

Project request for the proposed Primary School (double stream 16 classes)

Project title <i>Catholic Primary School Bentiu</i>	
Planned project start 1st of February 2026	Planned end of project 31st of January 2027
Project location / region Bentiu/South Sudan/Untiy State	Catholic Diocese of Bentiu (since 2024) https://www.catholic-hierarchy.org/diocese/dbent.html
Legal holder and applicant : <i>Catholic Diocese of Bentiu</i>: Legal representative: Bishop Christian Carlassare	
E-mail	Bishop Christian Carlassare unuminchristo@gmail.com (diocesan email) kriko3@yahoo.it (personal email)
Address	Catholic Church Bentiu, St. Martin de Porres Parish Cathedral
Telephone/Mobile:	Bishop Christian Carlassare +211 918 164 431 (also WhatsApp)
Total costs: 428.908 USD for 16 classrooms, Administration Block, Library, Stores and two toilet blocks The costs will be divided in four phases and more donors will be requested to have a co-funding project	
Bank Details: Equity Bank: Account Name: Catholic Church Diocese of Bentiu Account No: 200 221 1355096 (USD), Account opened 26-02-2026 Details: Correspondent Bank: Citibank N.A. New York, Swift Code: CITIUS33, Fed-wire No.: 021000089 Beneficiary Bank: Equity Bank Ltd., Swift Code: EQBLKENA, Physical Address: ECSS Compound Hai Cinema Juba	
Project coordinator : Bro. Hans Eigner, MCCJ	Position and function in the organisation/diocese: Comboni-Brother and structural engineer (has already built in South Sudan (Good Shepherd Peace Center in Kit/Juba)
E-mail	hans.eigner@comboni.de
Address	Catholic Church, Diocese of Bentiu
Telephone +211 923 410 016	Mobile + 49 175 527 5993 (WhatsApp)

A. General Information and description of the legal holder: Context and situation analysis:

The Diocese of Bentiu was erected on July 3, 2024. Bishop Christian Carlassare moved in on August 8, 2025. The diocese covers an area of about 38,000 square kilometres. Around 1,130,000 people live in the area, belonging to two ethnic groups: Nuer and Dinka. The relationship between these two groups is not simple due to the latest internal conflict (2013-2018). A priority of the Diocese is to build bridges of reconciliation between these two groups. According to the UN, 80 percent of the population in this area is displaced either because of the conflict or the consequence of the flooding that affects the area since 2019. In addition, around 130,000 Sudanese refugees, mainly ethnic Nuba, live in camps within the Ruweng Administrative area. The poverty in which the population lives makes them extremely vulnerable.

The population identify mostly with the Christian faith – 450,000 Catholics and about 350,000 Protestants – the Christian formation has been quite poor over the years and so their identification does not always correspond with a consistent Christian life. The remaining part of the population is still devoted to the traditional religion. There is also a small, but significant presence of Muslims.

B. The Diocese:

The Diocese of Bentiu is divided into seven very large parishes and two pastoral regions (soon to be erected as parishes). Each parish has numerous chapels. We currently have ten diocesan priests. One among them is a lecturer of Holy Scripture at the major seminary in Juba. We have six seminarians at the theology section and six seminarians in Philosophy. The diocese is also served by a community of five Comboni Missionaries and a community of Capuchin Friars with four priests. They each minister in a parish. We currently have no religious community of sisters, but we are awaiting the return of the Comboni Missionary sisters and hope that other congregations will come to us.

Pastoral work depends very much on the service of catechists and lay pastoral agents, who are the backbone of the Christian communities. We have more than 600 catechists who lead the Sunday prayer in their chapels, prepare people for the Sacraments, and coordinate the life of the Christian communities in the villages. Women are also important pastoral agents through different groups and activities. The youth make up a great part of our assemblies, which bring joy and hope in the young Catholic community.

C. Education as an urgent need:

There are actually no structures for the diocese and we are starting from zero. The Parish Church is now considered the Cathedral and there are no rooms for diocesan offices yet. However, the first priority is to put a greater emphasis on education.

Therefore, as Don Lorenzo Milani used to say, we believe that “the school is sacred as an eighth sacrament. From it, we expect [. . .] the key, not



Looking for little shade for the time being.

of conversion, because that is God's secret, but certainly of the evangelisation of our people". In fact, evangelization and education grow and walk together and both contribute to the process of true liberation, empowerment and the needed peace building.

At the moment, in Bentiu we have one diocesan primary school called St. Martin De Porres with approximately 1400 pupils and about 24 teachers, among whom only three are qualified. The pupils are learning under the shade of a tree or look for any kind of shadow from the moving sun. There are several simple structures, but the learning spaces are not adequate to accommodate the students and offer them quality education.

In line with the priorities indicated by the diocesan synodal assembly held in May 2025, we plan to offer new premises for the school and establish a more qualified group of teachers led by a congregation of religious women.



The multitude of Pupils without school facilities.



Learning under the shadow of a tree

D. Child protection in the organisation and in the project

The implementation of Child Protection within the diocese is part of a wider program in the form of ongoing formation among teachers, catechists and other agents within the institution.

E. Project context: The construction works:

The proposed construction works for the Catholic Primary School in Bentiu are based on the following reflections.

1. The building area given by the state is low ground and can be flooded during rainy season.
2. The predominated soil is black cotton soil and silt with a high capacity to carry a lot of water and consequently leave big cracks when drying. However, the soil has a certain waterproofness, which does not allow ground water level to come up.
3. Conventional building materials like sand, aggregate, cement, steel are **extremely expensive** due to very long transport routes (only during dry season) as well as passing through a series of roadblocks and checkpoints.

For the above-mentioned reasons, we see the need to make use of the local materials (black cotton soil and silt) as much as possible but involving conventional materials to make the building permanent and strong. The combination of both components requires some technical and

engineering methods, which are found in different studies and literature. In addition, local knowledge and experience will be used and implemented.

1. How to go about:

A raised foundation ring in concrete will secure the building creating stability and waterproofness. This ring will be elevated about 80 cm above ground level and will protect the building from expected flooding during rainy season. Within the ring foundation, rammed marram will function as carrier for the local wall construction. A high metal structure with corrugated metal sheets and a wide veranda on both sides will protect the walls from rain showers. In other words: We raise the building up to a level where water and humidity cannot reach and a large metal roof will protect the whole building from water from above.

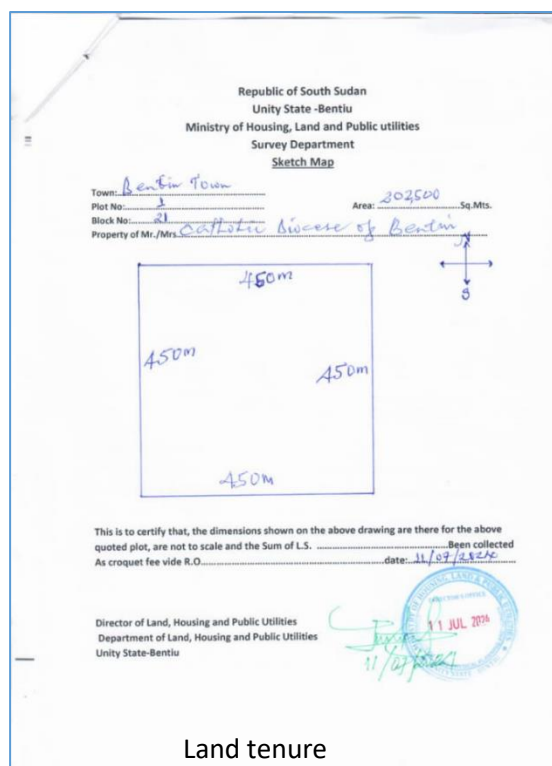
In this way, we believe we will have a solid and strong construction with a high durability and a comfortable climate within in order to help the students to study well.

2. Land tenure and ownership of the project

The project will be built on the land of the diocese, which was given to the Bishop on July 11, 2024. The proposed Catholic Primary School will be owned and run by the Diocese of Bentiu.

3. Phases and Financing of the project:

Since the overall project is large, containing 16 classrooms, administration block/teachers' rooms, library/stores and two blocks of toilets it will be broken into **four phases**. In this way, we hope to find sponsors quickly and move materials during the upcoming dry season (from January to May 2026). Therefore, a two-thirds down payment will be much appreciated. The bill of quantities is based on a set of two classrooms and multiplied by 2 to have 4 classrooms + the additional building as you see below.



Phase 1: four classrooms and one toilet block

Applied to: Kindermissionswerk, Stephanstraße 35, 52064 Aachen, Germany

$(4 \times 18,901.- + 24,280.-) = 99,884.- \text{ USD} = \text{ca. } 87,898 \text{ Euro}$

Phase 2: four classrooms and administration block/teachers' rooms

Applied to: Friends of the Diocese of Bentiu and of the Comboni Missionaries

$(4 \times 18,901.- + 39,076.-) = 114,680.- \text{ USD} = \text{ca. } 100,918 \text{ Euro}$

Phase 3: four classrooms and one toilet block

applied to: Missio – Pöpstl. Missionswerke Austria, Seilerstätte 12, 1010 Wien, Austria

$(4 \times 18,901.- + 24,280.-) = 99,884,- \text{ USD} = \text{ca. } 87,898 \text{ Euro}$

Phase 4 four classrooms library and stores

Applied to: Friends of the Diocese of Bentiu and of the Comboni Missionaries

$(4 \times 18,901.- + 38,856.-) = 114,460.- \text{ USD} = \text{ca. } 100,725 \text{ Euro}$

4. Timeframe considering the seasonal circumstances:

The challenges of transport are very high due to impassable roads from June to December (six months) and many disturbing roadblocks on the route. This is why we ask for considering this in your discussion taking. If all requested donors can give us feedback already in the beginning of 2026, we would be able to mobilize the material to the building site and will not delay another year due to seasonal circumstances.

5. Transparency and accountability of the project:

All donors will be regularly updated and, in this way, they will know from each other. Reports will also be shared among the different (4) donors as well as the final project and finance report.

6. Project management:

A Comboni-Brother: Hans Eigner will be responsible for the project management and the overall responsibility concerning technical works and financial administration. Bro. Hans Eigner is by profession a civil and structural engineer and has already experience in working in the country. There will be no general contractor since the project has a community building character. Together with qualified artisans (partly from the neighbouring countries), local people will have the opportunity to learn new technical skills. At times, the community will contribute to the work of the construction, especially when it comes to working with the local materials. In this way, the local community will take ownership for the construction of the school.

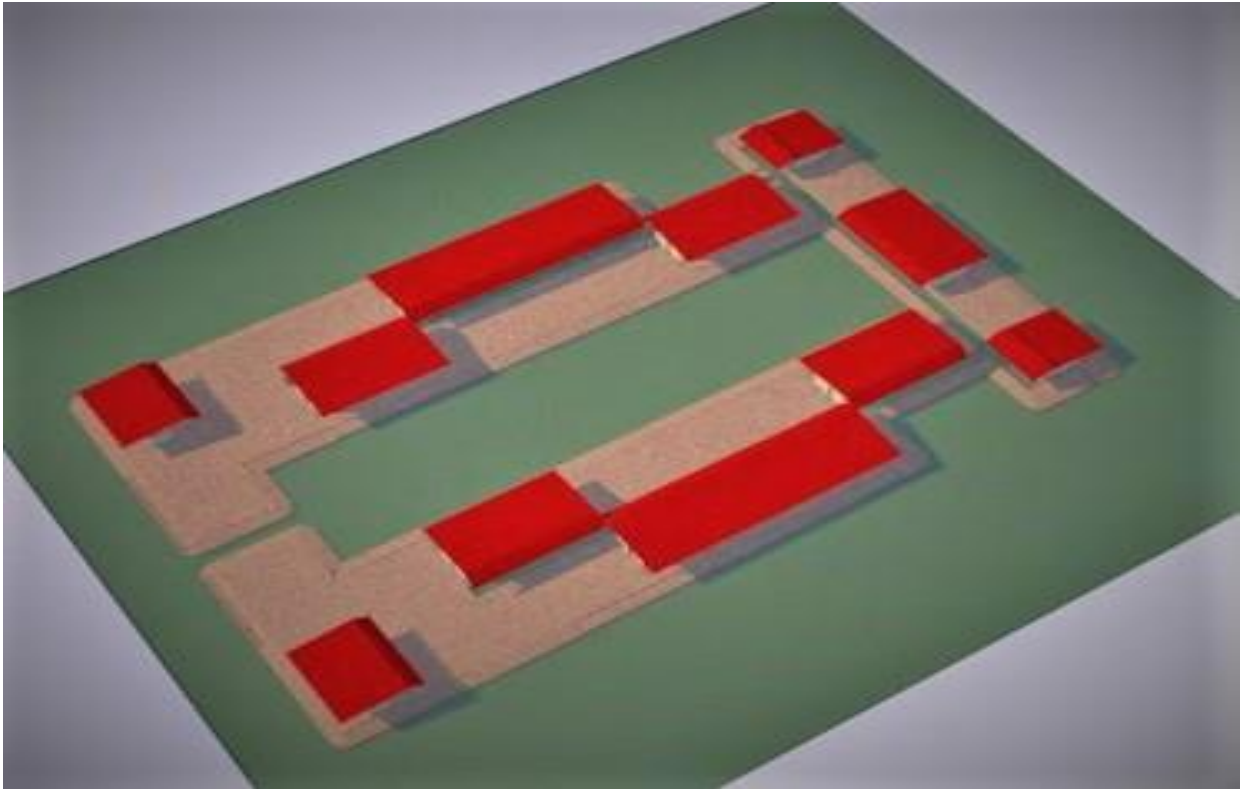
Bentiu 15th of December 2025

+ Christian Carlassare

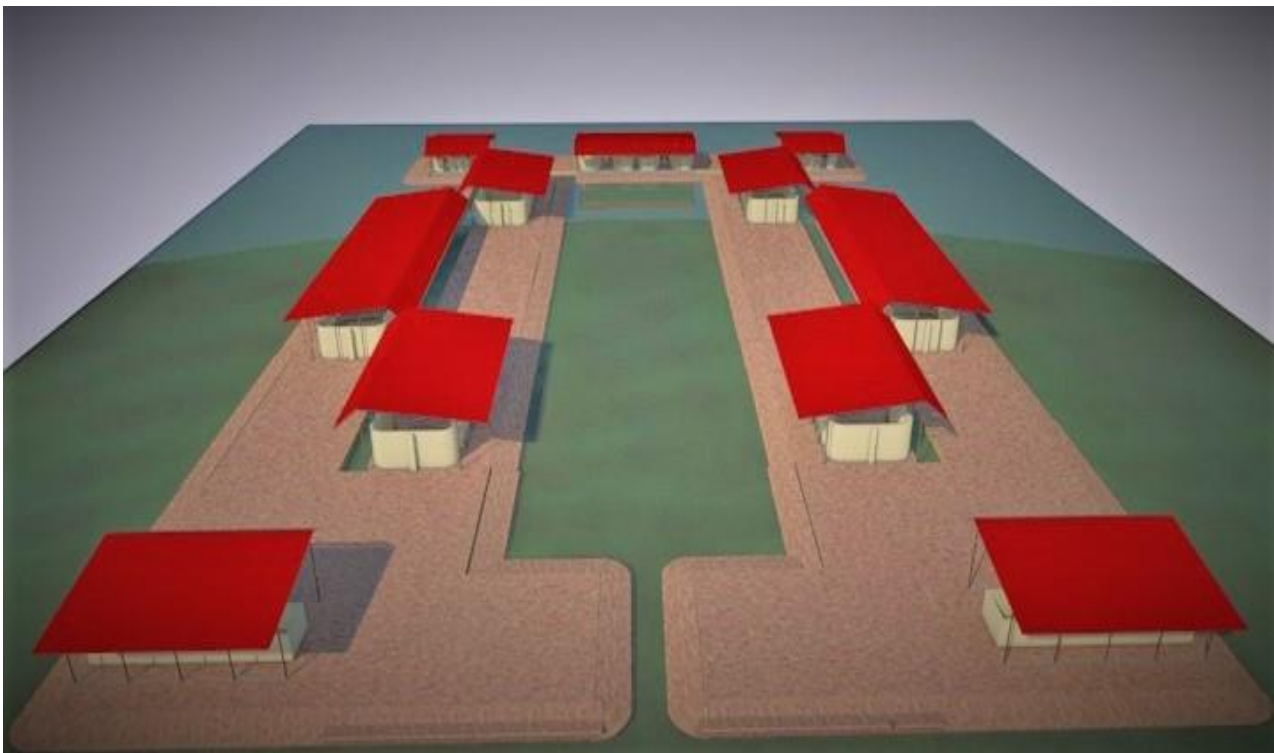
Christian Carlassare, *Bishop of the Diocese of Bentiu*



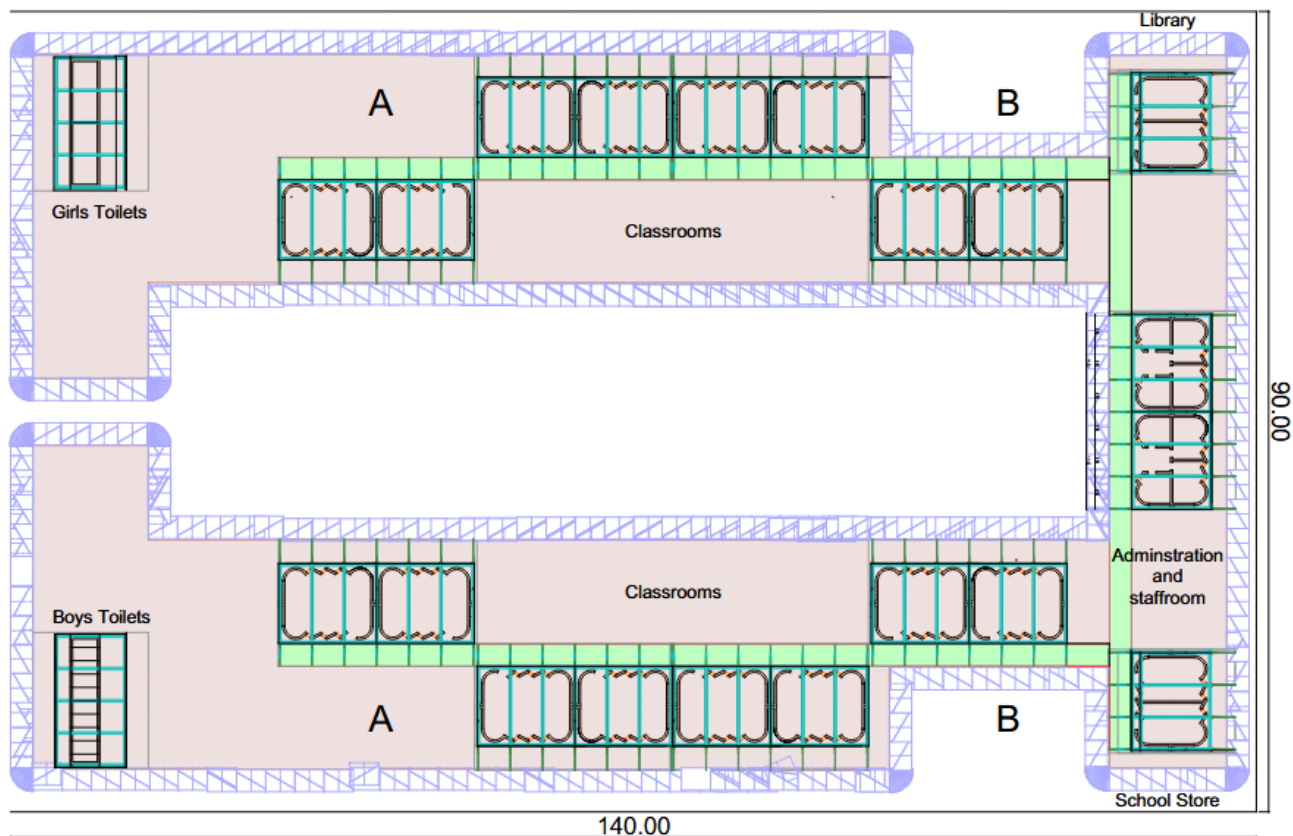
7. 3D presentations, site plan, plans and sections:



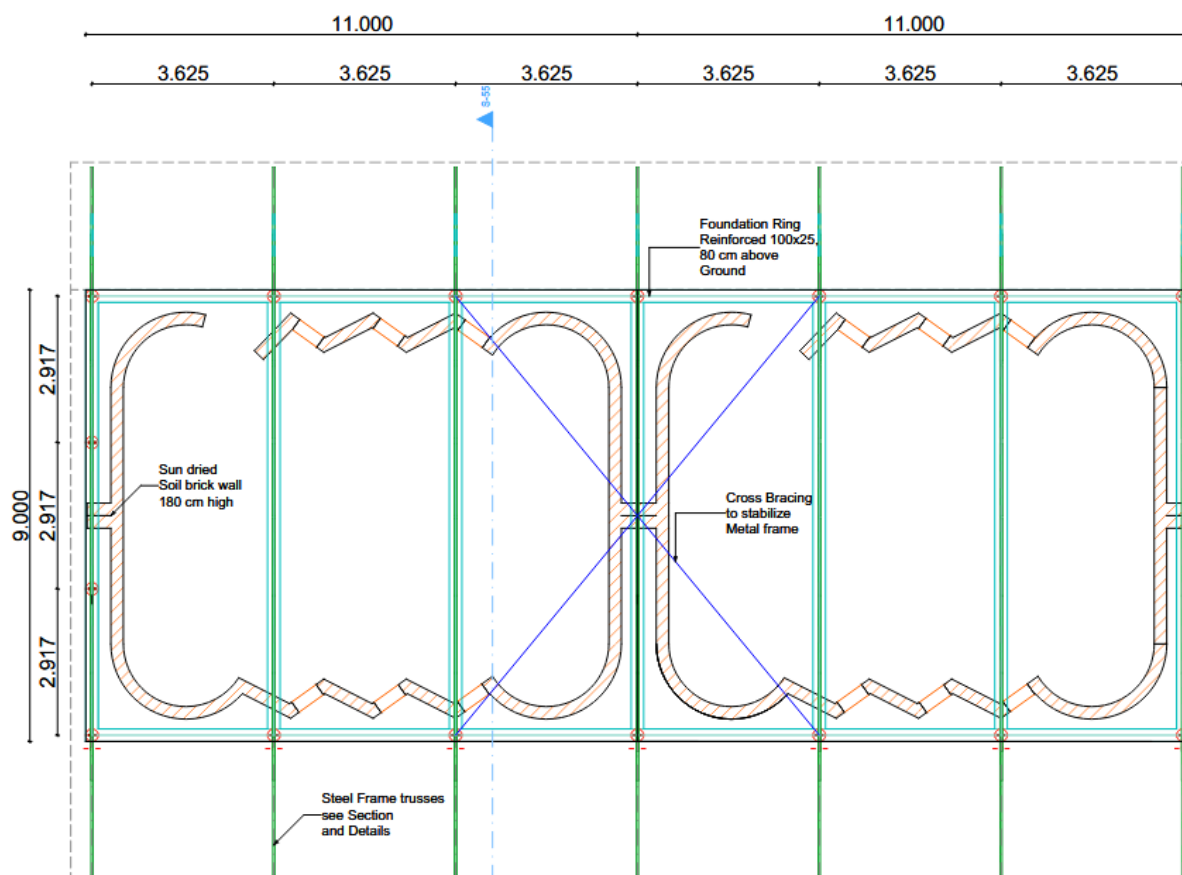
3D view



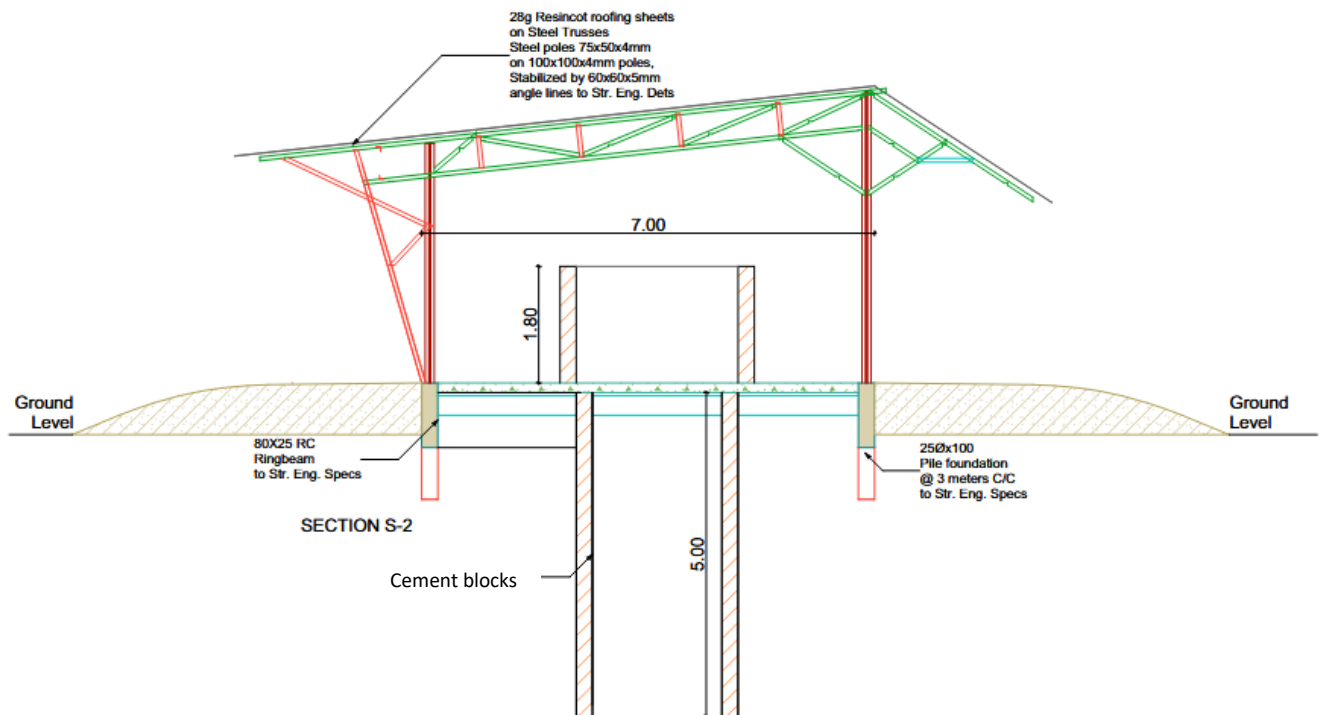
3D view



Masterplan of the double stream Primary School (not to scale)



Standard sample: Floor Plan for two classrooms (not to scale)



Section: Toilet block (not to scale)

8. Cost calculation for the different phases: See attachment (Excel)