



IT SCHOOLS AFRICA

Transforming lives through access to e-Learning

Report on Covid Prevention Project, Malawi

Ref: FF 586 – 2110

Introduction

In May 2021 Fondation Eagle kindly donated £24,290 to IT Schools Africa to improve access to water and sanitation for 13,251 school children and school staff to prevent the spread of Covid-19 in Malawi.

How we used the grant

The grant was used to provide transparent face shields to schools as well as sinking and repairing boreholes to give access to running water to school communities. We saved some funds where we repaired a borehole, instead of drilling a new one, which enabled us to support a greater number (3,400) of beneficiaries than originally planned. **In total the grant supported 16,721 beneficiaries. The project was under budget (£-19)**

The project

As the coronavirus pandemic continues to impact schools and threaten the education of students in Malawi, we recognise that preventing the spread of the disease in schools is therefore imperative to keeping schools open. Basic sanitation, such as regular hand washing and keeping shared spaces clean are necessary to reduce the spread of disease whilst Covid specific measures such as face masks are important to prevent transmission rates increasing.

Through our digital education network of 25 schools and educational centres we delivered face shields, cleaning products to schools and provided boreholes to those most in need. The project was completed by Computers for Malawian Schools (CFMS), IT Schools Africa's implementing partner in Malawi. The total project took 4 weeks to complete

Installing the boreholes

We contracted a local company to install the boreholes and they confirmed that they use machinery to drill the boreholes to a depth of 70 metres, rather than dig them manually. Water found at this depth does not need to be treated by a water treatment product, which saved money from the budget.

Once the wells have been sunk, the site is cemented to create a waterway so the ground does not become saturated when water is drawn. A pump and tap is fitted to make drawing water easier.

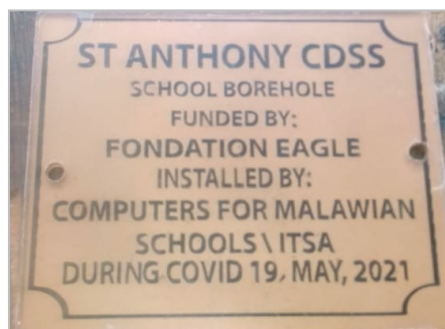


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We sunk the first borehole at St Anthony Community Day Secondary School (a previous recipient of a Fondation Eagle IT Lab grant).

The site is in a rural area, Zomba and the school has 491 children and school staff. The borehole will also benefit the surrounding community.





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The second borehole was dug at the St George Academy and Orphans Trust, where 382 school children and adults are based.

The water will also irrigate the school's vegetable garden for the students' meals and a local community tree growing project.





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The final borehole had been planned for the office and training centre of Computers for Malawian Schools (CFMS). However, after consulting with the landlord (and neighbour), the Samaritan's Trust, we discovered that they have plans to build on the land, so there wouldn't be space for a borehole.

After discussion we agreed to repair the existing borehole on their land and install new pipework to connect the water to CFMS Training Lab, and install an outside tap for the surrounding tenants, and girls and boys hostels. We also bought a new booster pump and a reserve water tank to ensure the water supply and pressure is sufficient to provide safe drinking water and to improve the sanitation of the toilets.





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Issuing the face shields and sanitation items

All schools were required to provide a letter confirming the number of school children and school staff at the school. We had based the original budget on information provided by schools, but in some cases this was more of a guesstimate as the schools had been closed and so contacting the head teachers had been difficult.

Once all the schools had confirmed the numbers (of students and school staff) we realised that the numbers were higher than what we had budgeted for, with an additional 3,001 requiring masks. We requested permission from Fondation Eagle to use the funds we had saved from the borehole projects to purchase more masks, to fulfil the total requirements of all schools. We purchased an additional 3,001 masks.

A representative from each school was asked to come to the CFZS office to collect the agreed number of face shields and cleaning items including; hand sanitiser, floor cleaner, hand soap and dispensers and multipurpose cleaner. Where this wasn't possible, for schools further away from our Blantyre office we had the items transported to a courier depot where they could collect from.



The masks and sanitation products were distributed to the following schools:

	School/training centre	Area
1	Chipasula Secondary School	Lilongwe
2	Blantyre Secondary School	Blantyre
3	Zingwangwa Secondary School	Blantyre
4	Chichiri Secondary School	Blantyre
5	Mulanje Secondary School	Mulanje
6	Namikasi Secondary School	Blantyre
7	Puteya Secondary School	Machinga
8	Ntonda Secondary School	Ntcheu
9	Chiradzulu Secondary School	Chiradzulu
10	Ngumbe Community Day School	Chileka
11	Liwonde Community Day School	Liwonde
12	St Anthony Community Day secondary School	Zomba
13	CFMS Training Lab	Blantyre



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- 14 Bishop Auneau Girls Catholic
- 15 Bangula Secondary School
- 16 Kapanda Secondary School
- 17 Dzenza Secondary School
- 18 Chapananga School
- 19 Chikwawa School
- 20 Malindi School
- 21 FDYD Bangwe School
- 22 Njamba Govt Secondary School
- 23 St Joseph's College of Nursing
- 24 Mitsidi Mission Secondary School
- 25 Ngoka CDSS

- Zomba
Nsanje District
Nkhata Bay
Llongwe
Chikwawa
Chikwawa
Zomba
Blantyre
Blantyre
Chiradzulu
Sanjika
Machinga





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Financial report

Covid Prevention Project Expenditure			
Item	QTY	Total MK	Total GBP
Anti-bacterial spray 1 ltr	30	135,000	135
Bleach 5 ltr	48	312,000	312
Hand sanitiser 5 ltr	60	599,999	600
Floor cleaner 5 ltr	60	360,000	360
Hand washing liquid 5 ltr	60	347,999	348
Small bottles of hand sanitiser 100 ml	360	126,000	126
Small bottles of hand soap 500 ml	360	323,997	324
Face shields	12500	11,875,000	11875
Face shields	3001	2,550,850	2551
Boreholes (St Anthony and St George Academy)	2	6,514,740	6515
Borehole repair, installation at CFMS including booster pump and water tank	1	1,125,000	1125
TOTAL		24,270,586	24,271

The project was under budget, with an underspend of £19. We bought more face shields than we budgeted for; this was due to the fact that schools were closed when we submitted the budget, so was based on our best guess. The budgeted figure for the boreholes at St Anthony and St George Academy did not include VAT, which increased the expenditure. The repair and installation work to the borehole close to the CFMS Training Lab was less than budgeted for, which enabled the purchase of the additional 3,001 face shields.

Conclusion

The project went very well, the schools were really pleased with the face shields and the cleaning items; they will go a long way in ensuring the students and staff can feel safe at school. We were delighted that we could provide more face shields where they were needed and thank Fondation Eagle for allowing us to do this. The boreholes will make a significant impact for the schools and communities, providing clean running water for 1,220 adults and children.

A more unusual project for ITSA, but it enabled schools to continue providing education in these extreme and challenging circumstances. I'd like to thank the Trustees for their continued support and trust in ITSA and the CFMS team to deliver the project.

With warm regards

Lucy Pollock
General Manager