

Humanities Hearts Syllabus/ Global Social Leaders Project Report

Team photo & Project photo



Highlights: There are countless amazing experiences we've had during this project but among the best include our late night meetings/chats and the environment that surrounded them. Getting to know one another and grow alongside this project has been astonishing.

Aim: The aim of the syllabus was simple, we use volunteers across the globe to create content in a specialized manner that we would then collect, edit and send out in small batches with class supporting materials to help orphanages in rural areas during the pandemic.

SDG: Our project was focused on SDG 3,4,5,10,17. Our project was aimed at helping children receive quality education (SDG4), help girls who could not attend school due to medical reasons still are taught (SDG5,3) allow for orphanages to spend more money on helping the children during the pandemic rather than hiring teachers so they could keep up (SDG 3,10), and to work alongside other organizations to promote and grow our goal (SDG17).

Outcomes and Impacts: The Humanities Hearts Syllabus has most evidently helped in addressing the global goal of quality education. Especially during the Covid-19 pandemic, many rural schools in Malawi, Tanzania, and Zimbabwe have not been able to provide education to their students. Instead, children in orphanages and rural schools are left without teachers and education for a long period of time. The HH syllabus has made it possible for any caretaker or adult to teach students through the worksheets that have been compiled from volunteers worldwide. In turn, this also helps to address the goals of reduced inequality and gender equality as female students are able to study at the same rate as their male counterparts. As shown in the images, the syllabus has begun being sent out to students in 10 different orphanages and schools. The overall impact thus far has been positive but we must continue to maintain the HH syllabus as well as the worldwide involvement in order to create long-lasting improvement to the education level in these rural areas. One of our largest failures thus far has been the second round of syllabus submissions as our volunteer involvement went from over 30 submissions to only about 10. This was quite a shock as we were unable to submit that round of resources to the school. We have recovered since this loss through social media advertising and personal connections but finding volunteers remains the most challenging aspect of the syllabus. There are currently 25 members of HH overall, 9 of whom primarily manage the syllabus. As organizers, the syllabus has taken 300+ hours.

KNOWLEDGE/LEARNING GAINED: At the start of this project, we were not certain if the small actions we were taking could actually bring change to the world, but with high hopes in our minds, we continued to do whatever we could do to help those in need. The more we tried, the more we could see our actions bringing smiles to the children in rural areas. Receiving videos of teachers using worksheets to guide themselves, children talking to each other to solve some difficult questions together, and kids grabbing pencils and paper to move towards their brighter future made us realize that our worries were all meaningless. However, we did not just stop here. To provide a better quality education through our syllabus that could easily be utilized by any caretakers, we focused on the feedback we received and expanded the content being covered. By carefully analyzing each piece of advice and looking for the most effective way to achieve it as a team, we could make the syllabus more comprehensible and easier to follow. Through this process, we learned the importance of being open-minded to critics and suggestions; they open a pathway to successfully meeting the demands and expectations of the syllabus users. Furthermore, we learned to have faith in what we believe to be right for the world and focus on the far future while striving to accomplish the small steps at a time that lie in the middle. If we immediately turned our backs on the minority who have been raising their voices to be heard yet constantly being erased from the media just because we couldn't see a change being made in front of our faces, there is no doubt the children in the rural areas could have, again, been abandoned from a basic human right. However, we did not give up - because we had a strong conviction that anyone could become a hero of the world. By setting ourselves mini-tasks and using them as motivations while thinking about the children being to do what they love to do as a result, away from hard labor, we could let this project come out as a success.

Skills: Some of the skills we've gained include communication skills, collaboration skills, organizing, and risk assessment. We've been able to work with so many people from across the globe and express our visions to them and help them work alongside us which has tremendously helped our communication and collaboration skills. Through working together we've been able to organize our numerous projects, team members, and volunteers in an effective manner that assists all and helps us succeed at our mission.

Tips: One thing that has worked for our team has been a conversation, from the beginning we've discussed our ideas and the possible problems with them and have always stayed open-minded to allow for us to build a project we can all support and love. Communication is key and the way to access it is to learn to articulate your ideas in a way that others can see your vision too!

Evidence

Stats: HH currently has 10 branches in 5 countries (South Africa, Malawi, Tanzania, Zimbabwe, and Namibia). 4 are located in Malawi, 2 in Zimbabwe, 2 in Tanzania, 1 in South Africa, and 1 in Namibia. The amount of orphans attending is north of 500 with more being taken in every day due to the pandemic.

Testimonials: 'HH has made our orphanage a new place of knowledge' - HH Malawi

'The smiles on their faces as they learn are all thanks to HH and what they do' - HH Zimbabwe

'Girls at the orphanage are interested in leaning now that they can do it from home when they can not attend school' - HH Zimbabwe