



DIOCESE OF MONZE

CARITAS MONZE
P.O. Box 660269,
Monze, Zambia

GENERAL INFORMATION

Country: Zambia

Project Title: Towards Supporting Adequate Learning Among the Visually Impaired in the Diocese of Monze

Time frame for the Purchase of Perkins Brailers

Start: January 2023

End: December 2023

Period: 1 Year

Applicant:

Full Names: Fr. Philemon Zulu

Designation: Director – Caritas Monze

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Organization Submitting the Proposal

Organization: Diocese Of Monze

Legal Holder: Rt. Rev. Raphael Mweempwa

Full Names: Designation: Bishop of Monze Diocese

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Telephone: +260 213 250316

Legal Status: Faith Based and non-profit making organization.

PREPARED BY CARITAS MONZE TEAM

Date: 25th January 2023

Representative of the Legal Holder.

1. INTRODUCTION

Monze Diocese Development Department (MDDD), which is also known as Caritas Monze, is a pastoral wing of the Diocese of Monze that is mandated to serve in the social ministry of the church in the promotion of human dignity by putting faith into action. The organization is committed to sustainably empower communities of Monze Diocese, especially vulnerable and marginalized members of the rural based communities. Work that has been done for decades to date is done mainly in a consultative manner where affected communities are involved in the process. Several challenges are identified as Monze Diocese Development Department (MDDD) staff interacts with different communities through development related meetings and visitations. There are numerous challenges that have been identified through such interactions and one of such was at the Deanery Pastoral Council of Choma Deanery; inadequate learning facilities for the visually impaired learners at St. Mulumba Special School.

2. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

St. Mulumba Special School is situated in Choma District, a Provincial Administrative Capital of the Southern Province of Zambia. It is about 300 meters away from the central business area (CBA) off Livingstone – Lusaka Road, along Adastra Street. The School is owned by the Bishop of Monze as the Proprietor while the Sacred Heart of Mary Sisters is the Managing Agency. The school was founded in 1985 to cater for primary school children with different disabilities like hearing, visual, intellectual and physical impairment. The school was founded by Sr. Philippa O’Sullivan RSHM under the auspices of the Diocese of Monze as a school for physically and mentally disabled children. Later, the school catered for visually and hearing impaired children. The school has had a lot of successes amongst which include, good pass rate, well-disciplined learners who love school. The school has won medals and trophies in sports, arts, drama and other co-curricular competitions that it has participated in.

Initially, the school was going up to grade 7 but due to fewer schools of this nature, in the country, against the greater numbers of learners needing the education service, the school was requested to upgrade from grades 8 to 12. Currently, the school has classes running up to grade 12 and also has a science laboratory block that was constructed in 2018 with support received from Johannese Beese Stiftung while the Home Economics block was aided by BEIT Trust in 2021. The school has produced some of the finest graduates some of them have returned to the school as volunteer teachers or support staff while some of them have been employed in different sectors.

Currently, the school has more than 210 learners at campus of which 45 are visually impaired.

3. CHALLENGES

The major challenges that the school is faced with include financial constraints due to the inability of the majority of the parents and guardians to pay the required fees for boarding and other requisites. Some classroom equipment like Perkins brailier, Braille materials and other specialised equipment are not easily available in Zambia and therefore have to be purchased from other countries like South Africa which makes them very expensive.

The influence and expansion of the school comes with an increased burden in daily activities that require increased funding which the school sources of funds are unable to cover due to limited financial sources.

4. PROJECT SPECIFICATION AND BUDGETORY REQUIREMENT

The school is in need of Perkins Brailles for Visually Impaired learners. Perkins Brailles are "braille typewriters" that are used by visually impaired learners to write (type). Each of the visually impaired learners needs a personal Perkins braille. However, due to the costs involved, the school only has had six (6) of them but only two (2) are functional. It has not been easy to share the two (2) among the learners and teachers with visual impairment. The school therefore seeks assistance for at least six (6) more Perkin Brailles to enable learners with visual impairment have access to such kind of facilities and type their work in braille.

Financial Cost

S/No	ITEM DESCRIPTION	QTY	UNIT PRICE	TOTAL PRICE
1	Perkins Brailles	6	28,000.00	168,000.00
	Administration for handling	10% of cost		16,800.00
	GRAND TOTAL			184,800.00

5. MANAGEMENT OF THE BRAILLERS

The St Mulumba Special School's Management will take up the responsibility of ensuring that the perkins brailles are used for the intended purpose and beneficiaries.

6. REPORTING

The St. Mulumba Management Team will write the report on the state of the brailles and benefits realized by the learners. Such reports will be shared with the Director of Caritas Monze who will, in turn, share with Fairhandeln in Germany.

7. CONCLUSION

St. Mulumba Special School is committed to achieving Sustainable Development Goal number 4 on education which in part 4.5 advocates to eliminate gender disparities in education and ensure equal access to all levels of education and vocational training for the vulnerable, including persons with disabilities. The school is aware of the challenges of achieving this, but with cooperating partners on-board it is possible to bring education to the target groups of people living with disabilities.