

LM/019/0009/07

ANC SCHOOL BUILDING PROJECT
REPORT ON PROPOSED CHILDREN'S CENTRE
JUNE 4, 1981

1. OBJECTIVES

The proposed Children's Centre will provide facilities for 230 pre-school children.

Broadly speaking the objectives of the Centre are:

- To provide the facilities and a programme for the care and early education of our children;
- To enable mothers to pursue their educational, productive and political activities on behalf of our organisation;
- To ensure (at nursery school level) that our children born in exile do not grow up ignorant of their country and its culture;
- To begin to develop a programme for the provision of child care services on a national scale in a free South Africa.

2. THE PRESENT SITUATION

An existing house (of the former sisal estate) at Mazimbu has been converted for temporary use as a primary and nursery school, providing day care facilities for 60 primary and 60 nursery school children. This is already overcrowded and will soon have to enrol more children.

Similarly, a house in Morogoro has been equipped as a temporary day care creche for children under three years of age.

Both these projects are fulfilling our needs temporarily and are serving as pilot schemes for the new Children's Centre. Much experience has already been gained, staffing needs identified, and so on.

In addition, and separate from the child care centre, three hostels are under construction which will provide accommodation for 36 single mothers during and after pregnancy until the children are ten months old, when they become eligible to attend the Children's Centre.

3. PLANNING AND CONSTRUCTION

3.1 Planning

Planning decisions have been made complex by the difficulty in assessing the exact needs of the Centre. For example, it is

difficult at this stage to determine how many of the children will be in day care and how many will require residential care. This decision in turn affects the type of health care, the size of sick bays, etc.

Similarly, the fact that a "programme" is yet to be developed affects other aspects of the planning, for example, whether the groups will comprise mixed age groups or not.

To overcome some of these problems, maximum flexibility has been aimed for.

On the basis of the objectives outlined above and because of the high staffing requirements, the overall planning is geared to serve the needs of the staff (in easing the workload) as well as those of the children.

The design is based on the construction methods already implemented on the rest of the school site.

Plans are now being detailed for construction to start in August, 1981.

3.2 Construction and Material Requirements

Construction will commence on the creche units, which are presently our most urgent requirement.

Basic construction materials will be obtained locally, e.g. aluminium roof sheets, treated softwood roofing timber, hardwoods for joinery, cement for concrete blocks produced on site, etc.

It will be necessary to import all ironmongery (hinges, latches, locksets, etc.), sanitary ware, kitchen equipment as well as wall tiles, floor tiles, paint, louvre glass, aluminium mosquito gauze wire, coffee tray wire, all electrical wiring, fittings and equipment.

At this stage it is impossible to provide a more detailed list in terms of quantities and specifications as these will depend on the detailing and finalising of plans now on the drawing board.

4. THE PROPOSED CHILDREN'S CENTRE

The proposed Children's Centre will consist of a creche for 80 (90 maximum) children aged between 12 months and 3 years, and a nursery school for 144 children from 3 - 6 years of age. Administration, Food Preparation and Health Care will be shared by creche and nursery.

- 4.1 The Creche consists of five Units each caring for 16 (18 maximum) children. Each Unit has a group playroom, covered terrace and garden, a bedroom, bath and toilet facilities, a staff changing room and a small kitchen for the provision of fruit, drinks and snacks only.

An additional room is provided for use by night duty staff or for someone to live in (in the case of children in residential accommodation).

The creche units can thus be used flexibly as residential or day care units, because the provision of a bedroom is necessary for both.

- 4.2 The Nursery School consists of three day care units and three residential units each accommodating 24 children.

The day care units comprise a group playroom, covered terrace and garden, shower and toilet facilities as well as staff changing room. In the afternoon stretchers or foam rubbers can be placed for the children to sleep on.

The residential units are identical to the day care units but include additionally a bedroom tract and a night duty (or live-in) room.

The Nursery Units are grouped around a cultural centre which includes book and music library as well as general resource centre. A hall for large-scale activities (dance, theatre, films, etc) is also planned.

A central kitchen supplies food on trolleys to both creche and nursery units. Day care nursery children can take their meals in the "cultural centre" to avoid flies in the group play rooms during the afternoon nap.

An administration block and a sick bay unit completes the complex.

The centre could be extended later by two day care or residential units.

Separate staff accommodation will be provided opposite the Centre.

5. APPROXIMATE COST ESTIMATE

The following cost estimate (see Page 4) is only approximate, firstly because it is based on the enclosed sketch scheme (December 1980) which is not final; secondly current building costs in Tanzania are over 4000 sh/m^2 and our estimate is based on our own building costs, presently thought to be in the region of 3500 sh/m^2 .

COST ESTIMATE

	TOTAL AREA M ²	APPROX. COST /M ²	TOTAL COST (TANZ. shs)
5 Creche Units @ 160 m ²	800	3500	2,800,000
3 Day Care Nursery Units @ 145 m ²	435	3500	1,522,500
3 Residential Nursery Units @ 245 m ²	735	3500	2,572,500
Cultural Centre	300	3000	900,000
Kitchen/Dining/Administration	500	3500	1,750,000
Covered Walks and Verandahs	750	700	1,275,000
			10,820,000

APPROXIMATE COST PER CHILD: TANZ. shs40,000

The above total excludes furnishings and fittings, estimated at 12% of construction costs, i.e. Tanz.shs1,298,000.