

ZEMO BODBE RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL  
FOR DISADVANTAGED CHILDREN  
PROJECT OUTLINE – FEBRUARY 2007

A survey of the buildings and site has been undertaken by a knowledgeable and experienced buildings team under the overall direction of Bishop Malkhaz Songulashvili.

OVERALL SCOPE OF THE REFURBISHMENT:

There are 6 main stages to the renovation (each of which is discussed in more detail below). A second visit to the school taught us that the top priority is to make all buildings watertight, which involves repairs to roofs and windows. Costs for this are included within "To make watertight" below.

Figures below are for refurbishment of the shell of each building and do not include provision of equipment:

		Full cost	To make watertight	Other cost
1. Kitchen & toilets	* L60,000	£20,000	£6,200	£13,800
2. Children's dormitories	L64,000	£21,000	minimal	£21,000
3. Ground floor school	L130,000	£43,000	£5,800	£37,200
4. Upstairs in school	L161,000	£54,000	£11,100	£42,900
5. Teacher's dormitories	L57,000	£19,000	not yet assessed	£19,000
6. Warehouse storage	L25,000	£8,000	not yet assessed	£8,000
Total	L497,000	£165,000	£23,100	£141,900

\* L – Lari – Georgian currency

Details of each phase are included at the end of this paper.

IMMEDIATE PRIORITIES TO KICK START THE PROJECT:

At present we have £30,000 raised (L90,000), which is sufficient to commence making the buildings watertight. The immediate priorities for getting the project off the ground are:

a. Obtaining government approval for the Project:

A proposal has been submitted to the Minister of Education, Government of Georgia setting out the vision for the school and requesting that, as a pre-requisite to commencing work, the government provides a reliable supply of mains gas and mains water to the site of the school. A favourable response to this request is expected imminently.

It is important that the government embraces the project, its aims and objectives, so as to give the school the best chance of long term survival. The government

accepts the need for a national school to house children from far flung places who otherwise could not be cared for locally.

b. Structuring the project from the Georgian end:

To create a Board of Trustees in Georgia involving representatives for the Minister for Education, the Minister for Health, +Malkhaz, local experts in the establishment of special schools and key representatives from the UK. The Board will oversee the project from the Georgian end, ensure accountability in the use of funds and progress of refurbishment, and also provide the opportunity to demonstrate an effective working partnership between Georgia and a Western team.

The Board of Trustees will also encourage participation and support by the government, eg by improving the gas and water supplies to the orphanage and embracing the curriculum being planned for the school. (If we can establish a strong organisational blueprint for this project, it may serve as a structure for other aid projects.)

In terms of day to day project management, +Malkhaz has identified a suitable project manager to act on his behalf, to oversee work and to organise things. This individual will stay at the school 3 nights per week to supervise the work. +Malkhaz has also identified a translator for the project to enable regular updates and news to be given to English speaking donors, via the website. We have also enlisted the help of local photographer David Khusthitsvilli to photograph the project regularly, and also to provide technical photographic support for the building works.

c. Structuring the project from the UK end:

The project is being organised under the umbrella of the Church of England's Diocese of Wakefield. The Diocese of Wakefield has extensive experience of running aid projects in its link diocese of Mara, Tanzania. 2007 will mark the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Mara-Wakefield link and there is much that the Georgian project can borrow from the Mara experience. There is a Georgian standing committee being formed to oversee the development of the project from the UK end.

d. Starting work on the school:

Subject to receiving the written confirmation from the Minister of Education that the gas and water supplies will be improved to the site, work is ready to commence on making the building watertight. Local tradesmen will be hired where possible, to improve relations between the school and the surrounding locality.

We would like, where possible, to use the refurbishment project to train children to work and to learn skills, so this needs to be borne in mind when hiring labour. The Head of the school, and the staff, are much in favour of this approach.

The renovation plan would be completed in the stages indicated above, except that it is likely, for reasons of practicality, that stages 3 and 4 be completed together.

e. Finance:

To raise further funds in the UK and elsewhere to ensure that we have sufficient funds to finance the project as it progresses. (See below on publicity.)

f. Equipment and life enhancers: short term and long term

Once work commences on the shell of the building, we need to compile a list of what is needed to equip the school. Where possible equipment will be sourced locally. There may be items that are not regularly available in Georgia (such as computer equipment and the like, which will be needed to train the children and also to establish links with schools in the West). We hope that businesses might help.

g. The 2007 Diocesan Lent Appeal

The Zemo Bodbe School is to be a beneficiary of the Bishop of Wakefield's 2007 Lent Appeal. A cd, playable on Microsoft Media is being sent to every parish which has photographs of Zemo Bodbe and a specially composed song, "Who Will Hear This Child Cry?" by Pamela Greener, highlighting the plight of the children.

Towards mutual accountability:

The team from the Betheli Centre will audit each L10,000 spent on the refurbishment by frequent visits and photographic evidence. Additionally, UK representatives will need to visit at the end of each major phase for review and encouragement.

Improving the curriculum of the children as a spin-off:

Lesson content and methods:

+Malkhaz would like us to identify able, (maybe retired) teachers who might be willing to spend some time at the school and to provide training for the teachers, to communicate western teaching skills to the school. He would also like some gap year students to commit to help.

Involving local schools:

+Malkhaz would like local UK schools to be engaged with the project, to help with designing the spec. of classrooms, the recycling of equipment and also to build links with the children.

## DETAILS OF EACH PHASE OF THE REFURBISHMENT

### 1. Kitchen & toilets

This estimate involves:

Roof repairs

Ceilings replaced

Floors replaced

Windows replaced and glass fitted

Doors replaced

Lockers repaired

Tiles on walls

Electrical upgrade

Plaster and paint walls inside

Plaster and paint walls outside.

2 toilets in kitchen and 2 in dormitory (1 girls and 1 boys).

To consider whether the number of toilets requires to be increased to cope with the possible growth in capacity number of children in future. To refurbish totally all toilets.

This estimate excludes the equipment, (worktops, pots, etc, also crockery, cutlery, cups, mugs, saucepans etc) necessary to make the kitchen function properly.

### 2. Children's dormitories

Repair floors

Tiling

Replace sewerage system

Electrical work

Ceilings

Windows

10 doors to replace, repair the rest

Glass for windows, 120 m squared

Plaster in and out

Paint out and in

50m squared of concrete floors to replace

Additional needs over and above this work:

New beds or paint existing beds

Wardrobes?

Bedding and towels

Toiletries

Medicine for worms and shampoo for lice treatment

### 3. Ground Floor of School

Sewerage and sanitation techniks

Tiling 300m squared

Ceilings

Replace 40 windows

Plastering exterior 600 m squared, inside 900 m squared

Paint outside 1,750m squared, inside 3,300 m squared

Doors and windows 400m squared

Wooden floor to replace 400 m squared

Glass 200m squared fro windows

Electrical rewiring

Concrete replace 700m squared

2 sewerage cess pits to install.

Again, equipment such as desks, chairs, blackboards, cupboards for each classroom, also exercise books, stationery for pupils.

### 4. Upstairs of School

Repair of all windows

Repair of all doors

Paint doors and windows

Repair staircases

Repair and replace stonework

Repair damaged walls

Electrical rewiring

Floors

Tiling, walls and floor

Plastering inside and out

Painting (as with ground floor, 1750m squared)

Glass

10 toilets

10 taps and washbasins

Sanitation

Paint walls and floor

Repair of roof

Excludes equipment (as for ground floor)

It's likely that phases 3 and 4 would be most efficiently done together.

5. Teachers' dormitory:

Repair of walls

Replace doors and windows

Electrical rewiring

Plaster inside and out

Paint inside and out

Repair balconies

Repair roof

Repair floor

Replace ceilings

Paint floors

Floor and wall tiling

Sanitation

Concrete floor

Replace gutters

Glass for windows

Painting balconies

6. Warehousing/ storage facility: (for food and equipment)

Repair roof

Replace doors and windows

Rewire

Plaster outside

Fixing of rack shelving