

NAMASUTE COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Update Report

August, 2021

Namasute Community School is located about 165KM from Livingstone and the Chief in charge of the area is Chief Sekute. The school has children from 23 villages coming to learn (Siakalundu, Kanema, Liswaniso, Siamulo, Mulelenyana, Mungole, Siachibuye, Kopili, Kapanda, Jama Sialwindi, Simukoma, BBLIBISI, Madonze, Mutambe, Pikili, Mulumuhongo, Sibulukila, Mulambo, Machila, Malambo, Mulelna, Munyngwa, and Simulinda are the villages where the school children hail from).

The local economy is dependent on rain fed peasant farming and the communities are prone to hunger during drought spells. The other preoccupation for the people's livelihood is cattle, goat, chicken and sheep rearing.



Set up of the villages in Namasute

Like many rural schools in rural Zambia, children at Namasute Community school were learning in a grass thatched classroom with no desks to sit on. The school has a total of 334 pupils (178 girls, 156 boys) and there are some children with disabilities at the school as well. The school has three untrained volunteer teachers (1 female, 2 male) who try to guide the children and teach them as best they can, though having a trained teacher to offer guidance and set an educational standard, would greatly benefit the school and the community. The school currently runs up to the seventh grade.



The current classroom at Namasute

In 2020, Namasute community was identified as a beneficiary of support from Slemmestad. Through this support, the community was supported with building materials to construct a 1 x 1 classroom block on self help basis. The project was not completely finished due to limited funds but continued later in 2021.



The first 1 x 1 classroom block in 2020

This year in 2021, some more funds from Slemmestad were used on the school. The current project at the school is extension of a 1x2 classroom block, which is going well and the project is fully supported by the community. The roof has already been completed and they are currently plastering the interior and exterior of the building. Another organisation called Caritas Zambia has supported the school with four pit latrine toilets (2 for boys and 2 girls) and a borehole within 50m distance from the School. This will enhance hygiene and sanitation at the school.



The extension of a 1 x 1 to a 1x2 classroom block. The extension is the right side added.

Due to limited resources raised for the extension project, we borrowed the project extra money on top of the 16,000 NOK to complete the structure for this year before the onset of the rains.

The future plans for the community is a Staff House so that they qualify to receive a trained teacher from the Government, hence any future support rendered would be channeled to that project. The children are eager for the project to be completed as previously, they had to traverse long distances up to 12KM to get to the nearest school. The other immediate need are desks which can be used in the new classrooms. Currently the learners are sitting on bricks and logs.

The community is overjoyed at the support they have received and feel they cannot express enough just what the soon-to-be-completed project means for their community and their children. Some parents feared to send their children to school due to the long distance they would have had to cover, however now that the school is being built, they can send their children to school with free minds, knowing they will be safe and nearby. The estimated cost of future plans is 150,000 NOK. On behalf of the Namasute Community, thank you for your continued support.

Reasons for the delay in completion of the project

The schools are built on self- help basis, which means the communities have to be mobilized and encouraged to complete the project at their reasonable and practical pace. This means that the community members are fully involved in the construction of the project and this ensures sustainability once the support comes to a stop. In this way they do feel ownership over the school, and will naturally look well after it. This may not have been their attitude if the school had been built for them by a constructor, as they would not have sweat for it.

This year, the country had General elections and this meant that a lot of campaign activities were in progress and taking off some of the time from the members who had to follow campaign rallies to listen to what various political parties were offering if voted for. The other factor was covid 19. Unlike other

years, the Covid toll was more felt due to increased deaths witnessed. This dampened community members morale and also because of the Government guidelines on the number of people that were allowed to gather at a given time. With reduced cases now, work has accelerated again.