

Final Report for Fondation Eagle Ntcheu Secondary School IT Lab (FF 677)

Introduction

In September 2023 Fondation Eagle generously donated £21,533 to the ITSA Digital Trust for the installation of an IT lab at Ntcheu Secondary School in Ntcheu, Malawi. Previously, the school of 678 students had 0 working computers for teaching.

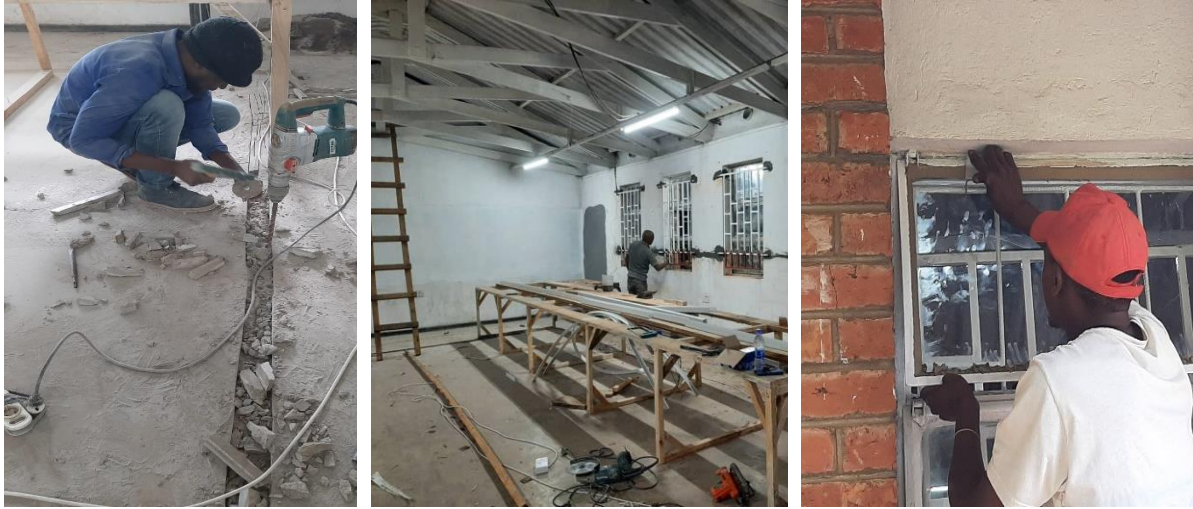


How we used the grant

Our project entailed renovating a classroom (seen in its original condition in the photo above), installing a 41-computer lab in the room and providing IT training for the school's teachers. The new IT lab will offer many hundreds of students the prospect of receiving an IT education for the first time, with additional beneficiaries in local schools and in the local community.

Renovating the classroom

Construction work in the classroom included repairs to the tiled roof and brick entrance, the sealing of some doorways with bricks and cement, replacement of some glass windows, the laying of trenches in the walls and floor to hide electric and computer trunking/cables, and the attachment of metal security grids over the windows and doors.



The walls were plastered. The walls, doors, security grids and some of the furniture were painted. Blinds were added to the windows. As with all the work undertaken, the team worked day and night over a period of a couple of weeks.

Fabrication of furniture

The students' desks and the teacher's desk were made to measure by our carpenters. For additional durability, they were secured to the floor and walls. Shelving was attached to the walls for the students' bags and personal belongings. Some of the woodwork was painted to match the colour of the newly-painted walls. Whiteboards were fixed to a wall by the new teacher's desk.



Electrical and IT work

A trench was dug in the earth outside the classroom to connect the room safely to the school's electricity supply. The security grids over the doors and walls were electrified for the protection of the lab overnight, with the wiring concealed within the walls. The trunking and wiring of the power supply for each computer were prepared and installed under the desks. Pupils were not given access to the room during the installation. However, some of the school's pupils did look on with interest while some of the preparatory work was done outside. Perhaps some of these students will go on to related careers themselves!



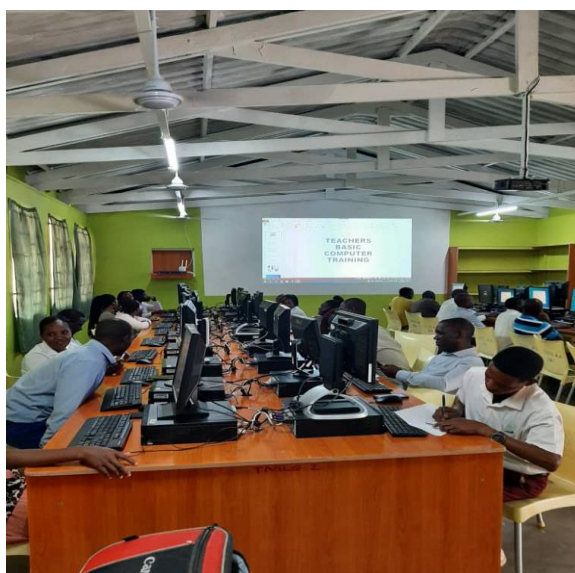
40 desktop computers with monitors, keyboards and mice were installed and networked. A laptop was provided for the teacher. An overhead projector and electric fans were hung from the ceiling. An additional electric fan was attached to a wall for the teacher, and the teacher

was supplied with a printer. A fuse box was installed. WiFi and an internet connection were provided for use on all the computers.



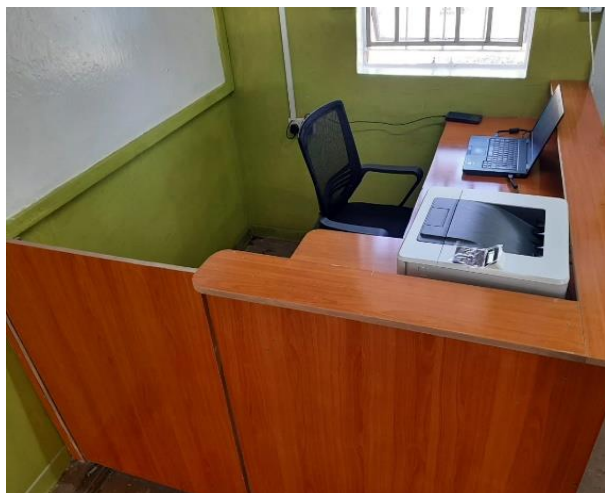
Teacher training

All the teachers (38) were given appropriate training to enable them to utilise the equipment effectively and to provide basic maintenance and repair.



The Finished IT lab

The photos below show the completed IT lab at the school. Please compare this with the photo of the room in its prior condition on page 1.





Opening Ceremony

On 9th May, 2024, our programme manager, Mrs Sabina Kulasinghe, the headteacher of the school (Mr Puma), representatives of the Parent Teacher Association and Board of Governors, Mr Joseph Nkhata from the Ministry of Education, the head chief of the area and a senior member of the district police force took part in speeches and a celebration with the school's students. A television crew from *Times TV* attended the event on Zoom. Prayers were made, traditional dancing took place, and one of the senior students made an excellent speech in which he expressed the students' thanks for the new IT lab and promised that the students would look after it and make the most of the opportunities which it presented for their education, livelihoods and community. The school's management also promised to take good care of the lab and to open it up to use by surrounding schools.



The speakers thanked the parties who had made the lab possible, including Fondation Eagle. The speakers all understood the importance of an IT education in the modern world, were grateful for the gift of the IT lab and urged all concerned to look after the lab and use it well.

The dignitaries and staff then assembled in the IT lab. A ribbon-cutting ceremony was followed by an appreciative inspection of the new facilities, a signing of contracts and the hand-over of the key to the IT teacher in charge of the lab.



For perhaps the first time, the ITSA Digital Trust was able to take part in the ceremony in real-time, via Zoom, including making a speech to the visiting dignitaries and staff. The newly-installed power supply, internet connection and overhead projector all proved immediately successful, with ITSA's speech being broadcast live onto a wall of the lab. This was a nice first proof of how digitally-connected the school now is to the world beyond.

It is hard to express what an extraordinary opportunity the new IT lab now brings to so many people. However, the excitement and enthusiasm which all at the school have shown from the first day that work began and again at the opening ceremony has been clearly visible.



External confirmation from an independent body that the project has been successfully completed.

ROTARY CLUB OF LIMBE
P O Box 5079
LIMBE
MALAWI

ROTARY CLUB OF LIMBE



District - 9210
Club No - 17303

10 May 2024

Computers for Malawian Schools &
ITSA Digital Trust
Unit 8, Mead Road Industrial Estate
Cheltenham
Gloucestershire GL537EF
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Dear Sir / Madam

REPORT ON NTCHEU SECONDARY SCHOOL COMPUTER LABORATORY PROJECT

We, Rotary Club of Limbe, Malawi (District 9210) would like to congratulate you and your whole team at CFMS on the successful delivery of the fully fledged Computer Laboratory on Thursday, 9th May 2024 at Ntcheu Secondary School of 40 desktop computer, Projectors, installed network, accessories and completely refurbished laboratory facility. The delivery of this turnkey facility is in line with the Rotary International's focus area of **Basic Education and Literacy**.

The impact of this project is profound and has left an indelible impact on the school, community and education sector at large. As Rotary Club we are extremely honored to have seen this project from inception phase to completion and have monitored the process which was diligently and professionally carried out. We commend your organization and would like to further seek avenues for further collaboration and participation.

This facility has shown that it will strengthen the capacity of the community by supporting basic education and computer literacy, reduce the disparity in ICT education and increase the potential for learners to effect change in their communities.

This letter serves as an independent report to authenticate that as Rotary Club of Limbe, we monitored the implementation and delivery of the facility. Due to other Rotary commitments and activities presently taking place we could not attend to the formal handover ceremony although witnessed in National Television broadcast and Daily Times newspaper. We are satisfied that this project was completed and handover of the fully functional computer Laboratory with highest standards. We are delighted to have participated in this very important project and very much look forward in further collaborations in future projects and once again commend you for the successful delivery of this facility to Ntcheu Secondary School.

Should you require further information on the project or Rotary Club of Limbe, do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.

Yours sincerely



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Financial report

The exchange rate for the budget was 1,200 Mk

NTCHEU SECONDARY SCHOOL IT LAB - 2024 NTCHEU				
	BUDGET		ACTUAL	
	KWACHA	GBP	KWACHA	GBP
ELECTRICAL MATERIALS:	3,830,868.34	3,175.40	4,169,109.27	1,985.29
ELECTRICIAN LABOUR	1,000,000.00	833.33	1,200,000.00	571.43
CARPENTRY MATERIALS	1,555,488.50	1,296.24	2,070,245.16	985.83
CURTAINING	607,465.00	509.40	564,000.00	268.57
BUILDING WORKS	475,525.00	432.30	823,500.00	392.14
PAINTING	3,464,105.22	3,149.19	3,682,925.00	1,753.77
COMPUTER EQUIPMENT	6,910,775.00	6,282.53	21,330,642.41	10,157.45
TRANSPORTATION	2,100,000.00	1,909.09	3,067,000.00	1,460.48
PROJECT MANAGER	1,600,000.00	1,454.55	2,464,600.00	1,173.62
WELDING WORKS	540,000.00	490.91	1,660,850.00	790.88
MONITORING & EVALUATION	-	2,000.00	-	2,000.00
TOTAL	22,084,227.06	21,532.93	41,032,871.84	21,539.46

Key variances

- The budget was developed prior to the devaluation of Malawi's Kwacha in November 2023, which saw it lose value by 44%. Hence the price of materials - including the computers - increased. We managed to save costs in some places by paying cash and by buying some items before the devaluation. Some items proved more expensive than had been expected, including fuel, accommodation and labour, which were partly caused by the need for more visits to the school than had been planned. The
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- computer equipment was made more expensive when the Malawi Revenue Authority imposed additional tax on it, which CFMS could not claim back.
- Overall, the total overspend was £6.54

Conclusion

We were delighted to be able to install this high-quality IT lab. The school appreciates the lab very much.

The project was somewhat delayed because of dangers in the Red Sea which caused our shipment of computers to be transported on a longer route around the Cape of Good Hope.

However, the finished IT lab more than compensates for these and other frustrations.

We look forward to helping more schools to improve their facilities and to providing a quality education for more students in Africa.

Thank you sincerely to Fondation Eagle for your generous support.

With warm regards



Geoffrey Newsome

