

Showcase Schools

Promotional Materials



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Goal

To show and celebrate examples of The Mlambe Project's Good School Ecosystem—to be shared with current and potential supporters as evidence of our approach's impact.

Target Audience

Partner communities, funders, partner organisations, and the Ministry of Education Malawi (national and regional level).

Considerations

- Identify a school already built that will serve as a Good School Ecosystem showcase project, including alternative construction methods.
- Incorporate the showcase school strategy into our new school building plans.
- TMP does not need to have built or funded all the buildings at the showcase school, but the school must be developed enough to show the Good School Ecosystem concept.
- Change the perception of sustainable construction technologies. Most people in Malawi prefer to use more environmentally damaging construction methods, such as burned brick. Some policy-makers and key influencers in Malawi consider sustainable building materials like earthbags crude and old-fashioned. TMP needs to show the comparable quality and superior cost-effectiveness of alternative construction methods to inspire confidence.
- Compare environmentally friendly construction methods, such as earthbags and SSB (Soil Stabilised Brick), against more conventional approaches like burned bricks in showcase schools.
- Showcase schools should be accessible from major roads and close to large towns or cities to make funder and partner visits easy.
- Prove that a Good School Ecosystem leads to successful academic outcomes. TMP's showcase schools should be academically successful and popular with the community to win over potential funders and partners. TMP will need a commitment from school leadership and local and regional education officials to accommodate potential supporters' visits.
- Attract interest from academic researchers in showcase schools and the Good School Ecosystem model to build the evidence base for the TMP approach.



- Create printed and digital information materials that explain the TMP Good School Ecosystem approach. TMP can share these materials with school leadership staff, partners, funders, and visitors. All stakeholders must agree on messaging and communication.
- TMP staff and contractors should visit periodically to ensure showcase schools maintain the required quality and for TMP to fund or undertake repairs.

Process

- Use our Good School Ecosystem to identify the minimum requirements for a showcase school, including school layout (e.g. school blocks, toilets, teachers houses, administration buildings, offices), construction methods (e.g. earthbag building, SSBs, conventional building materials), examples of additional facilities provided by partners (e.g. water boreholes, solar arrays), and evidence of a motivated local community (e.g. general beautification projects).
- Identify whether any past or current TMP school-building projects meet the minimum showcase school requirements. If not, then plan to incorporate showcase school specifications into a future TMP building project, provided the amendments are cost-neutral or only slightly more expensive.
- Include requirements in our school selection strategy to assess a school's potential to become a showcase school for future TMP-led building projects.

Prioritised Deliverables

1. Use the Good School Ecosystem strategy to produce specification guidelines for a showcase school.
2. Assess the possibility of an existing TMP-built school to become a showcase school. If a school is reasonably close to meeting the minimum standard, provide a cost estimate for upgrade work.

Future Actions

- Produce specification guidelines for a showcase school.
- Assess the possibility for an existing TMP-built school to become a showcase school and estimate the costs for upgrade work.