

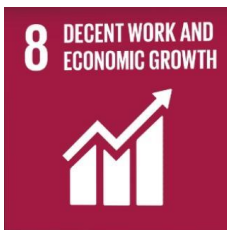
Step Forward – Michiru House - St Andrews, Malawi

Project name: Step Forward

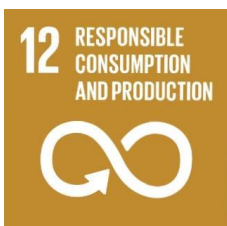
Project Aims:

- Offer training and hands-on experience in upcycling and entrepreneurship to employees, equipping them with skills that are valuable for both their personal and professional lives.
- Raise awareness about the environmental and social impacts of footwear production and consumption, advocating for more sustainable and ethical practices within the industry.

The Sustainable Development Goals that our project addresses:



Job Creation: By upcycling old shoes, Michiru House alongside Youth Arise Trust, develop vocational skills and create employment opportunities, contributing to decent work and economic growth as outlined in SDG 8.



Step Forward encourages sustainable consumption by extending the lifespan of shoes through upcycling, aligning with SDG 12.

Background:

Fast fashion dominates today's society, driven by rapid trend changes and mass production of inexpensive clothing and footwear, fostering a culture of disposability and ethical concerns regarding labour practices and environmental sustainability. Our aim extends beyond the duration of the project, aspiring to create a lasting impact. Even after its conclusion, the collection and donation of shoes to the charity will continue, as well as raising awareness of the damaging impact 'fast fashion' has on our planet. This ensures an ongoing contribution to both the local community and the environment, embodying a sustainable solution that endures beyond the project's timeline.



Roles and Responsibilities:

Focus on Global goal identification: Kalonje Kavinga, Nothemba Chirwa

Identification and collection of funds/in-kind donations: Chisomo Kanyama and Wulanji Cirambo

Social responsibility leaders/prefects: Rania Ferreira and Chloe Terry

Promotion and awareness leaders: Thanthwe Phiri and Rhayah Chimbe

Team Photo (with representative of Youth Arise Trust):



Funds/In-Kind Donations:

Tackling the goal of responsible consumption often involves utilizing various funds and resources, which can come from different sources. Many shoe donations came from local primary schools, "Phoenix international primary school" and "Saint Andrews international primary school".

We were provided with poster paper and IT facilities from our school, Saint Andrews International High School to create the posters for spreading awareness. We were also allowed to place the shoe donation boxes in local restaurants called, "Mijin Kitchen" and "Joe's artisan cafe." We highly appreciate their support and contributions.

Highlights from the Experience:

"When it came to tackling the goal of responsible consumption and production, there were so many highlights to our experience. By working together as a team to make conscious choices about what we consume and how we produce it, we planned to make a positive impact on the environment and society. It's empowering to know that our actions can contribute to a more sustainable future. By creating the opportunity for Youth Arise Trust to recycling shoes, we helped to reduce waste, and also supported an ethical and eco-friendly businesses in the process. Every step we take matters. That's why, together, we want to create a world where responsible consumption and production are the norm, and that's something to be proud of!" - Dulmi Dissanayake



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Knowledge Gained and Skills Learnt:

"I accumulated good collaboration skills with my peers, where we worked together to help achieve the goal of collecting as many shoe donations as we could for Youth Arise Trust. We all pitched in our ideas and combined them to help the project with great teamwork." - Wulunji Chirambo, Michiru: Step Forward GSL Team.

"Through this Global Goals project, I've learnt to work effectively with my peers. I've also embraced a proactive approach to assisting others, even in the smallest of tasks." - Roza Fatch, Michiru: Step Forward Team.

Challenges and learning experiences:

Our first challenge was promoting our project. Initially, we struggled with advertising the shoe bins and encouraging donations. However, we overcame this by assigning specific promotional tasks to team members: some created physical posters, others crafted digital ones for social media, and the rest focused on persuading students at Saints and in the wider community to donate shoes.

Chloe and Rania, as Global Goals leaders, faced the challenge of keeping the team motivated and focused. Despite occasional demotivation during intense sessions, we countered this by sharing frequent motivational talks and reminding each other of the project's broader impact on the communities at Youth Arise Trust.

Several additional obstacles arose during the project, such as effectively managing our time amidst volunteers juggling final external exams, academic responsibilities, and project advancement. Scheduling meetings and follow-ups proved challenging due to time constraints, occasionally overwhelming us. So, throughout these challenges we learnt to openly communicate our struggles with each other, and implement a system that allowed members to share the workload of a task with a partner, so that the workload was not overwhelming upon one member.

Outcomes and impacts:

As a result of our efforts toward global goals, we've established a sustainable system enabling people to donate shoes via designated bins. These shoes are then delivered to YOUTH ARISE TRUST to support their shoe refurbishment business, empowering them to generate income and expand their business. Additionally, the surplus shoes are distributed to adults and children in underprivileged Malawian communities lacking the means to purchase footwear.

Throughout the global goals project, we experienced personal growth, becoming individuals committed to social responsibility and dedicated to effecting positive change within Malawian communities. The skills acquired during this project will continue to influence and benefit us throughout our lives.

Moving Forward:

One of our aims was to leave a lasting impact beyond this project. Because one of our goals was to facilitate sustainable production and consumption, we made sure that the bins will always be in the locations to ensure Youth Arise Trust has a stable source of raw material.



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Project Images:

Building donation boxes:



GSL Team learning new skills, shoe upcycling:



Laying out and loading up over 500 pairs of shoes:

