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CHAPTER 1

1. Project Identification

Executive Summary

The **Resource Needs Platform for Education Support in Low-Income schools** is a web-based system designed to bridge the gap between **low-income schools in Harare Province** and potential **donors** by creating a centralized, transparent, and user-friendly platform for **resource sharing**. Many schools face significant challenges in accessing food, clothing, educational materials, and healthcare due to inefficient aid systems and a lack of communication tools.

This proposed system addresses these issues by allowing beneficiaries (schools) to register, post their needs, and interact directly with donors in a secure online environment. Donors can view, select, and respond to requests, while administrators ensure quality control through verification and monitoring. Developed using the **Agile method**, the platform ensures adaptability, modular growth, and continuous stakeholder feedback.

The project has a clear social impact focus—supporting education equity and community empowerment through smart technology. It is expected to improve aid distribution efficiency, reduce delays, and foster accountability in donations and resource allocation.

Description of the current system

Currently, resource allocation and aid support for low-income schools in Harare is **fragmented and inefficient**, characterized by:

- **Lack of digital tools** to connect schools with donors.
- **Manual or informal processes** for requesting help, leading to miscommunication and slow responses.
- **No structured system** for prioritizing needs or tracking donations.
- **Limited transparency** and accountability in how resources are distributed.
- **Considerable risk of duplication or delays** due to absence of real-time logistics coordination.

As a result, many vulnerable schools continue to experience **gaps in support**, despite the availability of willing donors and aid organizations.

Scope

In Scope

- Item listing, request and matching system.
- Secure user registration and verification.
- Messaging and logistics coordination tools.

Out of Scope

- Direct delivery services.
- Monetary donations or payments between users.
- Government assistance integration.

Objectives

- To register beneficiaries and donors, enabling profile updates, history tracking, and account management.
- To prioritize resources based on urgency, determined by a scoring system assessing student impact and shortage severity.
- To allow donors to list resources via a guided online form with item details and photos.
- To book and schedule resources through coordinated school–donor arrangements within the platform.

Brief description of proposed system

The proposed **Resource Needs Platform** is a fully functional, web-based application that:

- **Registers and manages accounts** for schools, donors, and administrators.
- **Allows schools to post urgent needs**, such as food, clothes, or learning materials.
- **Enables donors to browse verified requests** and contribute listed resources.
- **Features a secure login system** and role-specific dashboards.
- **Includes an admin panel** for verifying users, approving posts, and analysing system usage.
- Uses **priority scoring** to ensure that the most urgent needs are addressed first.
- Is designed with **mobile and desktop compatibility**, making it accessible to a wide range of users.

Developed with **PHP, MySQL, HTML/CSS/JS**, and based on the **Agile framework**, the platform emphasizes modularity, real-time feedback, and long-term scalability.

