

The water filters

St John's College

Harare, Zimbabwe.

When our teacher told us about the global goals, because we live in Zimbabwe we decided that we needed to do something about the water.

We have severe droughts and diseases that come from water like cholera. Water in our country is a problem.

At our school, we have signs showing us how to wash our hands and be clean, where to drink from etc... because of the cholera. We then thought that we were lucky to have all that to avoid us getting sick but what about the poor schools around us and all the children there?

We spoke all together and decided that we could make water filters to help clean the water that the kids drink at schools.

We had to find a design and we were not sure which one will be the best to use, the easiest to make, the cheapest to make etc...

We went to our chemistry teacher and asked her to help us. She showed us a filter and explained to us how to use it and why it was filtering water. It was very easy to make clean water from dirty one to make safe to drink. We also searched online for other types of filters and decided for one that was easy and cheap to make.

We created a poster to ask for donations. During our computer lessons, our teacher showed us how to make it and we printed a few that we posted around the school and what happened to all year groups.

We got a great response and had donations of 20 18l plastic containers, sand, stones, charcoal, mutton cloth and the chemistry department gave us the Alu we needed too.

It was amazing how much people gave us.

We got enough to make 20 water filters of a capacity of 18 litres of water.

We then had to decide how and where to send it.

We also thought that since it was easy to make, the best was to show the schools how to make their own too. We started packing all the ingredients we needed separately then put it all together in front of the students for them to learn how to make more.

We measured exactly the quantities of each part, we packed them separately and brought the kit to mount to the first community we donated to.

It was much better to show them how to make it so they can also make more and give to more schools etc...

We had to find which schools we were going to donate to, how to get the transport there and how many they will need with the size of their schools.

We went to Mutoko with our first filter.

We had a problem with the transport and had to start in schools close by. At this stage we gave only a couple of filters, but we are still distributing. We would really like to go to schools outside Harare too. We want to organise parents to help us get to them. That will be difficult with the petrol crisis we have in the country now, but they are all ready to help.

We learned that if we get together we can achieve things and that we can learn a lot from each other.

While we were building the filters and collecting donations, our country was hit by cyclone Idai.

The need for clean water was even more urgent and necessary. Hundreds of people had no more shelter or food or clean water. We volunteered to help pack and sort out donations and decided that we should send some filters there too but mainly teach them how to make it.

The community near our school where we donated the filter is using it a lot and we hope it will help them sick less often.