

File Form 692

Purchase and running costs for one year of a bus for transporting the staff and students of the IMPACT Zanzibar / ZOP Academy for hearing impaired students to and from school Final report for the Eagle Foundation – December 2024

Donor name: Fondation Eagle

Fondation Eagle reference: FF 692

Name of Charity: IMPACT UK

Introduction:

This funding was granted to purchase a new school bus for the IMPACT Zanzibar/ZOP (IZ/ZOP) Academy, IMPACT's specialised school in Zanzibar for children with hearing loss and additional needs. The new, larger bus is ensuring a safe and comfortable daily commute for students and teachers, as well as providing a reliable mode of transport for educational excursions. The bus has replaced the Academy's aging 14-seater minibus, which was no longer adequate for the growing needs of the school community.



The new 26-seater school bus funded by Fondation Eagle

Date of grant accepted: 06/12/2023 (funds received by IMPACT UK 22/12/23)

Budget amount: GBP 24,495

Conversion rate, date & amount in local currency: TSH 74,464,800 Exchange rate 1GBP = 3,040 TZS (06/11/2023)

Expenditure: GBP 24,625

Name and exact location of the project: Stone Town, Zanzibar

Period of Project: 22nd December 2023 – 21st December 2024

Project beneficiaries: The bus is currently being used to transport 29 pupils and 12 staff to and from school - a four-hour round trip each day.

Details of the project:

Background: Established in 2010, the IZ/ZOP Academy was designed as a comprehensive centre for the education, care, and rehabilitation of children with hearing impairments. Guided by its motto, *Matamshi na Sauti* (Sound and Vocabulary), the Academy focuses on fostering sound and speech development through lip-reading techniques. Beyond delivering quality education and rehabilitation services, it actively promotes accessibility for children with hearing impairments within the broader community and advocates for neonatal and early childhood hearing screening programs.

In 2021, the Academy relocated to a new facility equipped with the following specialised services:

- **School for Deaf Children:** Providing tailored education for children from nursery age to around 11, or until they are ready to transition to mainstream schooling.
- **ENT Clinic:** Offering medical services for ear-related health conditions.
- **Audiology Room:** Equipped for paediatric audiometric testing and assessments.
- **Hearing Aid Laboratory:** Facilitating the design, fitting, and maintenance of hearing aids.
- **Conference Room:** Hosting meetings, training sessions, and seminars.
- **Workshop:** Providing practical training opportunities for older children.

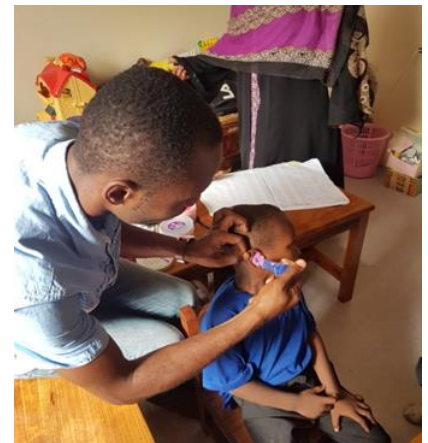
The ZOP Academy began modestly, with just 12 students and five staff members. At the time, there was limited community awareness about the ability of hearing-impaired children to learn to speak and communicate. Additionally, many parents struggled to afford the transportation costs needed to bring their children to school.

Over the years, the school has grown significantly and at time of writing, it has an enrolment of 29 children (14 boys and 15 girls). There are currently nine teaching staff; 14 administrative and support staff; plus social work staff who maintain contact with the pupils' families; and an onsite Medical Officer. The school is overseen by Dr Naufal Kassim, ENT surgeon and Founding Director of IZ/ZOP.

Students live as far as 20 km from the school, making safe, reliable, and affordable transportation a priority. The Academy's previous 14-seater bus was not only too small but also lacked seatbelts for every seat. This often required younger children to sit on the laps of teachers or parents during transit. While this practice aligns with



Classroom learning at the IZ/ZOP Academy



Fitting and maintaining hearing aids (above) and speech therapy and hearing assessments (below) also take place onsite



Tanzanian road safety regulations, securing a larger vehicle with proper safety belts became an urgent funding need.

Thanks to your generous grant in December 2023, the Academy was able to place a purchase order for a new, larger school bus. The bus was delivered and ready for use in early 2024, ensuring every child now has a secure, individual seat with a seatbelt. The older bus has since been repurposed to support medical camps in Pemba, further extending its impact.

We are deeply grateful to Fondation Eagle for your invaluable support in making this possible.



On a typical school day, the bus departs early in the morning to pick up pupils from the villages of Saateni, Bububu, Kijichi, Kijichi-Mtoni, Amani, Mikunguni, Magomeni, Mwanakwerekwe, Skuli Mtopepo, Mabata-Magogoni, Fuoni-Mambosasa, Fuoni Jitimai, Kwarara, Kwamchina, Kiembe, and Samaki. A few of the students live in communities with limited road access, and their parents accompany these children to designated collection points. The journey to school covers approximately 75 km and takes around two hours to complete.

Parents and teachers are incredibly grateful that the school journey is so much safer and more comfortable: *'The bus will motivate our kids to come to school! It has a well working air-conditioning, to keep them comfortable in the hot season. I feel very reassured that our kids sit in the bus with seat belts and so they are very safe. Also it is enclosed, so kids are not able to put their heads or arms outside of the bus windows. Not like*

the last bus, it has enough space for students to sit without being cramped' - Sada Mwinyi Ayub, parent with daughter at the ZOP Academy

As well as taking children to and from school, the new bus is being used for educational excursions. For example, older children make weekly outings to community locations, such as the local market. This is so they can put into practice their communication skills in real-life scenarios, such as buying fruit and vegetables. They also visit mainstream schools in order to interact with children of all backgrounds and abilities.

Recent educational trips include an agricultural festival, where the children had a great time learning about machinery, vegetable planting and meeting farm animals. There was also an end of year visit to Zanzibar Park in December 2024. Children enjoyed time at the fun fair and a picnic, followed by the annual prize-giving ceremony. It was also an opportunity to bring together parents, doctors and teachers for an evaluation and planning meeting.



Above, the annual prize giving excursion in December 2024 and a trip to an agricultural festival to learn all about farming technology.

Ongoing maintenance The new school bus is being maintained on a regular basis by a former pupil of the IZ/ZOP Academy, Abubaker Hemed Rashid, who has been appointed as the Academy's Ambassador in the community. Upon finishing his education, Abubaker has gained knowledge as a mechanical engineer and has now been promoted to be ZOP's 'Chief Mechanical Engineer' relating to all their health activities in Zanzibar. *'We are so happy because if there is a problem with any of our cars, our two mobile clinics or the new school bus, it will be repaired immediately. He is a glowing example to our current students and the community at large that there are no barriers to following a dream if you are disabled. We will continue mentoring him, so that he has a bank account and understands the importance of saving funds from his job.'* **Dr Kassim, Director, IZ/ZOP**



Above, mechanic and former pupil, Abubaker. Below, Nurse Nura.

Independent verification

At the start of 2024, a German nurse, Nura Marshal Shein spent some months volunteering with IZ/ZOP and was interning at the IZ/ZOP Academy when the new bus was purchased and delivered. Please find her testimony overleaf.





Recently, ZOP Academy got an upgrade on a school bus to a larger model with air conditioning and sufficient seating, ensuring that every child has their own seat. Here's why it is an important change:

Enhanced Comfort

The new bus comes equipped with air conditioning, providing a comfortable environment for the students, especially during hot weather. This upgrade ensures that all students arrive at school refreshed and ready to learn, without the discomfort of heat and humidity affecting their day.

Individual Seating for Safety

In the new bus, each student has their own seat. This not only enhances comfort but also significantly improves safety. With individual seating, we can ensure that all children are securely seated throughout the journey, reducing the risk of accidents or injuries caused by overcrowding.

More Space

The larger bus offers more space, allowing students to have a more pleasant and less cramped traveling experience. This additional space is particularly beneficial for students who carry large backpacks or other items, as they can store their belongings more easily without compromising their own or others' comfort.



This upgrade reflects the commitment to providing the best for the students. I believe that a comfortable and safe transportation experience is crucial for their overall well-being and academic success. The new bus is just one example of how we continually strive to enhance the quality of our services for the benefit of our students and their families.

At ZOP, we are dedicated to making continuous improvements that support the health, safety, and comfort of our students. We are confident that this new bus will provide a much better travel experience for everyone and look forward to seeing our students enjoy the benefits of this upgrade.



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Thank you

Everyone at the IZ/ZOP Academy is deeply grateful for your generosity in funding a new vehicle for the school. This gift has brought benefits far beyond improved transportation. The bus has strengthened connections between children, parents, and teachers, while also fostering greater social interaction among the students during their journey to and from school. Thank you for making such a meaningful impact.



Expenditure statement

Budget	Budget GBP (£)	Budget TZS	Expenditure GBP (£)	Expenditure TZS
Toyota Coaster 26-seat bus	20,000	60,800,000	20,050	60,952,000
Road licence / insurance (one year)	66	200,640	384	1,167,360
Fuel (one year)	2,125	6,460,000	2,125	6,460,000
Annual service	1,138	3,459,520	900	2,736,000
SUBTOTAL	23,329	70,920,160	23,459	71,315,360
Project Management 5%	1,166	3,544,640	1,166	3,544,640
Grand Total	24,495	74,464,800	24,625	74,860,000

Exchange rate based on 1 GBP = 3,040 TZS (06.11.2023)

A small overspend of GBP 130 has been contributed thanks to local fundraising efforts.