

Mucombedzi Library Project Description

This project is being proposed by SAM Ministries in order to provide much needed facilities to our grade school which serves in a remote community in Mozambique.

Community Need

The Mucombedzi grade-school currently serves 350 children in the school (an 8 x 30 meter building) built by the mission. Classes are held on a rotating schedule with some students studying in the morning, and others in the afternoon.

The children come from very poor, and for the most part, illiterate or semi-literate families who live in extremely difficult situations. As a result, reading material and more specifically the storage, protection and access to reading materials, has been impossible to provide consistently.

Donations of books, as well as funds to purchase contextually relevant materials, have been secured. What is desperately needed now is a library building which will provide:

- A secure location where these books can be stored, preserved and consistently made available to students.
- A storage room for additional library equipment and supplies which is secure and free of rats and mice.
- A clean and cool reading area which can be used by one class of children at a time that also allows for the appropriate use and care of the books to ensure they are available for years of use.

Project objectives

This project proposal is to enable the construction of a 16m x 5.8m building divided into three sections: a reading room (10m x 5.8m), the library book section (4m x 5.8m) and a library storage (2m x 5.8m). (See attached drawings)

The design is based on similar facilities built in conjunction with schools in more developed areas of the country, specifically those in towns and cities.

Project Management

Once funding is secured, SAM Ministries through its agent in Mozambique, will assume responsibility for the management and implementation of this project with close participation of the local community.

Beneficiaries:

Mucombedzi is a hard working but poor, rural community located in the central province of Manica, Mozambique. The many years of Mozambique's war for

independence and subsequent civil war (1970's to 1993) have resulted in the destruction of its infrastructure (roads, services, schools, etc.). The recovery from war has been slow but steady, and this community has witnessed a dramatic growth in the number of residents as people returned from safe areas and surrounding countries to reclaim previously owned land. Another factor that has added to the growth in community numbers recently has been the influx of refugees fleeing the deterioration in the neighboring country of Zimbabwe. Our rural and rustic grade-school faces significant challenges to bring children to an acceptable level of literacy which enables them to continue their education through sponsorship.

As mentioned, due to their living conditions at home, children simply cannot care for books and reading materials without them being damaged from rain, rats or simply because they are stored on a dirt floor.

The conditions faced by the Mucombedzi community are well described by this quote from the International Fund for Agriculture Development that say, "Two-thirds of rural people have to walk more than an hour to reach the closest health unit. Only 60 per cent of them have access to safe water. Poverty in rural areas is also closely related to access to education. While 82 per cent of urban dwellers have access to primary school education, the figure drops to 57 per cent for the rural population. More than two-thirds of rural Mozambicans are illiterate."

Community Contribution:

The community has committed itself to active participation in helping to maintain the road and bridges that serve this isolated location. Although local skills are very limited, some of the labor will be provided by the community slightly reducing the labor cost for the overall project.

Project Implementation:

As soon as funding can be found, the transport of materials to location will begin with the missions' truck. We estimate that it would take realistically about 10 months to construct and complete the project as proposed.

Some important considerations we deal with in this context are as follows:

1. The Season: Depending on when funding becomes available, bricks can only be made by the community when it is not raining, that being from March through November, and when everyone is not cultivating or harvesting their food production for the year, that being April through to October. (In other words, bricks are generally not available from November until March.)
2. The Supplies: Without warning, we can experience shortages of cement or other building supplies which can last for a month or two and which can result in building schedule delays.

3. Transport available: Although the mission does have its own truck and will participate in the project, often other trucks are sourced to assist when the work-load is high, so there are times this can result in delays as well.

Project Budget

The total budget estimate need is \$25,144.89.

At this stage (Oct, 2012), one donation of Portuguese books has been made and shipped while another has been promised. Several thousand dollars have already been donated for the preparation and printing of culturally relevant books in Portuguese as well as the local African dialect. This is already helping to ensure better literacy for the children.

Please see attached schedule B for budget detail.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Project monitoring and evaluation will be carried out by SAM Ministries' field director with involvement of the local community leader. Reports along with pictures cataloguing progress will be supplied to the donor once per month or as required by donor.

Project Sustainability:

SAM Ministries' has had active management of the grade-school as well as the health post and feeding program associated with this grade school for the past 17 years. This is a long term commitment along with the active participation of the community helps to ensure sustainability of the program and care of the structures.

Potential Risks and Mitigation

Most building projects in this context run the risk of funds being misdirected but the mission through its financial system have managed resources in numerous projects very successfully and efficiently. Full financial transparency is maintained within the organization and reports are available on request.

Theft of building materials is a risk, but due to the proximity of the mission to the community in question along with proven staff and sub-contractors in the community, this risk is mitigated.

Although budgeting has been done in the local currency and there is a risk of price increases due to inflation. This risk is mitigated by quoting the Canadian Dollar figure which normally provides stability in budgeting since in the past increases in costs have been off-set by a devaluation of the Mozambican currency to the Canadian dollar.

Thank you for your time and attention given to this project. We appreciate your consideration.