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**MTENDE HOMECRAFT FOUNDATION**

** **

**Project Title:** *Girl Child Education Support in Livingstonia school - Malawi*

Submitted by;

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**Project background**

**‘*Girl Child Education Support at Livingstonia school-Malawi’*** is a community driven initiative facilitated by Mtende Homecraft Foundation, trying to provide classrooms and learning materials for 1050 learners who currently are learning under trees and temporary shelters at Livingstonia school - Malawi.

# Situation Analysis for Education in Malawi

Following Government adoption and implementation of free primary school education in 1994 in Malawi there has been many children registering for primary education. This has compromised the education quality as there is an imbalance on teacher pupils’ ratio, number of classrooms, pupil book ratio, furniture, dwindling funding due to economic crisis, and not forgetting poor sanitation among others. The situation has not spared Livingstonia- school and the communities had to respond to the challenges by establishing a number of initiatives such as construction of temporary shelters as learning facilities at school compass. Geographically, Livingstonia –school is located on a hilly and plateau area with full of escarpments and hardly to reach and. this situation put the Livingstonia-Phoka as one of the excluded areas in terms of equal distribution of Government public resources and Donors support for rural development projects. Despite that, the school registered a good enrolment number of learners approximately 2745 against 2 school blocks of 4 classrooms altogether. Lack of inadequate Government Local Development Fund (LDF), Constituency Development Fund (CDF) and other competing demands on the sponsorship funds from government and donors.

# Factors Affecting Services in the Education Sector in Malawi

There are many factors that affect service delivery in the education sector and one of them is;

1. Poor Infrastructure

The state of infrastructure in schools is bad especially in primary and secondary schools. This is both in terms of shortages and quality. Conditions in some primary and secondary schools can be termed as deplorable. Shacks and makeshift classrooms are a common occurrence even in places not far from towns. Poor infrastructure is both a cause and result of poor services delivery in the education sector. Results of poor infrastructure have not been exemplified in places like Livingstonia Primary school where Mtende Homecraft Foundation operates. Poor and uncompleted infrastructure was also noted in some surrounding schools in the area. With such shortfalls in the provision of structures, services can never reach top levels. These are some of the examples of infrastructure as a cause of poor service delivery. In terms of poor infrastructure resulting in poor services, it’s the effect of these poor conditions on the learning environment and learning outcomes. For example, a Kalondolondo report on Girls in Self Boarding revealed that the poor conditions under which girls in self boarding stay have got an extremely negative effect on passing rates. Out of 125 schools assessed only 1 girl managed to make it to college

In response to these challenges, Mtende Homecraft Foundation has embarked on community sensitization campaign to get involved in the development of their schools. This initiative has helped to mobilize resources for the construction of additional classrooms for other vulnerable learners. Looking at the situation, Mtende Homecraft Foundation mobilized communities to support children in schools by molding bricks for constructing of permanent school blocks and a number of schools have managed to secure bricks ready for construction of school blocks in various schools within Livingstonia and surrounding schools.

As part of campaigns, Mtende Homecraft Foundation has embarked on Global-Giving Campaign trying to raise funds for the purchase of roofing materials, plastering and painting the newly constructed school block at Livingstonia school. This school block of two classrooms will manage to accommodate 264 learners who are currently learning under a tree at Livingstonia primary school.

Currently there are 1050 learners that are learning under trees, their lessons are usually disrupted during rainy seasons and this has resulted into increased of absenteeism and drop-outs rate of students especially girls. If nothing is done, the society will lead into extreme poverty.

**Project goal**

To reduce the drop-out rate at Livingstonia school by 60% by 2020 through provision of better learning environment.

**Specific objectives**

* Improved child learning environment and increased child school enrolment rate through school infrastructure support.
* To increased retention rate in schools especially for a girl child through supply of school learning and teaching materials and other basic needs.

**Project main activities**

* Purchase and supply of building materials to newly constructed school block of 2 classrooms.
* Support girls with school stationery and other basic needs.

**Project expected results**

Following the implementation of the above proposed project; the project expects to achieve the following key results;

* Improved school learners’ retention rate and protection of 264 children from bad weather during learning period.
* Reduced child abuse, absenteeism and exploitation.
* Increased a girl child enrolment in school and reduced poverty

**Project Implementation duration**

The proposed project is expected to take 12 months starting from January 2018 to December 2018.

**Project risks**

**Culture**

The prevailing culture that leads to discrimination, abuse and exploitation of children in our catchment area will retard the achievement of the project goal. The project therefore will draw chiefs and local leaders to sensitization campaign programme and further abolish such kind of culture so that more children are able to participate and achieve their rights to education. As custodian of cultural norms, their involvement is very critical for successful cultural and practical change.

**Gender**

In Livingstonia – Malawi gender aspect, boys and girls, men and women assume culturally different identities and traits. The status is worse among females as compared to their male counterparts. For instance, a female headed household has 14% less consumption per capita than a male headed household mainly due to gender based differences in access and control over resources (UN-Malawi 2010 Report). In addition, girls and boys experience some form of GBV during their life time. The experience of violence increases the risk of HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases. This could probably explain the fact that HIV prevalence among women and girls is still disproportionately higher at 12.9% than the national average of 10.6% while that of their male counterparts is at 8.1% (DHS 2010).

It is in this context that addressing a girl child education is among the priorities of Mtende Homecraft Foundation through the above mentioned project which complement UN and Government of Malawi agenda on universal access to education and poverty reduction programmes.

Education is essential for social-economic development and industrial growth. It is an instrument for empowering the poor, the weak and voiceless as it provides them with equal opportunity to participate in local and national development (Malawi Growth and Development Strategy II).

**Project beneficiaries**

The project current target is 264 learners (girls) in Livingstonia primary school as beneficiaries through construction of 1 school block. As already explained above, the school block will have two classrooms that will accommodate 264 young learners and this will reduce the current problem of inadequate classrooms in Livingstonia especially for girl learners from grade one to two.

**Project involvement**

As already highlighted above, to ensure accountability to its members, Mtende Homecraft Foundation will continue to involve community participatory approach strategy that involves all stakeholders including the marginalized group in the society to take part in project designing and implementation and this creates community project ownership.

**Project sustainability**

As regards to project future participation and sustainability, a strategy has been designed in such a way that school management committee of Livingstonia primary school as primary beneficiaries will be drawn into capacity building programme. This capacity will provide and facilitate development of strong, effective and equitable service delivery to school management programme which in return will achieve project management mechanisms and ownership and this will help to support the on-going project activities.

**Project budget estimates**

The proposed project budget for completion of school block is **US$ 8 790 = (MWK 6,200,000.00).** This budget will be used to purchase roofing materials, plastering and flooring, decorating, transport costs and administrative costs.

**Fundraising strategy**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Proposed starting date** | **Proposed ending date** | **Type of donation options (minimum)** | **Projected project donation volume** | **Donation project Goal** |
| December 2017 | December 2017 | $100 (major donors) | $8,790 | To reduce the drop-out rate at Livingstonia school by 60% by 2020 through provision of better learning environment. |
| ^^ ^^ | ^^ ^^ | $20 (Small & individual donors) | ^^ ^^ | ^^ ^^ |
|  |  |  |  |  |

**Organization background**

Mtende Homecraft Foundation is a Faith Based Organization registered with Malawi government as Local NGO in 2014. The organization **goal** is to improve lives of vulnerable communities and strives to develop a well informed and self sustainable community through capacity building programmes in various levels of rural development.

**Vision**

Developing a well informed and self sustainable community for better rural livelihood.

**Mission**

Working in partnership with vulnerable communities and diverse them to overcome illiteracy, hunger and promotion of health among rural communities.

**Core Values**

* ***Participation: -*** To promote participation and association in social activities.
* ***Professionalism:*** - Execution of duties without exclusion and partiality and corruption.
* ***Transparency and accountability:*** - We are committed to being transparent, honest, accountable and trustworthy.
* ***Sustainability: -*** We believe in comprehensive sustenance of social-cultural and moral values and development infrastructure.
* ***Christ centered spirit: -*** We believe in executing our duties with Christ spirit of non discrimination and condemnation.

**Goal**

* To improve lives of vulnerable communities through support, care and capacity building programmes in various areas of rural development.

**Strategic objectives**

1. To provide care and support to orphan and vulnerable children (OVCs) in education sector.
2. To empower smallholder farmers to alleviate poverty and attain food security at household level.
3. To create community awareness and support on health issues with focus on HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis (TB) Malaria and other related diseases.

**Location**

Mtende Homecraft Foundation is located at Mantchewe village next to Mantchewe waterfalls **5**km away east of Livingstonia Mission Station in Rumphi district - Malawi. The Organization’s catchment area covers 2 Primary Education Zones within Livingstonia–Phoka Zone area in Traditional Authority- **Kachulu** inRumphiNorth constituency. Livingstonia –Phoka Zone is hilly area full of escarpments and hardly reached with warm tropical climate with an average annual temperature of 28.2 to 35 degrees Celsius. The area has over 35 000 people with an average population density of around 70 people per sq.km. Women head 25% of the households, which are disproportionately poor.

**Governing Board**

Mtende Homecraft Foundation has a functioning Board of Trustees composed of 7 members chaired by Dr. Foster Lungu, a lecturer at Mzuzu University who head the governing board of the organization and a secretariat is headed by Executive Director who runs the daily operations of the organization. According to constitution, the supreme authority is vested in Quadrennial congress which is convened in every 4 years.

Mtende represent the most marginalized people such as women and children in the area of education, health and poverty reduction. Since inception, the Organization has conducted a number of community capacity building interventions aiming at improving rural education standard. These capacities include community training, care, support and counselingin child rights to education supported by Democracy Consolidation Programme and other partners.

To ensure accountability to its members, Mtende Homecraft Foundation developed a community participatory approach strategy that involves all stakeholders including the marginalised group in the society to take part in project designing and implementation. These stakeholders include Village Development Committees, Area Development Committees, Parents and Teacher Associations, School Committees and other relevant Community committees who take a leading role in planning and implementing the project interventions.

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**Achievements**

 

***Vulnerable children supported with school uniforms by Mtende Homecraft Foundation***

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