

MASJID CONSTRUCTION ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR MSULU VILLAGE, TRADITIONAL AUTHORITY KALEMBO, BALAKA DISTRICT

Background

Ummah Welfare Trust field team identified Nsulu village and the surrounding villages in Ulongwe area, Traditional Authority Kalembo, Balaka District. Nsulu village is 5 kilometres away from Ulongwe trading centre, situated along the Liwonde – Mangochi lakeshore road. Kalembo area is predominantly Muslim area. Nsulu village in particular, has an estimation of about ninety-five percent Muslim population. Despite challenges in suitable and conducive Masajid, the community remains strong in Islam as demonstrated by a grass-thatched shelter currently used as a Madrassa classroom (see picture link).

The village has over 350 families who congregate on the grass-thatched masjid. Over 70 registered children attend Madrassah in the afternoons after attending English school in the morning. The type of structures available demotivates children from attending madrassa due to dust and uncondusive environment for their health. There is no borehole in the entire village as the nearest borehole is some three kilometres away from the masjid.

The situation as assessed by the field team from Mai Aisha Trust, establishes that there is indeed need for the new masjid, madrassa classroom block and imaam's structures.

Assessment conclusions

- There is a weak Masjid structure that leaks when it's raining
- There is a mud-floor
- Women and children comprise over 70 percent of the population in this rural area
- Madrassa classes run on erratic basis and experiences a lot of absenteeism due to non-availability of a permeant Sheikh to teach madrassa.
- There is no adult madrassa, especially for women due to lack of proper organisation

Recommendation/Conclusion

- The project team recommend as follows;
- That a strong and larger masjid be constructed at Nsulu village to enable the Muslims in the area congregate at a more comfortable house of worship
- That since the community has donated over three-quarter hectares of land for the masjid and madrassa, supporting them with this project will strengthen and sustain their spiritual life.
- That the village require a masjid, madrassa classroom and an imam's house.





