

DATUM FOUNDATION

SCHOOLS REPORT

October 2012

“Everyone has the right to an education.”

United Nations 1948 Article 26

Sixty-four years after this declaration by the United Nations, some 689 million children worldwide attend primary school and receive the benefit of an education.



However, the aspiration of universal primary education is still far from a reality and some 67 million other young children do not go to school. An estimated 53% of these are girls.

The lack of access to school particularly affects children from poor and remote rural areas.

Education is important because children can acquire the “basic knowledge and skills needed for personal well-being.” The key outcomes are: numeracy and literacy. It has been shown that these are the critical skills for a person. Without them an individual cannot develop his or her potential and on a more pragmatic level, cannot read or write.

“Education will give the next generation the tools to fight poverty and conquer disease.”

Primary education requires some sort of physical enclosure to house the teacher and the pupils: that is schools.

To achieve the UN Millennium Goal of universal primary education tens of thousands of new schools will need to be built. Many of these will need to be in remote rural areas and will require constructing "small, dispersed facilities" at a low cost.

Studies have shown that providing a reasonable standard of classrooms "significantly increased" learning outcomes

Datum is committed to helping children. Its aim is to help disadvantaged children the poorest regions of the world, including Africa and Asia. Without discrimination of gender, race or religion. Datum gives time, skills and financial assistance to construct schools, ensuring each has clean water and toilets

This commitment is illustrated in some of our recently completed projects:

Senegal:

While teaching English to local children in Ndongane, Senegal Deanne Amar discovered that the village school was in urgent need of improvement. Datum decided to help, and funded a range of works including new concrete floors and the installation of ceilings.



The building was decorated in bright colours and new furniture installed. All works were completed in 2011 allowing the children to study in a much improved environment.





Malawi:

Over three hundred children attend the school in the village of Chisasa in Malawi. The existing classrooms were made of rough tree trunks and thatch and barely functioned.

Howard Brewer appealed to Datum for help. In 2011, Howard returned to Chisasa and oversaw the construction of two new classrooms made of earth bricks and steel sheet roofs. The desks were made out of local wood sawn by hand on site.

All the children attending Chisasa School had to share one derelict toilet. Datum also provided funds for new toilets. The improved sanitary facilities means the local children should enjoy a much healthier future.

Bangladesh:

There has never been a school in the village of Dola Para, in the remote Bandarban hill district of Northern Bangladesh. The children received no education.

Local charity Humanitarian Foundation working with Datum decided to build one. The project is now successfully completed.



The school comprises two classrooms constructed from a locally cut timber frame and profiled steel sheets.

Teachers' desks and low benches for the pupils, as well as all required learning materials have also been provided.

A water filter has also been installed in the school to supply safe drinking water.

Twenty-seven boys and girls now attend the school and have access to education for the very first time.



Eti Mro is 8 years old. She is studying in class 2. She worked with her father and mother in the fields prior to starting school. Eti .said:

"I had to collected fire wood from forest and carry it on my head. I would become tired. Now I am happy having a chance to go to school in my own village. The teachers love us very much. I love them too. I am very happy being educated"

Education is one of the most valuable tools to fight against poverty and social injustice. As the old saying goes:

"We are happy to light a candle however small it might be, rather than just curse the darkness".

Datum Foundation appreciates any support that you may be able to give. We maintain a Just Giving account to facilitate regular or one-off donations.

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