

UNDUGU'S MATHARE SCHOOL RENOVATION PROJECT - 2015

PICTURE GALLERY2-REAR AND SIDE VIEW OF TUITION BLOCK

The tuition block rear and side view - at the beginning of the renovations.....

Like the front view of the tuition block the rear side walls collected dust and looked dirty all the time because of the original rough plaster. Rain water from the asbestos roof used to drain onto the wall forming a thick ugly black patch all the way down to the ground. These walls were also smoothed with gypsum plaster.



The tuition block rear and side view - during the renovations.....

Once the new aluminium roofs were fixed, gutters were fitted along the edges for the dual purpose of harvesting rain water and preventing the rain water from ruining the painted walls.



This corner ground below falls on USK's boundary with the neighbour's compound. The renovations saw the excavation of the ground on this corner, followed by the construction of a concrete base for a water tank to sit on. A 10,000 litre plastic water tank was purchased and mounted onto the concrete base.



The tuition block rear and side view - rainwater harvesting.....

The gutters from the tuition block roof were connected to new plastic pipes leading to the water tank.



In phase two of the project, this water tank will also be connected by pipes to other smaller water tanks that will be mounted onto a slab that will be created above the toilets. A water pump, complete with a pressure control unit was purchased and has been connected to this main water tank so that when water runs out from the main grid under the Nairobi City County (and these shortages are quite frequent) , the harvested rainwater can serve the abolition block and hand-washing sink area.



The tuition block rear and side view - rainwater harvesting.....



In phase two of the project, a lockable metal cage will be deter curious children from touching it and prevent thieves from vandalizing it. Below, the new-look rear view of the tuition block. Two days after this tank was connected here, there was a heavy downpour of rain all night and this tank was filled to the brim. The caretaker advises that two more water tanks of similar size should be purchased and connected here, along with four others in other parts of the compound once all the asbestos roofs are replaced with aluminium sheets.



The tuition block rear and side view - near final look.....

This rear view happens to border the driveway from the gate. All the learners in the school come from the neighbouring slum settlements. By the time they reach the school their shoes (or feet...some cannot afford to buy shoes) are covered with either dust or mud. To avoid this dust or mud from making the newly refurbished classrooms dirty, it was necessary (as an afterthought, not provided for in the budget) to improve the pathways in the school by spreading 50 mm ballast or screeding in some sections. Ideally it would be nice to dress these open spaces with carbro pavement or tarmac for a more durable finish but this was not provided for in the budget.



Below are the “before” and “after” pictures of the right hand side of the tuition block, at the entrance into the school from the main gate.



The tuition block rear and side view - near final look.....

The gentleman below (left) is an ex-beneficiary of Undugu’s programs. He now runs a youth empowerment and life skills initiative within Undugu’s Mathare School compound. Undugu has allowed him to rent one of the rooms in the other buildings for his activities in the compound, at a small fee.



During the months of April and early May 2015 the USK Executive Director has been spending her Sundays monitoring the renovation work in the Mathare School. The three gentlemen on the right are the persons employed to guard the school. The caretaker (in the middle) works closely with the two day guards he is standing with. There is a fourth person who guards the school at night.



The canopy at the entrance into the compound.

An extra signboard has been created at the entrance, where Father Grol built a canopy over the concrete external bench. The terrazzo finishing on the benches had been roughened and stained over the years by weather and the children climbing on it. These renovations saw the polishing of the terrazzo surface of the benches making them look freshly done.

