



Chilangoma Construction Report



18 May to 30 June, 2025

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CfM Facilitator



Introduction

The school was visited for assessment by the contractor (DEL) and Dezie Trigu on 26 April, 2023. It is in Blantyre Rural education district and in Chigumukire zone. The school was established in 1954 and the nearest school is Mtengowambalame at a distance of 3kms.

It is a full Primary school (has eight grades/Standards). The school has 7 feeder villages and these are: Kuntaja (where it is located), Mgundo, Zimba, Ntambaliuzi, Kachamba, Zimba and Samama. The parents of the learners practice subsistence farming. Members of the school governing bodies come from these villages.

The school had a total of 4 blocks. Three of the four blocks had 2 classrooms each and one block had 4 classrooms (combined two blocks of two classrooms each with an office and mini library in between) making a total of 10 classrooms. This included the two new classrooms for Malawi block that was built in 2015/2016. This year, 2025, the government has built a block of two classrooms. This has brought the total number of classrooms to 12.

There are 5 teachers' houses and 4 of them need renovations. The headteacher's house was tubed and wired in readiness for electricity. The same applies to the headteacher's office and library. The rest of the classrooms have no electricity provision.

It is worth noting that, the four newly renovated classrooms and library have been tubed and wired in readiness for electricity (solar power). The time this report was being written, the funds for solar powering had been provided.

It is also worth noting that the national electricity power grid is close to the school. However, the connection has not been effected yet.

CfM Pillars' Needs Assessment

The assessment of the school focused on the 8 key areas/constraints identified by the Malawi Ministry of Education, Science and Technology in National Education Sector Investment Plan 2020-2030. These are said to be hampering educational attainment. So, we work to ensure that schools have:

- 1) Accessible quality classrooms;
- 2) Appropriate hygiene facilities;
- 3) Relevant furniture;
- 4) Adequate learning materials;
- 5) School gardens;
- 6) Feeding programmes;
- 7) Offsetting carbon emissions from the construction process; and
- 8) Community involvement and empowerment.

In the course of our work we advocate for global citizenship.

School Visit Objective

The main objective of the visit was to assess the extent to which Chilangoma Primary School meets the above pillars and detect areas of CfM's intervention.

Data Sources

The main sources of data were:

1. Interviews with the Headteacher and Deputy Headteacher;
2. Observation; and
3. Statistical Return document for Chilangoma Primary school.

Indicators

The data were collected by focusing on the following indicators:

1. Enrolment;
2. Staffing;
3. Teaching and learning materials;
4. Water and sanitation;
5. School Infrastructure and environment;
6. Learner performance;
7. Learner dropout rate; and
8. Repetition rate

Enrolment

The enrolment of the school has been as follows:

Table 1: School enrolment

| | Std 1 | | Std2 | | Std 3 | | Std4 | | Std 5 | | Std6 | | Std 7 | | Std8 | | Total | | G. TOTAL |
|-------------|-------|-------|------|-------|-------|-------|------|-------|-------|-------|------|-------|-------|-------|------|-------|-------|-------|------------|
| | Boys | Girls | Boys | Girls | Boys | Girls | Boys | Girls | Boys | Girls | Boys | Girls | Boys | Girls | Boys | Girls | Boys | Girls | |
| 2017 | 55 | 54 | 53 | 35 | 57 | 55 | 66 | 52 | 56 | 52 | 40 | 33 | 33 | 27 | 26 | 21 | 386 | 329 | 715 |
| 2018 | 44 | 52 | 48 | 39 | 44 | 34 | 66 | 45 | 45 | 40 | 34 | 43 | 29 | 34 | 8 | 21 | 318 | 308 | 626 |
| 2019 | 75 | 67 | 43 | 38 | 51 | 30 | 57 | 64 | 49 | 41 | 30 | 35 | 25 | 25 | 14 | 21 | 344 | 321 | 665 |
| 2020 | 75 | 70 | 45 | 36 | 49 | 30 | 48 | 41 | 41 | 40 | 29 | 32 | 29 | 30 | 8 | 21 | 324 | 300 | 624 |
| 2021 | 69 | 69 | 54 | 54 | 50 | 42 | 48 | 33 | 38 | 37 | 30 | 34 | 22 | 32 | 13 | 21 | 324 | 322 | 646 |
| 2022 | 55 | 70 | 58 | 58 | 33 | 46 | 69 | 59 | 32 | 30 | 39 | 45 | 24 | 23 | 8 | 21 | 318 | 352 | 670 |
| 2023 | 53 | 59 | 54 | 40 | 37 | 41 | 42 | 43 | 63 | 48 | 30 | 33 | 15 | 27 | 16 | 17 | 310 | 308 | 618 |

In 2025, after the renovations, the enrolment has been as follows :

Table 2: School enrolment in 2025

| | Std 1 | | Std2 | | Std 3 | | Std4 | | Std 5 | | Std6 | | Std 7 | | Std8 | | Total | | G. TOTAL |
|-------------|-------|----|------|----|-------|----|------|----|-------|----|------|----|-------|----|------|---|-------|-----|------------|
| 2025 | 55 | 49 | 46 | 49 | 45 | 25 | 41 | 29 | 38 | 25 | 30 | 39 | 25 | 33 | 10 | 6 | 290 | 255 | 545 |

From the above tables, it shows that enrolment has dropped slightly

During the needs assessment There were 11 teachers at the school (5 Female and 6 Male) and currently there are still 11 teachers (3 female and 8 male).

**Teacher: Pupil Ratio
and Classroom: Pupil
Ratio**

i. Teachers

In 2023 with the enrolment of 618 and the total number of teachers of 11 therefore the

The renovated block





teacher:pupil ratio was 1:56. While this year, 2025, with the enrolment of 545 and the total number of teachers of 11 the teacher:pupil ratio is 1:50.

The Malawi national average of teacher: pupil ratio is 1:73. However, some schools have a higher teacher: pupil ratio of as much as 1:120 or more. The most desirable ratio is 1:40 but currently the government of Malawi is striving to achieve a ratio of 1 teacher to 60 learners.

1) Accessible quality classrooms

As stated above, the school has now a total of 5 blocks. Four of the five blocks have 2 classrooms each and one block has 4 classrooms (combined two blocks of two classrooms each) making a total of 12 classrooms. Apart from having the 12 classrooms, the school has the headteacher's office, mini staffroom and library too.

One block out of the five blocks, is newly built by the government. During the time of needs assessment, the four existing blocks were meeting the Malawi government Standard (permanent) but three were darker inside because they had breeze blocks instead of ring windows and some areas were requiring maintenance. Thus Hillpark Secondary school, repaired one of the 3 old blocks in June 2023 and the CfM block was painted during the same period.

This year, 2025, Hillpark secondary school has repaired a second block of 4 classrooms. This means that there is one more classroom block to be repaired and so too the Mary's Meals Kitchen. The school is also in dire need of pit latrines for learners and teachers.

With the 12 classrooms the classroom: pupil ratio is now 1:46. Currently, the desired classroom: pupil ratio by the Malawi government is 1:60 and the government of Malawi is currently striving to achieve that ratio because some of the schools are at the ratio of 1:120 or more. At national level, the average classroom: pupil ratio is 1:70. The most desirable classroom: pupil ratio is 1:40.

The infrastructural defects and required solutions, before Hillpark's intervention were as follows:

BLOCK ONE Stds 4 and 5

Block One: It has two classrooms



The floor



Block two: It has 2 classrooms

Block one renovation needs are:

- Floor repair
- 3 doors replacement
- 14 ring windows
- Ring beam building
- 2 notice boards replacement
- Roof sealing
- Drain building (20 X2 =40m)
- Fascia board replacement
- Side paving
- 2 ten feet sheets of 28 gauge each
- Wall repair/plaster and paint

Block Two and three renovation needs are:

- Floor repair
- 3 doors replacement
- 14 ring windows
- Ring beam building
- 2 notice boards replacement
- Roof sealing



Inside Block two has standards 4 and 5

- Drain building (20X2=40m)
- Fascia board replacement
- Side paving
- 2 ten feet sheets of 28 gauge each
- Wall repair/plaster and paint

JOINED BLOCKS THREE AND FOUR: Has 4 classrooms (Std 1,2 3 and 4), headteacher's office, staffroom and library (the library only has been repaired)



Block 3 has 2 classrooms



The joined Blocks Three and Four renovation needs are:

- Floor repair
- 5 doors replacement
- 28 ring windows
- Ring beam building
- 4 notice boards replacement
- Roof sealing
- Drain building (44X2=88m)
- Fascia board replacement
- Side paving
- 2 ten feet sheets of 28 gauge each
- Wall repair/plaster and paint
- Paving both sides
- Install solar in the whole block since it is taking long for the school to be connected to the national electricity grid

NB: Meaningful Repair of this block will require the repair of all the 4 classrooms (Blocks 3 and 4) and headteacher's office



BLOCK FIVE. Standards 6 and Std1 (Already repaired in June 2023)



Inside one of block 5 classrooms



Block Five renovation needs were (Now renovated):

- Floor repair
- 4 doors replacement because of lockers
- 14 ring windows
- Ring beam building
- 2 notice boards replacement
- Roof sealing
- Drain building (22X2=44m)
- Fascia board replacement
- Side paving
- Wall repair/plaster and paint
- Paving both sides
- Repairs 2 lockers



Block 5 has standards 6 and 1 (Already)

Mary's Meals Kitchen



Kitchen renovation

needs are:

- Floor repair
- 2 doors replacement because of lockers
- Roof mending and sealing
- Drain building
- Fascia board painting
- Side paving
- Wall repair/plaster
- Termite treatment



Around the MM kitchen

CURRENT STATUS

As stated in the above table, block 5 was repaired in July 2023 courtesy of Hillpark Secondary school. The same partner secondary school repaired blocks 2 and 3 in 2025(this year).

In 2025, The team comprised 33 people (4 teachers and 29 students). They were in the country from 2 to 15 June. They worked with us from 2 to 6 June. The works comprised the renovation of two blocks comprising two classrooms each. Apart from the renovations, the classrooms were also tubed and wired



PRE AND POST PICTURES
Block 5 RENOVATED IN 2023

BLOCK 5 BEFORE



LIBRARY RENOVATED IN 2023 BEFORE PICTURES



LIBRARY RENOVATED IN 2023 AFTER RENOVATION PICTURES





Book donation from Hillpark



The 2023 team

BLOCK 5 AFTER RENOVATIONS | 2023





The 2023 team at work





BLOCKS TWO AND THREE BEFORE RENOVATIONS IN 2025





The 2025 team



We paid the District Education Office a courtesy call



The 2025 team members



BLOCKS TWO AND THREE AFTER RENOVATIONS IN 2025





The 2025 team





Inside one of the renovated classrooms

What improvements were done

The following improvements were made to Blocks 2 and 3 (considered as one block/block 2):

- Floor repair
- 5 doors replacement
- 28 ring windows were fitted;
- Ring beam building;
- 4 notice boards replacement;
- Roof sealing;
- Roof guarding;
- Drain building (44X2=88m);
- Fascia board replacement;
- Worn out 2 ten feet sheets of 28 gauge each were replaced with new ones;
- Wall repair/plaster and painting; and
- Wiring/ electrification in readiness for solar

Workforce

For the 2025 works the composition of the workers was as follows:

| Type of workers | Number |
|-----------------|-----------|
| Mortar boys | 8 |
| Builders | 14 |
| Electricians | 5 |
| Carpenters | 4 |
| Painters | 10 |
| Water drawers | 6 |
| Electricians | 2 |
| Total | 49 |

Relevant furniture

The school had only 20 old and worn-out double learners' desks and 12 teachers' desks plus 14 plastic chairs.



The above are the school desks that the school had during the needs assessment and most of the learners were sitting on the floor

However, during the visit prior to his report's writing, I found that Ambuya Development Centre, the organization that has donated 50 chairs to Bright Future Nursery School had also donated 200 chairs and desks to the school.



Some of the 200 desks and chairs that were donated by Ambuya Development Centre

Adequate learning materials

At the time of needs assessment, the school had a football and netball ground. The school did not have inadequate learners' books. Neither did it have a laptop nor printer.

Hillpark Secondary School provided new balls to the school. Hillpark also drew some teaching and learning aids on the walls during both visits (2023 and 2025). There are premade charts written and drawn by the teachers but not models. In 2024, Gloria, based in USA provided 881 additional books to the school's library.

Feeding programme:

The School has a school feeding programme that is being provided by Mary's Meals. The school has also a kitchen.



The school kitchen

Offsetting carbon emissions from the construction process

The school plants trees annually and funds have been sourced to provide solar power to the 2025 renovate block

Summary of the school's Major Challenges

The school faces the following challenges:

- Poor condition of classrooms needing renovations: There is one more block and kitchen that need renovations;
- Lack of adequate text books; and
- Lack of additional desks;

Summary of Works' Successes

- The renovations were finalized in good time and as planned;
- The donors, Hillpark Secondary School participated in the works;
- During the welcome and farewell ceremonies both the visitors and host school made performances;
- Local leaders and community members took part in both events;
- There was good interaction among all the stakeholders that also included sports activities; and
- Construction materials were readily available at the site.

Summary of Works' Challenges

- The team felt that they had stayed at the school for few days.

Anecdotes

Learners

The blocks are now being used by Standards 3 and 4 learners and they had to say this vis a vis the renovations:

- The classrooms look beautiful;
- With the breeze blocks as windows they had difficulties to see what was being written on the chalkboard but now with the newly fitted ring windows, it is very easy to see what has been written on the chalkboard because the classrooms are now well lit;
- There wasn't enough ventilation in the classrooms with the breeze blocks for windows, Furthermore, the classrooms were very hot but now with the newly fitted ring windows, the classrooms are well ventilated and cooler;
- The chalkboards were rough and worn out therefore it was difficult to see some words and they were copying most of them wrongly but now they can clearly see whatever is written on the chalkboard.

The teachers



- With the replacement of the doors, they now have adequate classroom security;
- The classrooms never leak since all the roof holes were sealed;
- With the dented floor, the learners' uniforms were always dirty but now the situation has changed;
- The chalkboards were very rough and slippery to write on but now all is well;
- Their library is now well stocked and both teachers and learners borrow books to read.

End of Report