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LUKUNGU PRESCHOOL & OVC CENTRE ~ PHASE 3 - MULTI-PURPOSE ROOMS & ADMINISTRATION BLOCK ~

Lukungu, Tanzania

July 2014

The rural village of Lukungu in Tanzania has a population of approximately 3,000 people and despite intense poverty, the residents often contribute towards taking care of orphaned and vulnerable children living amongst them. However, many parents are unable to contribute towards all the financial resources required for all infrastructural development of these schools. Through the fundraising initiative of Africa Foundation (UK) Art for Africa London 2009 event, Africa Foundation was able to facilitate the establishment of a preschool and OVC Centre in Lukungu by building two classrooms, nine ablutions, a kitchen and dining hall. Later, a borehole was drilled so that the school could operate properly. The school's current enrolment is 121 children.

While the school is able to function with the current infrastructure, its ultimate objective is to not only serve as an educational institution, but serve as an OVC Centre for orphaned and vulnerable children and those children with special needs. These types of services require special facilities; and the proposed additional infrastructure takes the form of a hall, multi-purpose room and an Administration Block.

The hall is the size of two classrooms; which will be used as a recreation and physical move facility. This facility will be used daily as a venue for physical exercises; arts and craft educational centre; as well as a venue to hold children's debates between Lukungu schools and other neighbouring schools; which take place every two months.

The multi-purpose room will take the form of a large classroom which will be used as a Preparatory Class for the six-year old children who will be graduating from the Preschool onto Lukungu Primary School for their primary school education. This room will also contain a storeroom which will be used to store stationery and teaching aids. In addition, there will be a small room which will serve as a guard-house for security services.

2.

An Administration Block will house the principal's office, a staff room for the teachers and support-staff; and a First Aid Room, which will have a bed and basic furniture. This will allow the teachers to be able to prepare their lessons and activities.

While the Lukungu Preschool and OVC Centre is operational, these additional facilities are required in order for it to meet the objectives for which it was set-up. Recent developments are that Lukungu Primary School, under whose auspices Lukungu Preschool and OVC Centre operate, was designated as a special needs school for the area. That means that special facilities are required; and these additional structures will fully support the development of the OVC Centre to meet the needs of the community, not only for educational purposes, but special needs of the children too.

UPDATE APRIL 2014

Ernest went to Lukungu in April to meet the school committee for Phase 3 groundwork. A contract with the builder was signed and they have already requested funds from Africa Foundation in South Africa, so that the contractor can start, at the latest, one week after the first payment is made to him.



Newly built OVC Centre.



UPDATE JULY 2014

The construction of two multi-purpose rooms and an administration block are currently underway since the beginning of May, and the current progress is at foundation-level close to completion of the slab. The District Civil Engineer has already visited the site twice, inspecting the foundation-phase and thus far has been happy with the quality of work being carried out.

The structures that are being built are:

- 1) Multi-purpose room, which we previously referred to as physical move / recreation room. This room will be used for daily physical exercises, recreational activities such as singing, dancing, theatre arts training; handicraft activities such as crayon-moulding and drawing. It will also serve as a hall where the school holds monthly debate sessions involving neighbouring schools.

3.

- 2) Administration Block. This will house the Principal's Office, a Staff Room for support staff; and a First Aid Room
- 3) Another multi-purpose room / Preschool Classroom. The Preschool Classroom will be used to teach the older children who will be graduating from preschool into primary school. In addition, there is a storeroom for stationery; and a guard house at the entrance of the school.



Admin block



Multi purpose centre

Thanks to the generous support of Africa Foundation (UK), Lukungu Preschool and OVC Centre is able to function as a Preschool and OVC Centre. Improved facilities create environments that are conducive to learning; and access to water encourages the schools to grow a vegetable garden to supplement their school nutrition programme; and improve sanitation.

The impact of this project is far-reaching as children who have the benefit of adequately suitable learning conditions at this early stage in their education have a greater chance of succeeding in their future school careers.

Phase 4 (which will cost in the region of £42,000) will provide Water Tanks, Playground Equipment, Perimeter fencing for security, as well as School Uniforms and Educational Aids, still requires funding.