

# STEP BY STEP:

## CHALLENGES IN DEVELOPMENT PLANNING

### FOR EMI PROJECTS

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EMI<sup>2</sup> SOUTH ASIA STAFF ARCHITECT

Sitting on a simple wooden bench under a plastic sheet roof, our client enthusiastically explains his vision to you as an EMI volunteer: to expand his ministry from 60 children to a children's home for 400, a day school for 600, a vocational training center, a counseling training center, a gymnasium for the community . . . the list keeps growing. At the same time, the client shares with you that they don't have any funding, but are believing that the Lord will provide. Part of you wants to stand by faith with the ministry, but part of you wonders how this vision will ever materialize . . .

#### GOOD APPROACHES:

- Help the client to understand the importance of phasing and how that organizes long term development. Good phasing is fundable. By developing a realistic phasing plan, it becomes manageable for the ministry to raise the funds needed and to execute the project.

One of the village ministries approached eMi<sup>2</sup> to develop a village center consisting of a worship hall, medical clinic and training facilities. The client insisted that the initial construction should meet the projected future needs of the ministry, and therefore most of the facilities should be built at once.

Later, one potential donor approached eMi<sup>2</sup> questioning the need of constructing a 3-story village center based on the current functioning capacity of the ministry. This helped the ministry realize that it is more manageable to start with a small step – in this case, first raising funds to construct two multi-purpose rooms which would allow the ministry to moderately expand their operation within their current capacity.

- Help the client to identify and focus on phase one development and ensure that it will address the current critical needs.

One of our children's home projects demonstrated the importance of identifying a realistic phase one development. The ministry is taking care of homeless children affected by communal riots. The sixty children are sleeping on the floor in two small rooms, studying under the trees, and eating in an open dining area.



Most Engineering Ministries International projects involve long term site development planning for various Christian ministries. These ministries often have a big vision and a strong calling from God to reach out and serve the poor in the community, but at the same time they have very limited funds. This imposes major challenges in the site planning process to outline small practical steps that a ministry can take by faith to move toward their God-given vision.

#### MAJOR CHALLENGES:

- The client ministry may have large or unrealistic program requirements, far beyond their available land or immediate fund-raising capacity.
- In the process of long term site planning, both the client ministry and the EMI team can easily be distracted by the planned future development, neglecting the more critical immediate needs.
- Faced with many different needs, the ministry may have difficulty strategically prioritizing those needs.



Children studying under the trees.



When the eMi<sup>2</sup> team talked to the client about future development, the client insisted that phase one development should include the two-story girl's dormitory and two classrooms, as well as the caretaker's residence – the plastic sheeting over the dining area would be sufficient until a new dining hall could be constructed in a later phase.

- The development planning should be flexible without ignoring major decisions on ministry long term strategy.

On a recent eMi<sup>2</sup> project trip, the team was asked to develop a 6,800 square foot site for a training center, children's home, day school, office, staff residence and worship center. While the eMi<sup>2</sup> team came up with a design to host the current capacity of the ministry functions, they also asked pointed questions about future growth. What functions will be shifted outside the current site as the ministry continues to grow? How would the site design adapt to the anticipated future changes? These questions helped the client to determine that, while the day school and children's home should be expanded in the immediate future to serve more children in the community, they would eventually be shifted to another location for future expansion. Once the school and the children's home are shifted, the original facilities will be used to expand their training program.

In site development planning, EMI teams need to help Christian ministries trust in God's provision AND develop a realistic plan which is fundable - taking small practical steps by faith. These steps will enable the ministries to move towards the big vision that God has given them, to touch the lives of the poor and to transform communities.

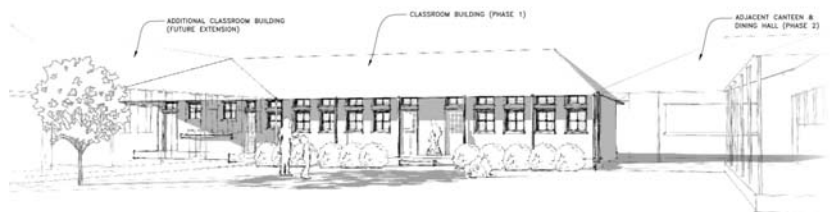
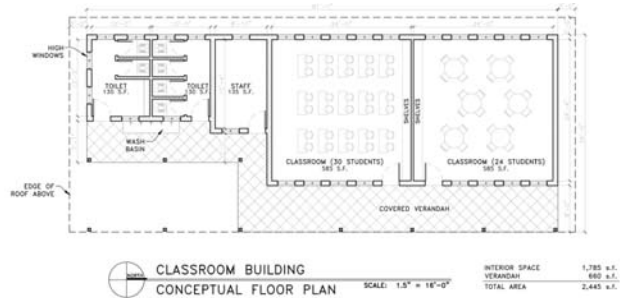


Dinning area with plastic sheet roofing.

Shortly after the project trip, however, the client sought our advice about building a concrete roof over the dining area because the plastic sheets weren't working well during the monsoons, and the ministry didn't know when they would have money to build the dining hall.

If they were going to the expense of adding this concrete roof, the client was also considering adding a second level. Due to the lack of funding to proceed with phase one development, the client felt that he needed to do something completely outside of the master plan.

We were able to suggest that the ministry replace the plastic sheet with fiberglass sheet roofing and build the two small classrooms first, which could temporarily function as the dining area. By simply reordering the first phase of construction, we could better match the ministry's actual capacity and urgent needs.



CLASSROOM BUILDING – CONCEPTUAL PERSPECTIVE

## Volunteers Needed - Summer 2011 Projects

More information about these projects can be found at [emiworld.org](http://emiworld.org).

### United States

COLORADO Hypar Thin Shell Concrete Roof

May or June

[choffman@emiusa.org](mailto:choffman@emiusa.org)

### Sub-Saharan Africa

NIGER SIM Sahel Academy School  
GHANA Good Shepherd Happy Childrens Home  
GABON PK27 Social Ministry Outreach Center  
UGANDA Agape Education Centre

May 12-23  
May 31-June 13  
Late May / Early June  
Late May / Early June

[saulrich@emicanada.org](mailto:saulrich@emicanada.org)  
[jagee@emiusa.org](mailto:jagee@emiusa.org)  
[hwatts@emiusa.org](mailto:hwatts@emiusa.org)  
[aengebretson@emiusa.org](mailto:aengebretson@emiusa.org)

### Middle East North Africa

MENA Multi-Purpose Ministry Building Design  
MENA Recording Studio Design

Late May / Early June  
Spring/Summer (Dates are flexible)

[mena@emiusa.org](mailto:mena@emiusa.org)  
[mena@emiusa.org](mailto:mena@emiusa.org)

### South Asia

INDIA El Rohi AIDS Home for Children  
NEPAL Gospel Assembly Nepal  
INDIA Flood Mitigation Investigation

May 28-June 9  
June  
June 30-July 10

[rkoeniger@emi2southasia.org](mailto:rkoeniger@emi2southasia.org)  
[hmarak@emi2southasia.org](mailto:hmarak@emi2southasia.org)  
[gfrank@emi2southasia.org](mailto:gfrank@emi2southasia.org)

### Latin America & the Caribbean

HAITI Oasis Ministry Center  
GUATEMALA Colegio Esmirna Primary School  
HAITI Orphanage & Compound

June 4-13  
Late May / Early June  
Early June

[bcrawford@emiusa.org](mailto:bcrawford@emiusa.org)  
[mhood@emiusa.org](mailto:mhood@emiusa.org)  
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