



**Ikupa Initiative for Intergrated
Sustainable Community Development
(IIISCOD)**

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Programme: Improving Access and Quality of Education for learners with special needs in Karonga

Project: Drilling of borehole project proposal for Karonga School for the Deaf

1. Background

Ikupa Initiative for Intergrated Sustainable Community Development (IIISCOD) is a Malawian Non-Governmental Organization (NGO), non-profit and non-partisan organization registered with the Malawi Government under the Trustees Incorporation Act in 2017. The Organization focusses on socioeconomically disadvantaged groups of women, youth and children whilst ensuring the inclusion of special groups such as widows, physically impaired persons and the elderly. The strategic focus of the organization include: Health, Education, Good Governance, Gender based violence and Child Protection and Livelihoods whilst mainstreaming HIV/AIDS, Gender, Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management. IIISCOD endeavours to contribute to the empowerment of youths as well as ensure the access and achievement in education by all children without any form of discrimination in fulfilment of the birth right to access of education. In order to ensure such children access education IIISCOD is working with Karonga School for the Deaf.

Improving Access and Quality of Education for learners with special needs in Karonga is an initiative by IIISCOD that aims at ensuring that children with various impairments also access education as per their rights. The initiative targets three schools namely:

- Karonga school for the Deaf
- St. Marys School for the visually impaired
- Nyungwe school for the visually impaired

Karonga School for the Deaf was established in 2005 with the help of the CCAP Livingstonia Synod in order to serve Chitipa, Karonga, Rumphu and Mzimba North communities by providing education to deaf children. The school has 6 teachers who provide services to 86 deaf children, as of December 2019, from standard 1 to 8. The school is a residential institution for both male and female children. The school faces a number of challenges which end up compromising the delivery of quality education for the children. Despite previous efforts from other donors the school still needs assistance to ensure children acquire quality education and attain the primary school qualification.

2. Problem statement

Primary school in Malawi is free as the education policy since 1994. With limited developmental activities for schools supported by governments and based on the decentralization policy it is the duty of community members to facilitate the development of infrastructure including that of schools. Development structures including Village Development committees and School Management committees are the primary initiators of developmental activities in schools.

Karonga School for the Deaf is a residential primary school with learners coming from communities which are far away from the school and the locals surrounding the school despite hosting the school do not have much to benefit as most of their children do not learn at the special needs school. This therefore creates a problem in mobilizing resources for development at the school as it is not possible to bring the children's parents together to mobilize resources. Being a country where primary school is free the parents of the deaf children are unable to contribute resources including for buying food at the residential facility because of inadequate understanding of funding mechanisms as well as low family incomes.

The school therefore relies on a contribution of around MK319, 000 (\$431) a month from government to run operations at the school including paying wages for workers who have to take care of children in the residential facilities, procure food, pay utility bills and also use the same for acquiring some teaching and learning materials. In March 2019 the Northern Region Water Board disconnected water due to accumulated bills amounting to K450,000 (\$608). This was not the first time the school had its water disconnected and, in such cases, learners have to fetch water two kilometres away at a nearby well. Unlike other schools, Karonga school for the Deaf has no well or borehole which can provide sustainable access to water for school rather than relying on utility billed water. Accumulated water bills also affect other issues at the school such that management is unable to provide nutritious meals to the school. The hostel facilities have on a number of occasions been infested by bedbugs which has further strained the school's budget.

3. The project

After discussions with School Management Committee, Parent Teachers Association and management of the school it was agreed that it would be better if a borehole was drilled, fitted with a solar pump and one or two water tank reservoirs. This was thought of as a more sustainable approach than having to pay water utility bills. It has been over 5 years when this was agreed and with the help of the District Water Development Office, a site was already established where a borehole can be drilled. Due to scarcity of resources it was agreed that the water project can be implemented in phases with drilling of a borehole being a priority and then in later stages secure solar kit comprising solar panels, water pump and two water tank reservoirs.

4. Project duration

Once funded the project will be completed in three months including report writing.

5. Expected Outcomes

Once implemented the project will ease management's concentration on water utility bills and direct resources to other areas in improving the welfare and education of the learners. In addition, the project expects to contribute to:

- Improved sanitation
- Improved access to water all year
- Establishment of a vegetable garden (which will also be a practice garden for learners)

6. Sustainability

To ensure the water point is sustained the school committee will be trained in water point management. To ensure the borehole is serviced as per requirement the school will use resources from the school's income generating activities in chicken and goat farming to ensure the funds are available for servicing the borehole.

7. Budget

USD8,560 (MK6,300,436.34)

Costs indicated here are as of June 2019 quoted from a contractor in Karonga which includes borehole drilling, solar pump and water tanks installation.

8. Organization Banking details

Account Name: IIISCOD
Address of Account Holder: P. O. Box X36, Lilongwe
Country: Malawi
Bank Name: FDH Bank
Branch Name: City Centre
Account No. 1970000159649
IBAN Code: GB11CRAS60836833058101
SWIFT Code: FDHFMWMW
Address of Bank: FDH Bank, 2 nd Floor Umoyo House, Victoria Avenue, P. O. Box 512, Blantyre
Country: Malawi