

Final Report for Fondation Eagle

Interim or Final report:	Final report
Donor name:	Fondation Eagle
Fondation Eagle reference:	FF691
Name of Charity:	The ITSA Digital Trust
Introduction: Please explain type of project and reason for request.	Installation of a 41-computer IT laboratory at Livimbo Community Day Secondary School in Lilongwe, Malawi, to offer an IT education to students at the school.
Date of grant accepted:	September 2023
Amount:	£18,648
Conversion rate currency:	Budgeted conversion rate: 2,188.07 Malawian Kwacha (MWK) to 1 GBP.
Amount in local currency	Budgeted cost: 40,802,131 MWK
Name and exact location of the project:	Installation of IT lab at Livimbo Community Day Secondary School in Lilongwe, Malawi
Period of Project:	Completed September 2024
Project beneficiaries:	Students and staff at Livimbo Community Day Secondary School

INTRODUCTION

In September 2023 Fondation Eagle generously donated £18,648 to the ITSA Digital Trust for the installation of an IT lab at Livimbo Community Day Secondary School in Lilongwe, Malawi. Previously, the school of 247 students had had no computers for teaching purposes.



Caption: the classroom before our IT lab was installed

How We Used the Grant

Our project entailed renovating a classroom (seen in its original condition in the photograph above), installing a 41-computer laboratory in the room and providing IT training to the school's 26 teachers. The new IT lab will offer hundreds of students the prospect of receiving an IT education for the first time, as well as enhancing teachers' IT skills, with additional beneficiaries including the attached primary school and other local schools.

Renovating the Classroom

Construction work in the classroom included digging a trench from the school office block to the classroom, and laying an electricity cable in it to connect the classroom to the main ESCOM (Electricity Supply Corporation of Malawi) board in the school office block.



Further trenches were created within the floor and walls of the classroom to lay and hide all the pipework, trunking, internet cables and wiring. All the walls were plastered.



The entrance was repaired (see below) and a new door was added. Electrified, metal security grids were fitted on the door and windows to protect the room from theft. The builder and electrician worked for 5 days and nights to complete this part of the project.



Fabrication of Furniture

The students' desks and the teacher's desk were made to measure by our carpenters. For additional durability and security, they were secured to the floor and walls. A whiteboard was made mobile, as the room was too small for a fixed whiteboard on a wall.



Painting and Curtaining

The whole room was painted, including the window frames, doors, roof, walls and desk legs. Curtains were added to the windows, to protect the room against glare from the sun.



Electrical and IT Work

In addition to the new electricity supply, concealed wiring and electrified security, a siren was added for the night guard to use in case of danger. A fuse box was installed and wiring was attached in trunking to each desk to provide a power supply to the computers.



40 desktop computers and monitors, keyboards, mice and other peripherals were installed and networked. A laptop and printer were provided for the teacher. An overhead projector was erected, and electric fans were installed on the side walls to cool the room.

2 x 24-port network switches were set up, with WiFi and an internet connection using cat6 cabling for the computers and printer.





Teacher Training

All 26 teachers were given training to enable them to utilise the equipment effectively in their teaching, as well as to undertake basic maintenance and repairs.



The Finished IT Laboratory

The photos below show the IT laboratory in its finished condition. Please compare these with the photo of the room in its original condition on page 2.



Opening Ceremony

On 27th September 2024, our Programme Manager, Mrs Sabina Kulasinghe, our technician Chitemwa and our trainer Mr Banda joined dignitaries such as the headteacher of the school Mrs Alice Manjankono, the Education Data Officer Mr Marvin Sageme, the head chief, the chair of the PTA, the mother's group, the Rotary Club project director Mr Duncan Mabono, the Rotary Club President Elect Mr Martin Sabola, as well as all the teachers and students for a ceremony to officially open the IT laboratory. The ceremony was held outside because the school does not have an assembly hall.



The ceremony included the national anthem of Malawi, prayers, a speech by the Headteacher, a poem by a female student, a speech by the head girl, a speech by the PTA chair, a play by the students, a speech by CFMS's programme manager, a speech by the Rotary Club President Elect, a traditional dance by the students, a speech by the Education Data Office, ribbon cutting, co-signing of the agreement document and a key handing-over.





Letter of thanks from the school's headteacher:



DATE: 1st October, 2024.

FROM: THE HEADTEACHER, LIVIMBO COMMUNITY DAY SECONDARY SCHOOL, P. O. BOX 1807, LILONGWE.

TO: THE PROGRAM MANAGER, COMPUTERS FOR MALAWIAN SCHOOLS.

RE: ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FOR RECEIVING OF COMPUTER DONATION TO LIVIMBO COMMUNITY DAY SECONDARY SCHOOL

Reference is made to the subject captioned above.

On behalf of the Ministry of Education, Central West Education Division and Livimbo Community Day Secondary School, I would like to thank **Computers for Malawian Schools/ ITSA Digital Trust** for donating forty computers, a lap top, projector, a printer and many computer accessories. Thank you for granting us the opportunity to develop our school further with the computers that you gave us.

The computers will assist our learners in improving their academic skills and knowledge of the technological world. Our learners used to feel left behind in the field of computer knowledge since some of our neighboring schools were offering computer lessons and we did not due to lack of resources. The 2063 developmental goals also look forward to a generation that is computer literate and this grant will assist us greatly in contributing to the achievement of those objectives.

Lastly, I do not take this opportunity for granted and I thank you for all the efforts and hard work that you put in place so that the project is successful and for considering us as worthy to be part it. May your organization continue to assist all the schools in need of such development and bring computer awareness to the students who lack the skills.

Yours Faithfully,



Alice Madhlopa Majankono

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



Rotary Club Lilongwe City Center
District 9210
Projects Office
P. O Box 30832
Lilongwe

IT Schools Africa
Unit 8, Mead Road Ind Estate
Cheltenham
Gloucestershire, GL537EF

28th September, 2024

Dear Sir/ Madam,

RE: REPORT ON LIVIMBO CDSS COMPUTER LABORATORY PROJECT

Rotary Club of Lilongwe City Center (LCC) would like to congratulate you and your whole team on the successful delivery of the fully fledged Computer Laboratory, the facility is in line with the Rotary International's focus area of **Basic Education and Literacy**.

The project is profound and will leave an indelible impact on the school, local surrounding, Community and the educational sector at large. As Rotary Club of Lilongwe City Centre we were very honored to have partnered Computers for Malawi Schools on this project

This facility will strengthen the capacity of the community by supporting basic education and computer literacy, and increase the potential for learners to effect change in their communities.

This letter serves an report to authenticate that as Rotary Club of Lilongwe City Center we monitored and supervised the implementation and also witnessed the handover of the fully functional computer laboratory and we are satisfied that the project was completed with the highest standards. We were 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 project.

If you require further information on the project of the rotary club, do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.

Yours Sincerely



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CLUB PRESIDENT
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Duncan Mabona
DIRECTOR PROJECTS
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Financial report

BUDGET FOR LIVIMBO DAY SECONDARY SCHOOL IT LAB - 2024 LILONGWE				
	BUDGETED SPEND		ACTUAL SPEND	
	COST MALAWI KWACHA	CONVERT TO GBP	COST MALAWI KWACHA	CONVERT TO GBP
EXCHANGE RATE	2,188.07		2,200	
ELECTRICAL	6,701,052.83	£3,062.54	6,362,236.90	£2,891.93
CARPENTRY	2,418,080.49	£1,105.12	2,676,545.00	£1,216.61
CURTAINING	832,594.50	£380.51	344,950.00	£156.80
BUILDING	815,125.00	£372.53	848,500.00	£385.68
PAINTING	937,962.01	£428.67	1,362,059.00	£619.12
COMPUTER EQUIPMENT	19,268,537.75	£8,806.18	19,397,345.00	£8,816.98
TRANSPORTATION	2,800,000.00	£1,279.67	4,328,516.00	£1,967.51
PROJECT MANAGER	2,750,000.00	£1,256.81	2,416,667.38	£1,098.49
WELDING WORKS	570,000.00	£260.50	780,000.00	£354.55
MONITORING AND EVALUATION	3,708,778.65	£1,695.00	3,708,778.65	£1,685.81
TOTAL	40,802,131.23	£18,647.53	42,225,597.93	£19,193.46

OVERSPEND 1,423,466.70 £677.84

Key variances

ELECTRICAL	The electrical costs came in under budget as wall fans were used instead of air conditioning.
CARPENTRY	There was an overspend on carpentry due to more materials being used than expected, plus a price increase in materials.
CURTAINING	The curtaining cost was less than budgeted due to the room for the lab being changed and having fewer windows.
BUILDING	The change of room caused an increase in building and painting costs.
PAINTING	
COMPUTER EQUIPMENT	The computer equipment was slightly over budget as, although some items were purchased for less than expected, the network switches had not been budgeted for.
TRANSPORTATION	The transportation costs were higher than budgeted as a transporter was hired to carry everything to the site, instead of doing it manually, as planned.
PROJECT MANAGER	The project manager's costs were cut as much as possible to accommodate other expenses and therefore came in under budget.
WELDING WORKS	The welding costs were higher than budgeted as the price had increased.

Conclusion

We were delighted to be able to install this high-quality IT laboratory. The school and local community appreciate the new IT facilities 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.

Thank you sincerely to Fondation Eagle for your generous support.

With warm regards



Geoffrey Newsome, Chief Executive