

A Roof for Orphans

Intabazwe is a large township in Harrismith, South Africa, with a population that lives below the poverty line. The township comprises a school and boys' and girls' orphanages with children aged 0 to 8 years old; however, these facilities need immediate repair. The lack of resources and volatile weather conditions in the city resulted in the collapse of the ceiling of the girls' orphanage to the point that if it does not get repaired, the orphanage will close, and the girls living there will have to be reallocated.

Adequate living conditions are essential for children's development as they impact their learning and well-being. Hence, I aim to provide proper housing for the girls in Intabzwe, motivated by commitment and social responsibility. My name is Maria Isabel Canamary Otoch, and I am a sophomore majoring in Biomedical Sciences at the University of Central Florida. The project timeline is set to raise funding by March 15th to buy the needed supplies so that they can be used when we arrive in May. The needed materials and their respective prices are listed in the table below.

Tiles	Ceiling Grids	Supplies	Total
\$1500	\$500	\$500	\$2500

Given that the orphanage's dimensions are 35x20 square feet, it was estimated that 30 tiles would cover the ceiling. With good-quality tiles and a well-placed ceiling grid, a total value of \$2500 was obtained. Although the materials list was estimated based on the immediate need for repair in the girls' orphanage, if the budget allows, this project can be scaled up to create a ceiling for the boys' orphanage, which was accomplished when the building was built last year.

My project and those of my classmates are scheduled to be executed in May 2024. During this period, we aim to acquire essential skills in effective team leadership and positively impact Intabzwe's community by addressing its unique needs. I firmly believe that providing every individual with fundamental living conditions encompassing both mental and social aspects is crucial for helping impoverished orphans. Your sponsorship will make a difference in those girls' lives and the community's future.

For more information, please contact me at mariaisabelotoch@gmail.com or visit our Linktree profile at https://linktr.ee/ucf_southafrica.

Sincerely,
Maria Isabel Canamary Otoch