING FOR TEACHERS

By virtue of being in this institution, all teachers will be expected to undergo a comprehensive training in IT over long holidays. A training manual will be developed targeting teachers in packages that would enhance instructional delivery and research via the net.

2.0. RECOMMENDATION

With our ambition to make Namikasi Secondary School a centre of IT excellence in Blantyre Rural Education District of South West Education Division, an appeal is here made to the authorities to support this cause by deploying qualified IT teachers with integrity.

Handing over of such projects should be handed through our authorities at the Education Division Office who represents the Ministry of Education Science & Technology (MoEST)

Any dealings, transactions, information and/or technical checks should not by-pass the office of the head teacher as the case was in the implementation of the project in question.

Signed : Lone Bilima

(Head teacher 1)



IT SCHOOLS AFRICA

Appendix B

2015 exam results from Zingwangwa School



ZINGWANGWA SECONDARY SCHOOL

Private Bag 46, Soche Blantyre 4 Malawi

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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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