



Seeds for Change in Malawi

Spring 2026

Objective

The goal of this educational initiative is to begin with targeting a specific school in Malawi to implement critical and creative thinking activities with the schoolchildren. This program, called **Seeds for Change**, would aim to encourage the kids to explore scientific learning and engagement with environmental issues at a young age.



Give Earth a Smile

Challenges & Opportunities	<i>Give Earth a Smile</i> acknowledges that many communities in Malawi experience severe water-related problems, which are a result of climate change, minimal infrastructure, and little to no education for the local students and youth about their environment. Children are the most affected by unsafe water, inadequate sanitation, and environmental damage, but they're also the key to implementing long-term change. • Limited access to clean and safe drinking water, at heightened risk of water borne diseases. • Droughts and floods which reduce water availability and pollute local water supplies. • There are no interactive, grade-appropriate environmental education tools in primary schools. • General lack of knowledge about how everyday actions can either improve or negatively impact water quality and the environment. • A powerful opportunity to encourage lifelong sustainable practices as students engage with learning; and influence families through the experience of the student. • Schools and educational institutions functioning as the center for knowledge dissemination in a community.
Proposed Solution	To tackle these issues, <i>Give Earth a Smile</i> will execute Seeds for Change, a school-led water literacy program that engages students with storytelling and play-based learning to convey significant environmental concepts in an easy-to-understand and exciting manner. Our solution includes: • Reading a children's illustrated book, such as on water, cleanliness, conservation and environment. • Facilitated conversations that tied the story to students' local rivers, wells, rain and their daily water use. • Interactive games and activities. • Hands-on, in-home activities for students to learn. • A basic reusable lesson and activity guide for teachers to use after the visit, in order to continue the programme.
Project Benefits	Students, schools, and the community in Malawi will receive education, social, and environmental benefits including the development of knowledge, responsibility and positive action related to water stewardship. It would increase students' knowledge of water safety, conservation, and environmental protection as well as promote hygiene and health behaviors that prevent waterborne disease. By enabling children to be environmental ambassadors in their families and communities the program will motivate long-term behavior changes through simple, actionable habits that they learn from an early age. It also will enhance schools' ability to provide sustainability education through fun, low-cost resources and further the purpose of Give Earth a Smile: Educating environmentally responsible global citizens and demonstrating sustainable water practices in Malawi.



Project Overview

Give Earth a Smile aims at teaching young children in Malawi primary schools how to value water, keep clean, and take care of their environment.

Format: A 1 hour interactive classroom session (Volunteers will read the children's book *WHY SHOULD I SAVE WATER?* by Jen Green and Mike Gordon, engage in discussion, and activities & guide them through a take-home lesson for follow up visits).

Objective: To create awareness in children and give them the knowledge and habits required for sustainable water consumption and enable them to influence their families as well as their communities.

Target Groups and Schools

- **Primary Audience:** Children aged from 7-12 years (grades 2-5) in rural and semi-urban schools.
- **Secondary Audience:** Teachers and school staff (to support learning and execution).
- **School Selection Criteria:**
 - Schools with limited access to water and environmental education resources.
 - Schools are open to hosting interactive programs and collaborating with small nonprofits.
 - Preferably smaller schools where a single classroom visit can have high engagement.
 - Students understand and can speak the English language well.



Overview of Implementation Phases

Phase 1: Planning and Coordination

Activities:

- Identify target schools
- Secure permission from school administration
- Assign volunteers and roles
- Prepare materials and guides

Timeline / Duration:

1-2 weeks prior

Responsibility:

- Project Manager
- Volunteers

Phase 2: Preparation of Materials

Activities:

- Acquire story book and handouts
- Gather supplies for games and hands-on activities
- Prepare reusable teacher guide

Timeline / Duration:

1 week prior

Responsibility:

- Volunteers
- Materials Coordinator

Phase 3: Classroom Visit

Activities:

- Read storybook aloud
- Facilitate discussion with students
- Conduct interactive games and activities
- Distribute take-home guides and activity sheets

Timeline / Duration:

1 classroom session
(1 - 1.5 hours)

Responsibility:

- Volunteers
- Project Lead

Phase 4: Post-Visit Follow Up

Activities:

- Collect feedback from teachers and students
- Evaluate effectiveness of activities
- Document lessons learned for future visits

Timeline / Duration:

1-2 weeks after visit

Responsibility:

- Project Lead
- Volunteers



Classroom Visit Activity Plan

Activity 1: Storytime by Reading the Book

- **Objective:** Introduce students to water conservation and environmental awareness.
- **Description:** Volunteers read “WHY SHOULD I SAVE WATER?” by Jen Green and Mike Gordon aloud to the class, using the illustrations to help students visualize concepts like clean water, saving water at home, and protecting local water sources.
 - <https://youtu.be/Liqrb8nQovs>

Activity 2: Discussion Questions by Reflecting on the Story

- **Objective:** Encourage critical thinking and connect the story to students’ daily lives.
- **Description:** Volunteers facilitate discussion using these example questions:
 1. Why is it important to save water?
 2. How do you use water at home every day?
 3. What strategies in the book were used to save water?
 4. What can your family do to save water?
 5. What happens if water gets dirty or polluted?
- **Outcome:** Students begin to understand water-related challenges in their own homes and communities.

Activity 3: Hands-On Activities by Games and Engagement

- **Objective:** Make learning interactive and memorable while reinforcing water concepts.
- **Description:**
 - Water Relay: Students pass cups of water using spoons to fill a container without spilling.
 - Awareness Challenge: Students use their knowledge from the short lessons and hands-on activities to, firstly, create some form of media to educate their peers, relatives, and friends about the rainwater reuse system (illustrated in the book).
- **Outcome:** Students actively participate, retain lessons better, and associate water conservation with fun.

Activity 4: Take-Home Materials and Teacher Guide

- **Objective:** Extend learning beyond the classroom.
- **Description:** Volunteers provide take-home guides with water-saving activities students can do at home. Teachers receive a reusable lesson and activity guide to continue the program.