



IT SCHOOLS AFRICA

Transforming lives through access to e-Learning

Report on St Joseph's Nursing and Midwifery College IT Lab

Ref: FF510-39

Introduction

In December 2019 Fondation Eagle kindly donated £10,235 to IT Schools Africa to install a computer lab classroom for a nursing college in Limbe, Malawi.

How we used the grant

The grant was used to install an IT lab at the St Joseph's Nursing and Midwifery College. The lab was equipped with appropriate electrical infrastructure, ceiling, floor tiles, furniture and 40 networked desktop computers, laptop for the teacher, headphones, laser printer, internet for 6 months, as well as basic stationery and teacher training for the IT teachers.

By improving the IT facilities at the college it will enable nursing students to gain vital knowledge by accessing medical information which ultimately will improve their ability to serve their patients, the Malawian public.

The project

The College is part of CHAM (The Christian Health Association of Malawi) a network of church-owned health facilities, hospitals and training colleges. The college is almost 60 years old and has 500 students. With no IT facilities lab the students were forced to go to the nearby market and to pay to use a local internet café. The project was undertaken by Computers for Malawian Schools (CFMS), IT Schools Africa's implementing partner in Malawi.

Refurbishment

Work commenced promptly and, as usual, was finished in good time. The total project took 1 week to complete. Key tasks that were completed included:

Rewiring the room

As with the majority of our lab projects, the rewiring takes a considerable amount of time and budget. It is also the most important aspect of the project, to ensure the equipment is safely installed. Poor workmanship is sadly the norm in Malawi, so all electrical work is carried out by a professional electrician at our projects.



Fabricating the furniture

1 (FF510-31)

April 2020



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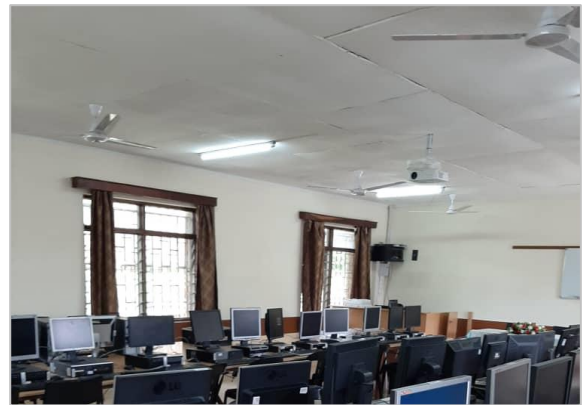
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The computer desks and shelving for the students' bags were built by the carpenter, tailor-made to fit the classroom and the college's requirements.



Installing the ceiling fans

To keep the room cool during the hot summers the classroom was fitted with six ceiling fans.



The finished lab

The equipment was installed and tested by our technician, ready for the students.





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The opening ceremony

The IT lab was officially opened on 24th February 2020. The whole school was present and the welcoming they gave our team, CFMS, was overwhelming. The students sang all throughout the ceremony, from start to end. Also present was District Health Officer, Mrs Feggie Maria Bodole and the school principal, Mrs Jane Mangani. The students performed a drama about a teacher giving the students an assignment to complete that needed to be typed and printed by the end of the day. The students worried where they would get the money in such a short time to go to the market to pay to have their work typed. Then one student informed the class that the school now has a computer lab that a wonderful organisation had donated with many computers in it, so their work could be done at college. They disbelieved and danced with joy!

Much appreciation was given to our team for completing the project in such a short time and to the donor, Fondation Eagle.





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Financial report

St Joseph's Nursing and Midwifery College IT Lab Budget				
	Budget Kwacha	Budget GBP	Actual Kwacha	Actual GBP
EXCHANGE RATE GBP TO MALAWI KWACHA	960			
Classroom refurbishment				
Re-wiring materials	1,250,000	£1,302.08	1,401,116	1,459.50
Labour (for electrician)	450,000	£468.75	450,000	468.75
Painting materials	300,000	£312.50	516,840	538.38
Labour	150,000	£156.25	150,000	156.25
Fabrication of desks materials	800,000	£833.33	809,050	842.76
Labour (for carpenter)	300,000	£312.50	300,000	312.50
Signage	7,000	£7.29	7,500	7.81
Ceiling fans x 6	208,000	£216.67	228,000	237.50
Builder and cleaner	60,000	£62.50	60,000	62.50
Whiteboard and stationery	146,425	£152.53	164,400	171.25
Computer equipment				
Refurbished computers x 40	3,400,000	£3,541.67	3,400,000	3,541.67
Refurbished laptop x 1	150,000	£156.25	150,000	156.25
Windows 10 licences x 40	196,800	£205.00	196,800	205.00
Projector - Acer x113 Multimedia	400,000	£416.67	400,000	Used stock
Ceiling mount	20,000	£20.83	20,000	20.83
Printer	366,000	£381.25	366,000	Used stock
Printer cartridge	60,000	£62.50	60,000	62.50
Internet cable	150,000	£156.25	280,000	291.67
Internet, router, data subscription	350,000	£364.58	460,000	479.17
25mtr VGA Cable	35,000	£36.46	35,000	36.46
Project management				
Hire of transport from Blantyre to carry materials	200,000	£208.33	200,000	208.33
Transport from Blantyre and staff food	250,000	£260.42	250,000	260.42
Transport for the manager to oversee the project	100,000		100,000	104.17
Technical support				
6 monthly maintenance visits	200,000	£400.00	200,000	400.00
Monitoring and evaluation	192,000	£200.00	192,000	200.00
TOTAL	9,741,225	£10,235	10,396,706	£10,224

There was an underspend of £10.61. We were able to keep to the budget by using existing stock for the printer and projector. We usually buy brand new equipment to ensure it lasts for as long as possible, but because of overspend on other budget lines, such as the re-wiring and painting materials and some of the technical equipment we had to make some adjustments.



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Conclusions

The project was completed on time and on budget, with some minor adjustments made to the equipment supplied to offset the higher costs of some of the materials. The lab was extremely well received by the college, particularly the nurse students themselves who sang and performed at the opening ceremony to show their delight and gratitude.

The project was a first for ITSA, using digital technology to support a healthcare facility and we hope it will be the first of many. We recognise the power of tech to transform and improve education for many institutions and we hope we can support more in the years to come.

The ITSA team sends their very best wishes to all the trustees and hope they are staying safe and well.

With warm regards

Lucy Pollock

General Manager

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