

A TAD Handy - Mess to Music

For our Global goals project 2019, our aims were to recycle and reuse rubbish we found around the community and make them into musical instruments. And to bring happiness to orphans at the same time as bringing cleanliness to Malawi.

Once we made the instruments, we took them to a local orphanage near our school. On our first trip to the orphanage, we introduced the children to the instruments. The children were between the ages 6 to 8. Once they had time to try out the instruments we taught them how to solo on them. We also played a few games including the instruments.

Then, on our second trip, we tried to play a few songs together. Out of all the songs we played with them, their favourite one was "The lion sleeps tonight" mixed with their own solo on the instrument they chose.



Our love for music has led us to inspire other people to make and use their own instruments. When we were with the children we saw that they really had talent and we hope they will keep on playing with recycled instruments and have a great time doing it.

The litter we found included: plastic bottles, any form of cardboard, metal fizzy drink bottle tops, tin cans, clean straws and wire.

We made the material we collected into the following instruments: drums with sticks (from the tin cans, bottle tops and straws), clackers (from cardboard, bottle tops and wire), xylophones (from cardboard, bottle tops and straws), shakers (plastic bottles and metal bottle tops), etc.



Here in Malawi, there is lots of rubbish on the streets. Our hope is that one day the streets will be clean.

Some of the knowledge and lessons we learnt were: breaking language barriers, access to equipment and the country's weaknesses.

Some of our ideas for the future are; expanding this idea, running a proper competition that would get the orphans to make more instruments out of rubbish, working alongside other global goals teams in our school to have a sustainable rubbish collection system as many other teams needed rubbish.

The final time we visited them, we brought our real instruments, the guitar and violin, and we played "In the Jungle" along with the children. The children were really fascinated by our instruments and were encouraged to make some of their own.

During our visits, there was a helper called Maya who translated what we said and gave us new ideas from his Malawian point of view. We played lots of games in which the children got to do their solos and we achieved this by using some simple sign language, such as: go, stop, and shush. We also used the advice the Global Social Leaders gave us from our mid-term report and made booklets that explained how to make songs and instruments using a few Chichewa words but mostly pictures and symbols.



Even though we did not give the orphanage any money-we still made a difference. They do not need money for happiness. The children just banged on yoghurt pots, bean cans and tapped on bottle tops which brought happiness and fun to their sometimes very difficult day. They realised they can have fun and perform with free materials.

Another thing we learnt was that we are very privileged to have all the equipment and materials used to make the instruments. We first started off using hot glue for the clackers then we realized that many people wouldn't have access to it. Therefore we looked at different ways to make the instruments such as: sharp metal objects, wire and tape, which is more commonly found. We also tested the instruments and kept the better and sustainable ones to play with the children.

We really care about our earth and so we wanted to help Malawi on the goal that we wanted to focus on. We started off by making a project to do with life on land (goal #15) then we started making orphans happy and taught them how to recycle so it's a 2-in-1!!!



We had heard of similar projects around the world and it gave us a few ideas on how to run a mini program. Their ups and downs inspired us to at least try! We looked at what each goal meant, what it represented and what it meant to us.

We also proved that it is sometimes fun and easy to recycle unwanted litter and how simple it is to turn it into something positive and something that most kids don't normally have access to. It inspired us to see orphans make the most of the free materials and they were just so happy to see other kids playing with them.

Seeing these kids at the orphanage survive and still be happy without their parents was really touching. Most of their parents had died of HIV or AIDS. So seeing them have fun and smile made us realise how privileged we are to go to a good school and have both parents still alive.