

BFSS 6 Month Report Muumba Community School



We are happy to inform you that the 1x3 classroom block at Muumba Community School in Zambia has been completed! The new building has already changed the learning environment of all the 206 pupils.

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1. Introduction, building process and community involvement:

The foundation of the block was completed even though the build faced a number of challenges. The rainy season made it difficult for the contractor to follow the schedule and also the community were struggling to combine farming responsibilities and moulding bricks at the same time. As the rainy season was over the construction was progressing very well. The community ferried bricks to the site and were able to support the contractor and his builders by providing water and other upfront materials. It is an incredible undertaking where everyone has to get involved as everything is done by hand and all the hauling of the bricks, sand and gravel to the school is done with carts driven by oxen or using buckets.

The ring beam level was completed at the beginning of June and the new classroom block then had a gable and supporting channels for the iron sheets. The builders then focused on fitting the window and door frames, which gave our construction supervisor enough time to measure the dimensions and order glass panes in time. The flooring and plastering as well as the painting started as soon as the roofing was completed in the middle of June.

The teachers, parents and especially the pupils are extremely happy to receive three new classrooms, which boosts both the teacher's and the pupil's teaching and learning morale. As more and more children are being sent to Muumba Community School, the numbers are rising and now that the block is finished, the school has 6 classrooms to cater for the new enrolments.

Not only does the community now take ownership of the school and feel proud of their work, but also do they realise that the hard work of moulding more than 70,000 bricks, hauling 82 tons of sand, 50 tons of gravel and 70 tons of crushed stones to the building site finally pays off.

Quality of education remains the focus for AR and all our projects are directly linked to securing improved quality of education. The completed classroom block creates just this! Thank you for your generous donation.





2. Outputs achieved:

Thanks to your generous donation, Muumba now has 6 classrooms as opposed to 3 in 2013! This is including a double classroom block constructed by CARE International in 2012. CARE International is no longer implementing educational projects in Kalomo so the involvement of another NGO at the school is a positive turn. The community have demonstrated their willingness and ability to contribute towards the development of the school through the provision of local raw materials such as bricks, sand, gravel and unskilled labour.

Development of a community school's infrastructure such as classrooms, latrines and staff housing, greatly increases the schools prospect of achieving the standard required by the Ministry of Education to be classified as a "Primary" school, and thus eligible to receive support from Ministry of Education. Once classified as a Government school, Muumba will receive funds each term according to enrolment figures. Additionally, as a Government primary school the Ministry are obliged to send trained teachers to the school. Both has an immense impact on the future of the school as the community struggled to raise £65 a term to pay their community teachers, which has already resulted in two teachers resigning last year. With the newly employed teacher dramatic changes regarding the teaching and learning environment at Muumba School have already taken place, shortly after the building has been completed!

Last year the school had:

- 2 untrained, community paid teachers
- 203 pupils, grade 1-7 (104 girls, 99 boys)
- 1x3 classroom block, built by CARE International in 2012
- Twin Staff House, built by AR and finished in 2013
- 2 latrine blocks, 1 for boys, 1 for girls

Now, with the new classroom block, the school has:

- 3 teachers, 2 untrained, community paid teachers, 1 Government trained and paid teacher
- 271 pupils, grade 1-7
- 1x3 classroom block, built by CARE International in 2012
- Twin Staff House, built by AR and finished in 2013
- 2 latrine blocks, 1 for boys, 1 for girls
- 1x3 classroom block, built by AR in 2013-14, including furniture

3. Wider outcomes and benefits:

The 1x3 classroom block project at Muumba Community School encouraged AR to also provide the school with 61 pupil's desks and 2 teacher's desks with chairs and a shelf for learning materials! The furniture was delivered to the school as soon as the final touches had been made last week.



4. Outcomes and benefits on students' learning:

Like so many rural schools in Zambia, Muumba faces a number of challenges in providing an education to children in the area. One of these has been the high absenteeism amongst pupils and low motivation amongst staff due to the lack of classrooms at the school. The two new classrooms built by CARE International have already begun to raise the standards of education at Muumba and the additional classrooms are now changing the face of the school completely. Not only is there a drastic change in morale and motivation, but also changes can be seen regarding the in-class performance. According to the teachers, pupils are now attending school regularly and therefore the learning results are improving.

By completing this classroom block, we greatly improved the learning environment at Muumba and enabled several classes to be held simultaneously, also reducing the need for multi-grade teaching. Classes no longer have to be held in the late afternoon, leaving room and time to use the classrooms after school for other activities such as women groups, youth friendly activities and church on Sundays.

Since the classroom block has only been finished a couple of weeks ago due to the farming season and lack of water supply at times, not all the outcomes, including any unexpected ones, are measurable. It will take some time for the pupils and the teachers to settle in and follow the day to day routine until any further benefits of the construction can be clearly seen, which will be reported in the final report due in November. The BFSS funding however definitely helped to boost the teacher's motivation and the community now take pride in the new school and its upgrade. More and more pupils are enrolling and parents are starting to understand the importance of education for their children. The teachers have received their salaries on time and in full amount!

Outcomes proposed:

Outcomes achieved (regarding the new classroom block):

Improved pass-rates in Primary Final Examinations	More pupils enrolled this term, which shows the new classroom block will cater for more pupils in the area, increasing the amount of possible grade 7 pass-rates
Improvements in teacher attendance, increase in teaching morale	Parents report an improvement in teacher attendance, commitment and support, especially due to the support of a newly posted Government trained teacher to the school
Improvements of the relationship between the school and community	The struggles and delays in the building have shown the community the importance of working together and achieving a set goal. The relationship is now based on trust and responsibility.
Increase in number of Government trained and paid teachers in the long term	One committed Government trained and paid teacher has already been posted to the school. More can follow as soon as the school can provide suitable accommodation.
Increase in enrolment figures	Enrolment figures have already increased. Pupils from neighbouring villages and schools are now attending Muumba School, making ways shorter for the pupils to walk.
	Pupils, parents, teachers take pride and ownership in their school and are determined to upgrade the school even further.

5. Lessons learned:

- There have been a few delays during the construction works, mostly due to the rainy season and then farming and harvest kept the community busy on their fields, instead of providing the contractor with further building materials such as sand and water.
- Often better communication on both sides could have speeded up the process. AR didn't have suitable transport available at that time and monitoring of the project became difficult. We are currently sourcing funding for a new vehicle.
- AR and its team are working on the evaluation of the problems that occurred during the construction period and especially on finding new ways of better communication between the community and the contractor for future projects at Muumba and other schools.

6. Future activities:

- Muumba is now eager to mould more bricks and ferry upfront materials to the school for the construction of new latrine blocks and another teacher house.
- The classroom block is officially going to be handed over to the school at the end of July and the District Education Board as well as the entire community will attend this joyful event.



7. Monitoring, Evaluation and Sustainability:

African Revival's work in schools we support is monitored and compared against district and national averages to ensure our support is making a difference. We carefully select which schools we support to ensure that we have the maximum impact.

Our monitoring is supported by our partners, including the local Government District Education Board and our contractors on site. They assist in constant monitoring, evaluation and reporting on African Revival's activities in the schools.



The Senior Management Committee (SMC) and Parents Teachers Association (PTA) have also been trained to monitor issues such as teachers' attendance, quality of lesson delivery, and pupils' attendance, enrolment and retention.

Monitoring by AR staff is also conducted monthly, where both administrative and classroom appraisals are conducted. With our holistic support to schools, we expect general improvements in academic standards, as noted by our broad outcomes. AR staff will continue visiting Muumba Community School on a regular basis, monitoring the school's development and supervising the building progress.

We will provide a completion year-end report. Should you have further reporting needs or particular requirements, African Revival will be happy to discuss how such requirements can be best met.



8. Financial Report

	<u>ZMW</u>	<u>GBP</u>
Direct Staff Costs	17,143	1,921
Direct Construction Costs	108,101	12,112
Direct Transport Costs	3,821	428
Direct Local Office Costs	50	6
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Total Direct Costs	<u>129,114</u>	<u>14,467</u>
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Overheads (@15% of total cost)	22,789	2,553
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Total Cost	<u><u>151,903</u></u>	<u><u>17,020</u></u>
Note:	(Based on	
Exchange	exchange	
rate	rate	
	achieved on	
	transfer of	
	funds to	
	Zambia)	
8.925		

**From the pupils, teachers and parents of Muumba School
Thank you for your support.**