

Field trip in Tanzania

3 of our
volunteers are
going in Tanzania



OPEN SUNDAY
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NEWSLETTER

JANUARY TO MAY 2019



The secretary of the Prince of Wales's Charitable Fund came to see the workshop, mid-May.

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TOOLS FOR SOLIDARITY

TFS with Extinction Rebellion



End of May our volunteers gathered in front of the City Hall with Extinction Rebellion. The aim of this peaceful meetup and then bike trip in Belfast was to prove that it is possible to move in the city while using a bicycle that does not pollute.

The bicycle, for distance between 2.5 and 6 km, is by the way the quicker way to circulate in city.

Developing a big scale Tool Centre project

Establishing a Tool Centre where a vast quantity of tools could be locally refurbished is an idea developed throughout the last 10 years in Tools For Solidarity. Last autumn, TFS held two strategic meetings in order to give a picture of our current projects, understand our strengths and limits, and define directions for future partnerships.

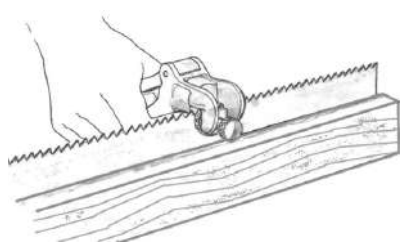
We analysed what vulnerable groups to target, set up a criteria for selecting a partner and drew up an initial action plan for developing new partnerships through a Tool Centre project.



WHY A TOOL CENTRE PROJECT?

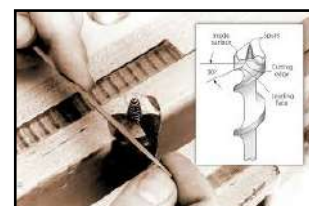
TFS have many thousands of tools, reflecting the industrial history of Northern Ireland. Good quality basic hand tools are no longer being produced in the quantities needed and they are not easily available within many developing countries.

The objective of the project is to improve livelihoods through an increased access to high quality refurbished tools and improved levels of technical knowledge (refurbishment, maintenance, skills).



The concept is to set up a Tool Centre which will refurbish a high quantity of tools and sewing machines in country, allocate these resources for vocational training purposes and/or for income generating activities and provide technical training.

Given the large number of tools we have, TFS could supply significant numbers of Vocational Training Colleges (VTC's) along with artisans. Therefore, the project needs to be implemented at a big scale -regional or national level.



By refurbishing the resources in country:

- More tools reach the target groups (we cannot refurbish all the stock we have);
- Knowledge is transferred (refurbishment, maintenance and skills), helping further sustainability;
- Target groups get the tools they want at the time and quantity they need;
- Tools can be more easily maintained (brought back to the centre and re-sharpened/repaired).



EVALUATION OF COUNTRY SUITABILITY

At present, the main projects we support are located in Tanzania and implemented by the same partner organisation. With shipping costs rising dramatically in the last few years, the start of new national regulations for foreign support to the country, and large areas covered by the two centres we support, it seems necessary to look at new countries to develop a Tool Centre project.

After an initial review, and after excluding certain countries for reasons of poor English, small size and population, wealth, those with highest corruption levels and those in conflict zones, the following list was determined :

- West Africa: Ghana, Liberia and Sierra Leone;
- East Africa: Rwanda, Malawi, Zambia and Madagascar;
- South Asia: Nepal, India and Sri Lanka;
- Caribbean: Cuba.



WORKING WITH A PARTNER

To develop this ambitious project, TFS needs to find an appropriate partner to conceive a sustainable project with (define status and structure of the Tool Centre, who will refurbish the tools, tools to be used for vocational training purposes and/or for income generating activities, how to finance the Tool Centre).

TFS requires a dynamic partner that can help in the development and delivery of the Tool Centre: to manage the project, to organise the provision of technical training and to keep the project relevant to the target groups.



We are considering different types of partners:



- Organisation working on income-generating projects;
- Vocational Training Colleges (VTC);
- Public or private network of VTCs at regional/national level;
- Organisation working with special groups such as People With Disabilities, etc.

ESTABLISHING CONTACTS

We are at the early stages of this project and are currently looking to get people's views and thoughts on the proposals above and areas that we have not considered.

For this purpose, a letter has been sent to a number of academics from Department of International Development and to sister tools organisations.

A visit to TFS by Workaid's CEO is getting arranged for mid July. In addition, we answered positively to TSFR England's solicitation to be part of a new network of small / medium charities working in the livelihoods development sector – the 'Life' network, or Livelihoods for Empowerment. TFS will be represented at the first meeting in Southampton in the end of September.



We published a request for a list of organisations (governmental, NGOs, local authorities, etc) working within the framework of Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TveT) at a big scale (regional/national level) on the Unesco-Unevoc TveT Forum as well, from which we are starting to receive feedback from actors of the sector.



The next months we will continue our researches of organisations and go on further collaborations for the ones that already answered positively to our requests.

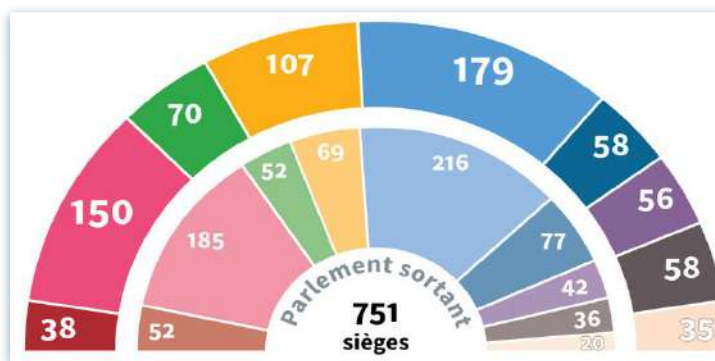
Thank you to everybody in TFS and specifically in the New Partnerships sub group for all the work done until now and to be done in the near future!

Angéline

New generations and the climate change

The European Elections showed two things : first that the euroscepticism is getting stronger days after days but also that the youth's votes first went to green parties.

The white supremacists won many seats and we heard a lot about the political romance between Matteo Salvini (*Lega Nord* in Italy) and Marine Le Pen (*Rassemblement National* in France).



But Green parties emerged as big winners in April's European Parliament. They triumphed in the EU's three biggest economies : *Die Grüne* in Germany arrived first in a national poll (first time in the country's history), *Europe Écologie Les Verts* in France doubled its number of elected deputies and the

Green Party in the UK finally got some deputies elected in Parliament. The Greens are today 9,72% in Brussels. Something that never happened before.

The impressive and never seen before result for the Greens in the European Elections can be explain through the votes of a new generation much more interested and conscious of the ecological problems. The demonstrations - or school strikes - for the ecology made by the younger on every Fridays are proves of this huge mobilisation in the pols.

Could it be because they are worried for their future? Could it be because they won't have a future ?

The schools strikes started with a young Swedish girl : **Greta Thunberg**. In August 2018 she decided to stop going to school one day a week and to sit in front the Swedish Parliament, the Riksdag. She was quickly followed by dozens and dozens of young people in Stockholm, then by thousands in others European countries and on March the 15th 1.4 million students in 112 countries around the world were estimated to have joined her call in the striking and protesting.



Greta said that she first took conscious of the dying of our planet by watching a documentary of starving and dying bears in North-Pole when she was 8 and never forgot these images. She asked her parents to changer their way of life : the mother is a

worldwide famous opera singer and stooped taking planes for her professional trips, and the father invested in a Tesla (an electric car). Greta is nowadays vegan.

The World really discovered her when she called out world leaders for their global inaction on climate change, at the 24th COP in Poland last year, when she was just 16 years old. She also participated in TED Talk.

But Greta Thunberg is not the only youth to act against the climate change. The international movement **Extinction Rebellion** uses non-violent civil disobedience to achieve radical change in order to minimise the risk of human extinction and ecological collapse. The movement started its actions shortly after the first school strikes in the UK but is now trending in big cities around the world. From March to May, for weeks people from Extinction Rebellion blocked many sites and bridges in London. Some got arrested and many of them were born after 1990.



Actors against climate change and of Extinction Rebellion are also **Jack and Finn Harries**. Two brothers, one filmmaker and the other architect that started publishing videos on YouTube (some videos of their different travels). But 3 years ago they shared a personal one called « Our Changing Climate ». Both of them are fully engaged in this fight against government's policies and against our way of consuming. They were and are still present in Extinction Rebellion actions in London. Jack, the filmmaker, got arrested for non violent protest, in February 2019, in a meeting where oil and gas industries leaders were planning to extract more fossils fuels contributing to climate heating.

But between Trump and Xi Jinping, both not believing in climate change, it gets even more urgent to make governments understanding that it is not climate change but climate emergency ! We have to keep fighting.

Léa

What does it mean to be fair?

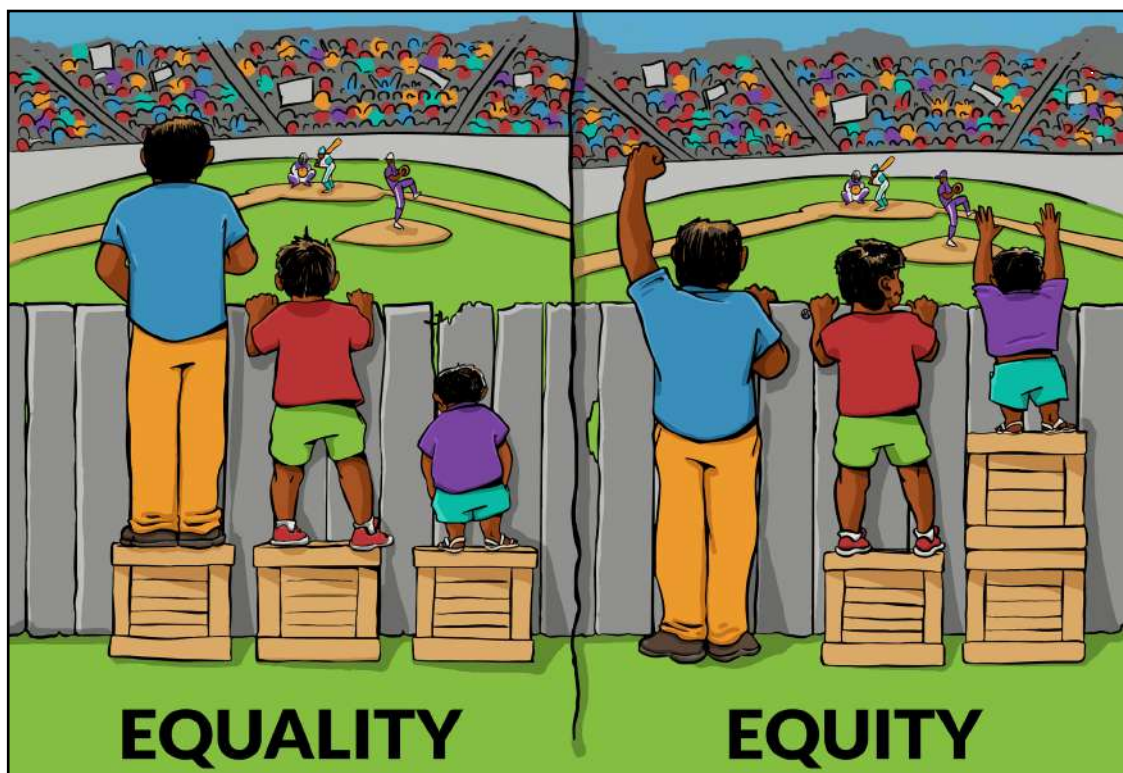
We often time hear the expression “*fair enough*” and if you are around children you are likely to hear them saying “*It’s not fair*”. Fairness is a concept that we develop from a very young age and it’s very present in our day to day lives, but what does it mean to be fair? Oxfam dictionary defines it as follow:

“Treating people equally without favoritism or discrimination.”

Yet I am wondering, is treating people equally always fair? Should everyone receive the same support? Should everyone receive the same benefits? Should everyone pay the same amount of taxes?

Life is not as simple as “**yes**” or “**no**” questions and answers. Sometimes one child in class needs more support than the peers sitting next to him. Occasionally someone in our neighborhood requires more support than the neighbor on the other side of the road and certainly, some people can afford to pay more taxes than others.

See the image below and think about fairness:



In the picture on the right, the boxes are distributed equally meanwhile in the picture on the left the boxes are distributed according to the needs of people. Which one is fairer?

During the 5th session of the ESD programme we debate whether everyone should contribute the same amount of money to buy a birthday present for one of their classmates, or if they will be willing to give extra to include someone who otherwise wouldn't be able to afford it.



This is indeed a very difficult task for 11-year-olds and we need to work hard on our empathy skills. Luckily we have always been able to come up with a solution. My favorite part is when they come up with ideas for presents not involving money, such as helping out with the decorations or using skills to make a homemade present.

We are all part of the same society, passengers of the same planet. It's up to us to decide how do we want our society to look like and make it happen.

Laura

How to true wheels on your wee bike?

Basics.

I don't know about your experience, but for me problems with the wheels were the most frequent ones I've had with my bike so far. Imagine, you hit a pavement stone, you got your inner tube punctured. You fixed it easily, but then you realized that your rim is not straight anymore. And then you probably think "For flip sake, I have to go to a bicycle store, pay a quite amount of money to get my bike fixed again?".

But what if I tell you that trueing wheels isn't a rocket science and knowing some simple rules can stop your wheels from wobbling and save you a pound or two?

Here they are:

1. FLATTEN YOUR TIRE AND TAKE IT OFF THE WHEEL

With this action you'll expose spoke nipples, so you can use a regular flat head screwdriver to do the job. (Of course it's better to use a special spoke tool, but we are talking about basics so let's keep it simple);

4. YOU SPIN THE WHEEL TO SEE HOW BAD IT IS AND DECIDE WHAT ARE YOUR NEXT STEPS;

6. CHECK AGAIN IF THE WHEEL IS BETTER, REPEAT THE ADJUSTMENT IF NEEDED;

2. AS YOU CAN SEE, EVERY SPOKE IS ATTACHED EITHER TO THE LEFT OR THE RIGHT SIDE OF YOUR

5. IF IT WOBBLER SIDWAYS :

you find the maximum point of wobbling, then release two spokes on this side and tighten three spokes on the opposite side. Make only quarter turns each time, there is no rush. For example, it wobbles to the right. In this case spokes on the RIGHT side should be released and the LEFT side spokes should be tightened.

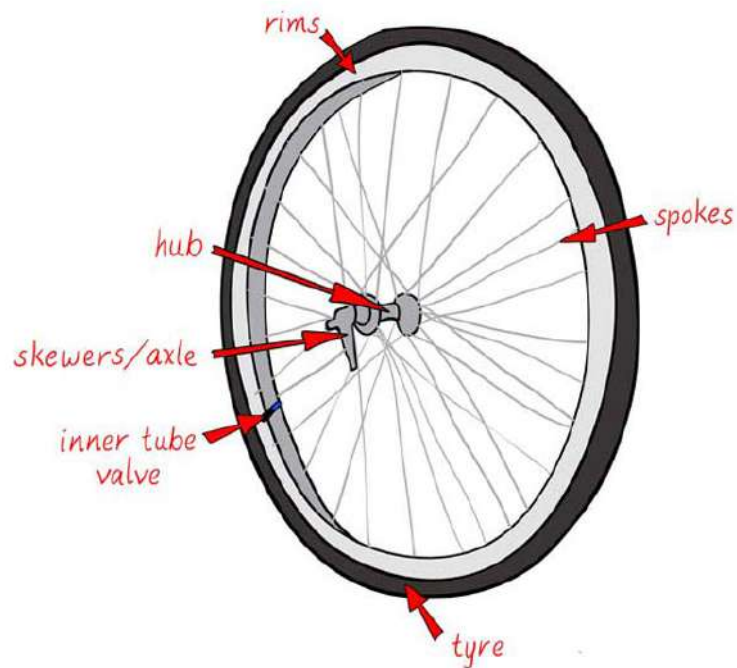
3. PUT A DROP OF OIL OR WD-40 ON EACH NIPPLE, THAT WILL SIMPLIFY THE WHOLE PROCESS NOTICEABLY;

7. IF IT WOBBLER UP AND DOWN :

you find the maximum point. Then if it wobbles away from the hub you tighten two closest spokes for a whole turn. Do release the spokes if it wobbles towards the hub.

8. CHECK AGAIN IF THE WHEEL IS BETTER, REPEAT THE ADJUSTMENT IF NEEDED.

As you can see, it's pretty straightforward.



Sometimes bended areas are quite big. In the case of sideways wobbling simply do the same amount of spokes but+ 1 for both sides. 2 and 3, 3 and 4... and if it's up and down, you add 2 more spokes depending on how big the area is. 2, 4, 6 etc...

That's pretty much it. I hope that this article will be useful for anybody. Check some YouTube videos before starting, a picture worth a thousand words. Stay curious.

Andrei

Belfast Marathon



On the 5th of May there was a big event in Belfast, the marathon. Many people from all over Northern Ireland came to participate, and it was really a great day, full of different people, all of them with the goal to finish the race.

The most beautiful thing was the streets full of people cheering and shouting with motivational phrases, encouraging people to don't give up. It was truly a wonderful day.

Also our volunteers participated in the marathon, the specific one : the relay. Mustafa opened the party starting from Stormont to Ormeau Park (6.8 miles), Jessica from Ormeau Park to Boucher Road (4.2 miles), Yaprak from Boucher Road to Falls Road (4.2miles), Maria from Falls Road to Duncain Gardens (5 miles), and the last one Youssef from Duncain Gardens to Ormeau Park (5.8 miles). The team of volunteers ran the 26 miles and crossed the line in around 4 hours and 40 minutes.



The feedback from the volunteers was really nice. They enjoyed the run and learned that to be patient and focus on their goal can bring them everywhere.



Pablo Picasso once said “ *Our goals can only be reached through a vehicle of a plan, in which we must fervently believe, and upon which we must vigorously act. There is no other route to success.*”

To believe is the key of success. If you have a goal in mind, running a marathon for example, just be patient and focus on it. If you truly believe in you and if you act in the aim to success what you have to do, you can do everything.

Youssef

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