

Justification for Electrifying LEA Primary School Galadima,
Abuja Model City, Gwarimpa Phase 2. Abuja, FCT, Nigeria.
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Galadima School has just received sponsorship for its connection to the electric power grid. For now, it does not have electrical power, although all the streets and new neighboring houses do. With monetary contributions from the parents, the wiring and placing of lamps of the main building is almost finished. But the connection to the “NEPA” transformer has yet to be done, as well as the wiring of the newer building.

Today, the school has 9 teachers, 2 assistants, 1 principal, and more than 300 students.

Galadima school does not have running water, so in the mornings some girl pupils have to go to the community well to bring water for the cooking of their lunch. The school does not have restrooms either.

The OLPC Foundation has provided every child and every member of the staff with a state-of-the-art XO Laptop. The foundation also gave Galadima School sixty extra XO Laptop rechargeable batteries, four sets of solar panels (installed on the roof) and gang chargers to charge the laptop batteries so the children can work on their laptops more continuously. However this arrangement was designed for remote rural areas and is far from optimal.

Alteq has contributed a generator that runs on gasoline and provides electricity. Alteq also have commissioned members of their staff to continuously assist the school with technical and educational issues. Access to the Internet was made possible by Accelon, who contributed the VSAT, which is powered by the generator. The VSAT set up includes UPS, wireless router, IDU, and a Power Surge. However, the generator broke down and burned the UPS for the Internet, and it is insufficient for all the power needs of the school. Other key supporters include the Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC) and Growing Businesses Foundation (GBF).

[Alteq is an ICT leader and agent of change across Africa. Accelon is a Pan African business communications services company, offering a range of satellite based access services. NCC is the regulator of the Nigerian Telecommunications Sector. Growing Businesses Foundation is a leading NGO promoting sustainable development led by socially responsible businesses and individuals.]

When the generator is started, all the children start cheering and clapping their hands. Also, we have to keep in mind that the generator:

- has to be carried out of and into the principal’s office before and after it’s used.
- has to be taken to the gas station to be filled up.
- requires servicing, which can take several days.

The classrooms for primary 1 and primary 2 receive very little natural illumination. And all the classrooms fall into almost complete darkness when it rains, because the windows have to be closed and thus, the sunlight is blocked out. All of which makes it very difficult for the students to see their notebooks and practically impossible to see the blackboard.

Admirably, the children and the teachers keep on working, making use of their laptops, which run on the batteries that are charged on the solar gang charger. However, we have had no Internet connection for over two weeks due to lack of electrical power.

The next two pages include a brief illustration of the Galadima School situation and the NEPA Connection Cost Breakdown.

Conclusion

Having no electricity and no running water is completely unjustified for a school such as Galadima School, which is situated in an urban setting with optimal infrastructure (as is shown below).

Illustration of the Galadima School Situation



In 2004, the main building, with two classrooms plus the assistants and the principal's office, was made by the government. Today, the left side classroom is host to Primary 3 and Primary 5. A wood partition separates the two groups.

The right side classroom is for Primary 4, with Primary 6 by the window, since they takes class in the outside hall.



In 2005, two more classrooms were built. On the left is Primary 2, and on the right, Primary 1.



In 2006, the kitchen was made due to a governmental program aimed at providing children with lunch. Galadima school is one of the three schools that are supported with this program. The menu is changed on a daily basis.



Galadima community was moved about 2 or 3 kilometers away from its original site, because the government built some houses there.



Some children come from the community that is across the highway. Children go back and forth to school by themselves.



Neighboring houses to the school have electricity and running water. The streets also have electricity. But Galadima School has no electricity and absolutely no water.



Classroom on a rainy day.



Girl pupils bring water for the cooking of their lunches



When the weather allows it, they cook lunch outdoors.



Lunch is carried by Primary 6 girls into the classrooms and children eat their lunch at their benches.



Lunch is served in plastic containers that are washed afterwards.

They all eat their lunch, most, heartily. They eat it with their bare hand or with little plastic spoons of their own.

Lunch is exclusively for the children, and it looks very tasty. It is not a big amount, but they try to vary it and make it nourishing (rice, beans, and some local stuff, like cereal).



Generator



VSAT



Solar panels



Gang chargers



XO



Children and teacher XOing