Final Project Report - Malawi

Volunteer Name: Tusayiwe Sikwese

Project Title: Promoting a reading culture

Project Location: Maluwa/ Phalombe

Date Implemented: 1st July 2016

Date Completed:7 December 2016

Brief Description/Executive Summary: Having identified that the school needed non-academic books, both fictional and non-fictional books, I reached out to several international schools through emails and requested for book donations. I was fortunate enough to have two schools that responded positively to my request as I was called to go and collect books from their schools in Blantyre and Lilongwe. I then handed the books over to school. The books were later shelved and made available to the students.

Problems or Needs addressed

I did not submit a proposal for this project however the problem was identified during the time that I was teaching students at Chisugulu Community Day Secondary School, a school in my community. As I was teaching Form 1 and Form 2 students, I noticed that they were not confident when it came to speaking English and their written English was not good at their level. This was due to the fact that the students did not have any other books to read aside from their academic books, which were not exciting and motivating enough for them to have an interest in reading outside school. In addition to that, the students were not allowed to take the academic books out from their improvised library.

As I worked towards implementing the project together with one of the stakeholders, I discovered that there was a need for a well-organized library system for easy management of the books and to enable the students to borrow books in an orderly manner. It also became clear that there would be a need for a book club(for every class)

where the students could meet, share what they had read from their books with their peers and also write reports to improve their written and oral skills, respectively. These needs have not been addressed yet due to a lack of time and resources.

Target Population/Beneficiaries/Stakeholders: The target beneficiaries are the students at the school but it is too soon to state what the impact of the project is on the students as it has just been implemented. Although the students are the target beneficiaries, the project is expected to benefit the community as a whole. The major stakeholders were the two international schools that donated books to the school, CorpsAfrica; they provided transportation for the books and the school administration for accepting the book donations and creating space for the books that were donated.

Partners: I worked with two partners, Bishop Mackenzie International Schools and St Andrews International High School. Both schools contributed two cartoons of books to the secondary school. St Andrews International High School further offered to assist the school with organizing their library and upgrading their library system, on the condition that the school contributes towards the Librarians transportation and allowance.

Community Contribution The school did not plan to contribute anything towards the project as there was nothing they could contribute at the beginning but as the need for organizing and upgrading the library system was discovered, it became necessary for them to plan to contribute towards this new aspect of the project. The school administration was reluctant to tell the students about the new development because they had had difficulties in having them source their contributions towards another project. Some students were unable to source contributions to the extent that they were not allowed to attend classes.

Action Plan Accomplishment:

List the major milestones accomplished and by whom.

ContactedInternational Schools for book donation requests- Tusayiwe
Collected books from Bishop Mackenzie International Schools- Tusayiwe

Collected books from St Andrews International High School- Myson Jambo (Project Coordinator-CorpsAfrica)
Handed books over to the school- Tusayiwe
Stamped and shelved of books in the school library- the school administration

Note: I did not write a proposal for this project but these are the activities that were implemented.

PLANNED(as stated in your proposal)	ACTUAL
ACTIVITIES *What activities must be implemented to reach each outcome?*	*Which activities were completed and which were not?*
Contact International Schools for book donation requests	Contacted International Schools for book donation requests dates would be useful
Collect books from Bishop Mackenzie International Schools	Collected books from Bishop Mackenzie International Schools
Collect books from St Andrews International Schools	Collected books from St Andrews International Schools
Handing books over to the school	Handed books over to the school
Stamping and shelving of books in the school library	Stamped and shelved books in the school library

Goals: Planned and Actual Achievements:

PLANNED(as stated in your proposal)	ACTUAL
OUTCOMES *What immediate outcomes of the project would you like to achieve?*	*What outcomes of the project did you achieve?*
Provision of books to the school	Provided books to the school

Obstacles Encountered and Solutions – Lessons Learned: I encountered obstacles whilst contacting the schools as some showed interest in donating books to the community day secondary school but only to withdraw at the last minute, which was very demotivating. I chose to overlook this setback and focused on working with the schools that were actually responding positively to the request and donating books.

Evaluation: (According to your M&E Plan: What was measured, when and by whom? What were the indicators of your success? How successful were you?)

	What was the Objective/Goal?	# Impacted	What was the indicator of success or progress for each goal?	What exactly was measured?	What outcome was desired - what was the target for this indicator? (% or whole number)	What was the baseline? (% or whole number)	What was the final outcome? (% or whole number)	What was the variance between intention and result?
	To provide an alternative way for students to learn English		Provision of books and starting a book club	Number of non-academic books sourced	90% increase in non-academic books at the school	0%	90% increase in non-academic books at the school	0
	To improve the students English speaking skills		Positive difference in the number of students with improved English speaking skills before and after the books.	Number of students with improved speaking skills	80% increase in the number of students with improved English speaking skills	0%	Not measured by time service ended	0

What was the Objective/Goal?	# Impacted	What was the indicator of success or progress for each goal?	What exactly was measured?	What outcome was desired - what was the target for this indicator? (% or whole number)	What was the baseline? (% or whole number)	What was the final outcome? (% or whole number)	What was the variance between intention and result?
To improve the students writing skills		Positive difference in the number of students with improved before and after the books	Number of students with improved writing skills	80% increase in the number of students with improved writing skills	0%	Not measured by time service ended	0

Append a copy of all of the data forms with raw data.

Ongoing Evaluation: What are the M&E metrics that are not yet collected and were designed to continue after you leave service? Include them in the following table and attach copies of all data collection forms:

What is the Objective/Goal?	# Impacted	What is the indicator of success or progress for each goal?	What exactly is being measured?	What outcome was desired - what was the target for this indicator? (% or whole number)	What is the source of the data?	Who is collecting the data?	How often will it be collected?
To improve the students English speaking skills		Positive difference in the number of students with improved English speaking skills before and after the books	Number of students with improved speaking skills	80% increase in the number of students with improved English speaking skills	Test/Exam records	Teachers	Every month
To improve the students writing skills		Positive difference in the number of students with improved before and after the books	Number of students with improved writing skills	80% increase in the number of students with improved English writing skills	Test/Exam records	Teachers	Every month

Sustainability:

To begin with, all the books have been put on record, stamped with the school stamp to ensure that no books are stolen. Rules have been put in place for books that are not returned or returned in bad condition. I am also currently working towards having the school upgrade the library system for an orderly borrowing and returning system so that the books are well maintained by the school administration. I am hoping that the next volunteer will continue with this project, particularly in upgrading the library system and assisting with the book club when they can.

Tools Used: Observation and interviews

Budget:

CorpsAfrica Budget Template

PROJECT				
SITE				
VOLUNTEER				

		BUDGETED	ACTUAL	VARIANCE
1	**LABOR**			
	Local			
	Consultants			
	Total Labor:			
2	**TRANSPORTATION**			
	Type:			
	Total Transportation:	0	K8000	K8000
3	**EQUIPMENT**			
	Equipment/Capital			
	Supplies			
	Training Materials			
	Support			
	Total Equipment:			
4	**ADDITIONAL PROJECT COSTS**			
	Describe miscellaneous items			
	Total Additional Costs:			
	TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET/COSTS			
5	**IN KIND CONTRIBUTIONS**	**Cash Equivalent**		

	Describe individual items			
	Describe individual services			
TOTALS:			K8000	

MONTHLY PROJECT TRACKER

Month	August	September	October	November	December
Phase of the project	Planning	Implementing	Implementing	Implementing	Planning
How many partner organizations are you working with	1 to 2	1 to 2	1 to 2	1 to 2	1 to 2
Please list the names of organizations	St Andrew's International High School	St Andrew's International High School	St Andrew's International High School	St Andrew's International High School	St Andrew's International High School
How many people can you estimate were involved in the prototype phase	11 or more	11 or more	11 or more	11 or more	11 or more
How many people can you estimate benefitted from the prototype phase	More than 100	More than 100	More than 100	More than 100	More than 100

Major obstacles		The current major obstacle in this project is sourcing books.	The school library lending system.	Sourcing of the books	Getting the school administration to ask the students to make a small contribution towards having the school library's lending system set up well, for ease of lending the books out and for a book club to be set.
Obstacle resolved		No	Yes	Yes	Yes
If no, what are you doing		I am still looking for more possible institutions and organizations that I can request book donations from. I am also waiting for the new school year to start so that I may propose to the school management that the students make small monetary contributions which we can then use to purchase second hand fiction books for a possible book club.	Resolved	Resolved	Resolved
Successes of this project		The nursery school in my community does not have any books and the secondary school only has one fictional book. My major success so far has been sourcing a few books for both the nursery and secondary school. I am not to hand the books over to the two schools.		Sourcing of the books	

Lessons from the project		Sourcing books is not easy as not every institution is willing to donate books to rural areas.	Getting the students to take on reading as part of their daily lives will take a long time as students are accustomed to loitering around after school or going to video	It's difficult to source books.	
Risk status	Low	Medium	Low	Low	Medium
Explain the risk status		The risk status I am facing in this project is that of not being able to source the target number of books before schools open. This will delay the starting of the book club.	I can't say for now as the book club that will aim to promote reading culture hasn't been established yet.	The risk status is low	The books not being issued out to the students.
Project status	Delayed	Delayed	On-Time	Delayed	Delayed
Activities planned for the month		Email learning institutions to request for book donations- Myself	Hand over books donated by Bishop MacKenzie International School to the Nursery School and the secondary school-Tusa	No activities were planned this month	Making record of all the books donated to the school- planned by Tusa
Activities in progress		Email learning institutions to request for book donations.		N/A	Making record of all the books donated to the school.

Activities completed		Email learning institutions to request for book donations. - Myself	Contacted St Andrews International High School and Mount Sinai International Schools to request for book donations - Tusa, Cleared two shelves in the school library for books to be donated by St Andrews International High School- 10 students and Tusa, Collection of books donated by St Andrews International High School-Myson	N/A	None
Some unanticipated outcomes		My book donation requests being ignored by institutions that I thought would be more than willing to donate for a good cause.	None at the moment	None	Not yet
What improvements can be made		Physically contact those with the power to allow for book donations in learning institutions. I could also look up online for organizations that donate books and contact them.	N/A	N/A	None at the moment