Background

Located nearly 60 kilometres from the main Livingstone–Lusaka tarmac road, Sikalele community school is one of the most remote schools African Revival is engaged with. The school was founded in the year 2004 by community members from six villages, to directly address the long distances the children from these remote villages had to walk to the nearest schools (7km).

At its establishment, Sikalele community school used thatched, simple structures that were used as teaching spaces, and some classes would be held under a tree or a roofless disused church hall. The first help came from CARE International, who built the first 1x2 classroom block. The community then built two small houses to be used as staff accommodation. In 2013, with AR built the second classroom block, bringing the total number of classes at present to four.

As a school that mushroomed out of nowhere, with its first lesson ever being held under a tree or, and later a roofless church hall, Sikalele and its community deserves credit. They have illustrated to both AR and the government that they are taking their children’s education very seriously and are committed towards the overall development of the community.

Image Caption:

pupils are excited, anxiously awaiting the arrival of the new desks
THE CHALLENGE

When we think of education, we think of a teacher, but when we think of quality education, then we think of a happy and motivated teacher. Creating an Africa where every child has equal access to quality education is our vision as AR.

To realize our vision as AR, we had to provide accommodation for the government teachers at Sikalele community school, who lived in the small thatched houses that were provided for them by the community as temporal accommodation all this while and still continued to teach selflessly.

Moreover, having a minimum of two staff houses is also a requirement by the government for school like Sikalele, which recently has earned recognition as a government primary school. Moreover, the pupils’ and the community’s morale has been boosted with the provision of new staff accommodation. Sikalele now have permanent and standard structures to be proud of in their community. Since AR got evolved with the School in 2012, development at Sikalele has been overwhelming; enrolment has doubled from 242 in 2013 to 440 pupils at present.

Image Caption: (Top left) a teacher helping his pupils during lessons.
(Middle) Happy, smiling pupils during lesson in their classroom.
(Below left) Mr. Gistone Sinziba, the school head teacher, two parents and a teacher, behind them the newly built twin teacher’s house.
The project was implemented with a total project cost of £10,713 - £49 under budget. The well-organized school PTA worked hand in hand with AR by providing labour and upfront materials. A total of 18,000 burnt bricks, 40 tonnes of stones, 30 tonnes of gravel and 85 tonnes of sand have been provided by the parents towards the construction of the building at a total in kind value of about 2,500 GBP. Although the delivery of materials came with some delays due to rain and other factors, Sikalele community has clearly demonstrated their commitment towards the school development.
Thank you for your time, commitment and support for African Revival and Sikalele Primary School!

Caption Image Below (left to right): The six PTA members during the handover ceremony; David, our Projects Officer, handing over the house keys to the area member of parliament and behind the Sikalele community in large numbers witnessing the handover; The DEBS commissioning the house; and finally the complete and commissioned twin teachers house.

African Revival will continue to support the development of Sikalele Community School through new infrastructure; The twin staff house with showers and latrines is yet another successful project that AR has implemented at Sikalele.

For more information about this project and further projects that require funding, please contact julia.mackay@africanrevival.org or iain.parry@africanrevival.org in Zambia and elaine.miller@africanrevival.org in the UK office: 020 8939 3190.