



## Gituamaba Community Youth Polytechnic Inventory

05/25/09

Thika

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## Foreword

Not knowing where their donations to NGO's were precisely used for and questioning if Africa is really that bad as being told, three men decided to check out the continent for them self. These three men are us; Henk Rigter, Marten Mulder and Minne Bonnema, hereafter referred to as 'we' or 'the ThreeLeftHands', which also identifies the non-profit organization we founded to explore and to document the situations throughout Africa. While doing this, we help out people and organizations where ever we can and report about our activities to the Netherlands using various media among which our website ThreeLeftHands.com. Africa is a big continent and we cover all the distance in our easy recognizable 25-year old and orange minibus.

As being a supportive organization, ThreeLeftHands strive to improve other organizations that are being visited. To achieve this ambitious goal, the ThreeLeftHands posses a various skill set which are acquired through study and, mostly, excessive practice. Fields of expertise wherein TLH can excel are especially, but not limited to, internet and other computer applications, (mechanical) engineering, marketing / communication and business management. In cooperation with the counterpart organization, one or more projects are appointed to the ThreeLeftHands and after completing the goals agreed upon, ThreeLeftHands moves on to the next organization that will hopefully also benefit from their visit. As long as an organization is serving the public, ThreeleftHands will not differentiate between organizations and offer their services completely free of charge.

While the ThreeLeftHands are perfectly capable of taking care of their own, a donation or expense coverage is never expected, but always highly appreciated

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## Organization Profile

Name: ThreeLeftHands

Established: July, 2008

Mission:

To experience Africa by own hand, to report on situations throughout Africa from a different, sincere view and to help out people, communities and organizations where possible.

Vision:

Africa is often referred to as 'The Lost Continent' and news feed from this region often agrees with this negative alias. Whether is famine or war, dictators or rebellion, there's not much good coming from Africa. We don't believe that. We believe that there is more to a story, more to a continent than the media tells us. Also we believe that one man can make a difference and therefore we travel through Africa to make that difference and find out what's Africa about by our own experience. By our stories, we hope to inspire people to try to change the world as well.

### **This are the ThreeLefthands:**

Henk Rigter, age 25

Fields of expertise: Communication, marketing and management;

Marten Mulder, age 24

Fields of expertise: (Mechanical) engineering and teaching;

Minne Bonnema, age 26

Fields of expertise: Computer applications, internet solutions and business management

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We prefer contact by email. That is, when we are not in the direct neighborhood. When we are, you are allowed to speak to us.

## Introduction

For a technical school, resources like wood, metal, nails, etc. are needed. The technical school in Gituamba does not own them. There are good basic tools, but what use are those without the resources? For students and teachers this must be very frustrating and hereby the school becomes obsolete. In this report, TLH will report the tools and resources that are available to the school at this moment and the resources needed to proper function as a technical school.

At the moment, the school only exists of three teachers and 25 students, of which 15 are send home due to a lack of school fees. The school has room for another 25 students and a few teachers but simply the money to pay the teachers and buy resources is lacking. It would be easy then, to just give a sum of money. However, experience tells us that this is not a good way and therefor we advice to look for other means. In chapter 3, we will take a closer look at this.

## Executive summary

The Gituamba Community Youth Polytechnic needs once approximately Eur. 5300,- to operate properly. With 'properly' we mean to obtain enough supplies to attract enough students, so that teachers can be paid and the school will eventually be able to maintain itself. The most important task is to obtain resources like wood and metal. A detailed list is given in the chapter 2, 'Resources needed'. While educating the students and with the initial funding, the school should be able to setup production workshop to become self sustaining.

A part of the needed funds can be obtained from selling one or both of the two obsolete solar panels that are stored in the school for quite a while. This brings another point, spoiling while aiding. The retired solar panels in the storage while funds are being requested, proves the lack of sense of value at the school. People that lead a educational organization are expected to place the link here: Trade the panels for supplies the school actually needs. This subject is further treated in chapter three, 'Advice from the ThreeLeftHands on granting aid to the Gituamba Polytechnic'.

## 1.0 Resources available

### 1.1. Buildings

#### Main Building

- One theory room, 60m<sup>2</sup>
- Seven rooms varying in size from 10 to 18m<sup>2</sup>
- Two rooms of 22m<sup>2</sup>

Of these rooms the following are used: The theory room, one of the seven rooms being the knitting room, one being the fabric cutting room, one being the toilet and one being the storage. The two larger rooms are being used as office and sewing room, leaving three rooms open for occupation.

#### Secondary Building

- One room of about 100m<sup>2</sup>
- Two rooms of 8m<sup>2</sup>

None of these room is currently being used, although the main area is easily seen as the practicum or woodwork room.

#### Tertiary Building

- One room of 25m<sup>2</sup>
- Four rooms of 6m<sup>2</sup>

None of these rooms is currently being used, although the main room clearly was a kitchen once.

## 1.2. Tools

In various rooms we find:

- 48 chairs
- 4 tables
- 9 singer sewing machine tables
- 1 knitting machine
- 2 Singer sewing machines

In the room that is used as storage, we find:

- A lot of woodworking tools
- 6 Singer sewing machines
- 15 pieces of wood to measure fabric
- 7 clamps

## 1.3. Resources

There are absolutely no resources except for some wool to do some knitting.

## 2.0 Resources needed

### 2.1. Buildings

Because several rooms are unoccupied at this moment, we would not advice to increase the number of buildings at the school's compound. We heard suggestions pointing towards a possible hostel, but we disagree on that. When students nearly have enough money to pay their school fee, then how does one pay for accommodation at that same school? If accommodation is regarded as a necessity, we advice to transform one of the empty rooms into a small dorm with bunk beds.

### 2.2. Tools

According to us, the following tools are really needed to properly run a technical school:

#### 2.2.1 Carpentry:

- There are plenty tools to work with wood by hand, none new needed so far

#### 2.2.2 Metalworks:

- Iron-saw and blades
- Iron drill-set (2)
- Column-Drilling machine or Vertical holder for an hand drilling machine
- Center punch (8)
- Scratching pencil (8)
- 90 degrees hook (8)
- Measurement iron(30cm)
- Iron-hammer (8)
- Round shaped hammer (2)
- Table working bench clamp (5)
- Veils round/square/normal fine and rough (8)
- Overall or dust jackets (8)
- Safety glasses (8)
- Electrical-Grinder 220V big and small (2)
- Anbelt (piece of metal to deform profiles in different shapes)

**Estimated total price: 1500 euro**

### **2.2.2.1 Welding:**

- Arc-welding machine 220V (2)
- Plier for welding
- Hammer for welding
- Welding cap (extra glasses and tinted glass) (8)
- Leather welding gloves (8)
- Leather skirt (8)
- Grip-pliers
- Steel brush

**Estimated total price: 1500 euro**

### **2.2.3 Masonry:**

- Tools for masonry
- Lead-line
- Rope for shape of wall
- Wheelbarrow
- Buckets

**Estimated total price: 300 euro**

### **2.2.4 Knitting and Dressmaking:**

- Needles for knitting machine
- Needles for sowing machine

**Estimated total price: 50 euro**

## **2.3. Resources**

According to us, the school can not function without resources. What is a woodworkers class without wood? What is a Masonry class without stone? Beats us. So go buy, or make sure someone else goes buy the following:

### **2.3.1 Metalworks:**

To get going benches are needed to attach the table-clamps. With the list of material they can start of making benches and other useful attributes for the school. We suggest to start of with 2lengths of each profile. The 8mm thick plate meant for workbenches. For a solid flat underground.

- Square pipe, 20, 30, 40, 50mm

- Round pipe, 20, 30, 40, 50mm
- Round solid, 3, 5, 6, 8, 10, 15, 20mm
- Flat strip, 3x20/40, 5x20/30/40, 6x20/30/40, 8x40/60mm
- 90degrees profile, 20, 30, 40, 50mm
- Plate of steel, 2000x1000x1 /1,5 /2 /8mm
- Bolts, nuts and screws are handy attaching boards to the wall and making tables. For any other device or repair a school cant go without.
- Disks for grinder, cutters and grinders for big and small (plenty)
- Electrodes (plenty)

Lengths are in two formats, together with the bolts come nuts and rings.

- M4x20 /50mm (50)
- M5x20 /50mm (50)
- M6x30 /60mm (50)
- M8x30 /60mm (50)
- M10x40 /80mm (50)
- Screw 40x4 (box)
- Screw 60x5 (box)
- Screw 30x3 (box)

**Estimated total price: 500 euro**

### **2.3.2 Masonry:**

- Hard stones
- Concrete stones
- Bricks
- Cement
- Sand

**Estimated total price: 500 euro**

### **2.3.3 Carpentry:**

- Sandpaper
- Wood different sizes. Also we suggest to make boards on the wall so tools can be displayed. A good sight can be held when there is an missing tool.
- Wood-glue

- Nails, To start of and make several adjustments at the school different sizes are needed.

**Estimated total price: 250 euro**

### **2.3.4 Knitting/dress-making:**

- Wool
- Different fabrics
- Threads

**Estimated total price: 150 euro**

### **2.3.5 Maintenance:**

After a certain time tools will wear out and become worse and worse. Our suggestion is to supply oil-cans and oil to grease the tools when needed or not used. To repair and maintain a toolbox with screwdrivers and wrenches is needed. Also sharpening-stones will contribute in the life of cutters and blades. Maintenance will be needed every now and then. Therefore a budget should be available to do maintenance for the basic needs. Water, electrical(light-bulbs and fuses), paint, etc..

**Estimated total price: 250 euro**

### **2.3.6 Other resources:**

The batteries for the solar power need distilled water. This is maintenance what is needed on a regular base. Because the lack of maintenance the batteries ran out of fluid. An 50 liter is needed to bring the liquid-level up.

Since short ago electricity has passed by the school. To connect and make usage of this they need to pay an fee of 36.000 shillings. What we don't know is if there will be knowledge to install it all through the school. Therefore an installation has to be done, what includes fusebox, over an hundred meter cable, wall plugs and switches.

**Estimated total price: 500 euro**

## **3.0. Advice from the ThreeLeftHands on granting aid to Gituamba Polytechnic**

The Gituamba Community Youth Polytechnic strives to be self sustaining, which is an admirable mentality. The question that should be asked then, is why the school is not sustaining without external sources right now. Of course, the global financial crisis does not offer any relief to a region already troubled and together with a prolonged drought, this causes students being unable to pay their school fees, thus being send home. Lack of income makes it impossible to pay teachers or to buy resources. Would it then simply suffice to grant the school a certain amount of money so that they can pay the teachers and buy the necessary supplies? This sounds like a good idea, but it will work only on short term, till the money is gone again, and the same problems surface.

As we visited the school, not only did we find great ambition, but also a lack of simple, yet

sustainable ideas. While no funds are available, the principal dreamed about building a hostel kind of structure, to host students from other regions. Not only are the funds for this project not available, the school building itself contains a few not used rooms that can be easily filled with some (student made) bunk beds to harbor students.

Upon entering the storage, we were surprised to find two unused solar panels. These panels were donated to provide light in the evening, but the people at the school didn't seem it necessary and therefor do not see the need to reinstall the panels to the roof. Thats okay, that can happen. But then, what are the panels still doing in the storage? Wouldn't it be more effective to trade those panels for supplies?

These examples give a key to the real problems when granting aid. The beneficiaries are given something, without knowing the actual price of the gift, what causes the poor sense of value. It is said that instead of giving someone a fish, one should rather give a fishing-rod. We would like to add 'you should make one buy a rod.' As long as beneficiaries do not know the real value of a gift, they will not be triggered to invent solutions for their own problems, nor will they see the possibilities to do so. Following, they will grow more and more dependent on foreign help and finally, like we experienced in Ethiopia, will deform the local mentality.