

The background of the entire page is a photograph of a workshop. It is filled with numerous wooden handles and tool heads, likely for carpentry or construction. The handles are arranged in rows on shelves or in bins, some with small white labels attached. The lighting is warm and slightly dim, creating a sense of a busy, traditional workspace. The text 'Annual Report' and '2021 - 2022' is overlaid on the center of the image, with a black diagonal bar behind the text.

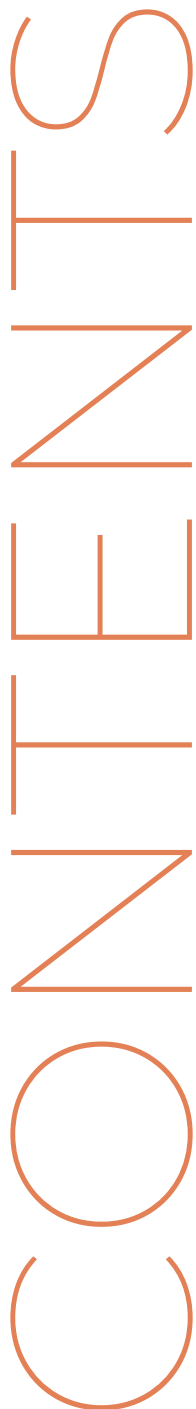
Annual Report

2021 - 2022



TOOLS FOR SOLIDARITY

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BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Principles	Underlying all the activities of Tools for Solidarity are the principles and values of self-help and empowerment, individual and global equality, environmental awareness, inclusiveness, voluntarism, and the right to challenge/oppose activities/actions that contradict these values.
Mission Statement	TFS supports self-reliance by providing high quality refurbished tools to working people overseas, promoting international solidarity, and challenging global inequalities through a critical examination of development issues, environmental sustainability and ethical working practices.

Our Aims

01

Encourage

Promote self-reliance by furnishing overseas projects with high quality recycled hand tools and sewing machines.

02

Engage

Involve individuals, organisations and the public in the development and environmental issues. Utilise working methods that develop and support a sense of international solidarity and promote volunteering and ethical working practices.

03

Ensure

Tools For Solidarity will have appropriate premises, personnel and funding to meet the agreed outputs and objectives of the organisation.

Solidarity in practice is the heart of TFS's work. You can contribute in a very practical way by donating hand tools or sewing machines, by making a donation towards essential shipping and running costs, by providing materials or by volunteering.

We thank you for your continued support in our efforts to contribute to the TFS.

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CHAIRPERSON'S ADDRESS

It has been a time of change within TFS on several fronts. The challenge of having to deal with the fallout of Brexit as well as the difficulties of operating 3 centres in Tanzania put a real strain on the organisation. Thankfully the organisation has been able to develop support from other organisations which have enabled us to come through and hopefully continue our work.

As we say goodbye to the European scheme that has supported TFS for over 20 years with volunteers and funding, Stephen has been working hard in the background to look for replacement schemes. He has developed links with 2 organisations that will see us host 4 new volunteers in the year to come. This is critical as the workload has increased and the organisation needs people to help meet the challenges.

The partnership side of our project has been extremely successful with all projects in Tanzania and the demand for new projects increasing. Given our size, it had become an issue of sustainability to maintain all the projects and develop new projects. Last year we contacted Work Aid, in England, who were interested in what we were doing and they agreed to support the project at MSTC. This will hopefully secure their future and enable TFS to develop support for artisans in the Southern Highlands of Tanzania.

The ESD programme goes from strength to strength with Roisin developing new sessions and widening the scope of the programme. It is hoped to expand the programme even further next year when we will have the support of new volunteers.



CHAIRPERSON'S ADDRESS

In terms of capacity, the organisation faces 2 challenges. To sort out the resources that it has and streamline what it keeps. This is a labour-intensive job and will be the priority in the coming year. The other challenge is the dwindling supply of certain types of sewing machines for the projects in Tanzania. This will require TFS collecting from further a field and developing a network of supporters for this to happen. This process has started and will be widened as we develop new links.

The supported volunteer programme has returned after Covid and has been expanding steadily under Hamish's supervision. It is great to have him back working in TFS – he helped start TFS way back in 1992 and was part of the management of the organisation for over 14 years.

The finances of the organisation will come under stress in the coming years as the loss of funding from the European scheme begins to hit. This will be a challenge to the funding groups and the organisation as we seek ways to compensate for the loss. Thanks to Ken, TFS has been able to maintain and start new projects with the funding that he has been able to raise. The programme to support Asylum seekers being a prime example.

Next year TFS will look forward to continuing all its programmes and as always will rely on the support of local people like Geoff, who does the accounts and many local volunteers without which TFS would not operate. So a big thank you to you all.

PARTNERSHIP DEVELOPMENT AND SUPPORT

MSTC From July 2021 to June 2022 the Mwanza Sewing and Training Centre (MSTC), located in Mwanza City, provided 107 sewing machines including 3 knitting machines and 1 to people with disabilities. In total it is 27'113'500 Tsh (£9.500,000) of income and 6 training sessions delivered to 112 skilled tailors.

At the end of March 2022, 3 staff members from TFS – Stephen Wood (TFS coordinator), Manon Oger (partnership worker), Geoffrey Nobles (treasurer volunteer) – went to MSTC centre for 4 days. During the trip, TFS staff visited artisans and gathered their feedback to improve the MSTC centre. TFS also met with the local partner SIDO (Small Industries Development Organisation) to discuss the finances and the future of the project.

In 2021 TFS and a sister organisation in England called WORKAID discussed the future of MSTC and the possibility of a partnership between MSTC and Workaid. Early 2022 Workaid took over responsibility for MSTC from TFS and sent a shipment to Mwanza that hopefully will arrive in June/July 2022.

In April 2022, 2 young women with disabilities started a tailoring course for a year in a vocational training centre in Musoma (4 hours away from Musoma). The costs (accommodation, tuition fees, food, etc.) are fully covered by the reserve of MSTC.



PARTNERSHIP DEVELOPMENT AND SUPPORT

MSTC

Feedback of tailors – Matthias Sylvester



Matthias received a Straight Stitches (SS) sewing machine in 2018 and was trained in dress design. He has been a tailor for 10 years. Before he was using a Chinese SS machine. He does men and women's clothes. His income increased and he managed to buy a new plot for their agriculture business. The business training helped him to improve as now he keeps records of his sales. In the future he wants to start a shop that sells materials. There are also other tailors that come to use his SM for 1,000 Tsh.

PARTNERSHIP DEVELOPMENT AND SUPPORT

NASTC The Njombe Artisan Support and Training Centre (NASTC) is currently running for almost 2 years. During these months NASTC delivered 129 sewing machines and 5 knitting machines. The staff also conducted 3 training sessions for 92 skilled tailors including 1 artisan with disabilities. NASTC also sold 688 individual and manual tools and 10 electrical tools. A tool starter kit was also allocated to a mechanic with disabilities. The finances of the first years of the project are healthy as they have more than 30'000'000 Tsh (£10.000,000) in the bank at the end of June 2022.

At the beginning of April 2022, the TFS staff travelled to the NASTC centre for 6 days. Just like during the MSTC trip TFS staff visited the artisans to gather their feedback, met with the local partner SIDO, checked the finances and the future of the project. TFS also had the opportunity to take part in a sewing machine training of tailors. During 6 days the NASTC staff organise training in the repair and maintenance of the sewing machine (1 day), dress design or embroidery tailoring skills (4 days) and business skills (1 day).

TFS staff also met 2 young people with disabilities that are following a 1-year tailoring course in a VTC not far away from the NASTC centre. The costs are entirely covered by NASTC (accommodation, health insurance, tuition fees, etc).



PARTNERSHIP DEVELOPMENT AND SUPPORT

NASTC



On the left: VTC director

In the middle and on the right: Andrea et Doris – students

Feedback of tailors – Adela T Mbembati (artisan with disabilities)

Adela took part in a training course at the NASTC centre in April 2022. As part of the people with disability programme, she received her machine free of charge with a small allowance to cover her transport costs. Adela learnt tailoring in a VTC in Njombe and mentioned that she was the only one with disabilities in her class. She chose a zigzag sewing machine to be able to do more design and improved her income. She liked the training received at NASTC and especially the design skills. Luckily her disability does not impact her business (she got customers like the other tailors). She knows another tailor in Makambako with a disability and she wants to inform her about the PWD programme in the centre.



PARTNERSHIP DEVELOPMENT AND SUPPORT

RASTC TFS visited the Ruvuma Artisan Support and Training Centre (RASTC) in early 2021. During this visit, TFS had a lot of concerns regarding the future of the project such as poor management, the state of the sewing machine, lack of communication, etc. In accordance with these issues, TFS decided to finish the project. The NASTC centre officially closed its doors in February 2022.

However, from July 2021 to February 2022 RASTC delivered 69 sewing machines and trained 54 skilled tailors during 2 training sessions. RASTC also sold 45 hand tools and had 12'000'000 Tsh (£4300) in the bank account before closing.

RASTC, such as MSTC and NASTC, offered a full tailoring training course in a VTC for 2 people with disabilities. Currently, 2 young women are following a tailoring class and their graduation will be held by the NASTC centre at the end of 2022. The remaining sewing machines, tools, machinery and financial resources have been transferred to the NASTC centre.

MALAWI Towards the end of the year, we sent our last shipment of tools and sewing machines to Malawi. These will go to graduates of the Tools and Training for Livelihoods in Malawi programme, coordinated by the Global Concerns Trust (GCT), funded by the Scottish government and delivered by local partners MACOHA and KODO.

PARTNERSHIP DEVELOPMENT AND SUPPORT

MALAWI This programme transforms the lives of the people who are trained and supported by it. The people are all with disabilities or with mental health issues. They receive vocational training for 6 – 12 months, accommodation and food during the training, sessions on HIV awareness, sexual and reproductive health rights and gender awareness. They also learn how to make green manure and are taught business skills. At the end of the training, they receive the tools or sewing machine they need to start a business, a solar panel and working materials. Over 97% of those that have passed through this programme have established successful businesses, improving greatly the lives of the graduates and their families and transforming how local people view people with disabilities.

This year we shipped 6 Cane Furniture making kits refurbished by the Downpatrick and Mourne Grange groups, 18 sewing machines and 24 treadles. These joined tools kits and sewing machines from 4 Scottish tools groups and were sent to Malawi.

Sadly the future of this programme is unsure as funding from the Scottish government runs out next year. We will work with GCT to explore whatever funding opportunities may be available to keep this unique and highly successful programme going.



PARTNERSHIP DEVELOPMENT AND SUPPORT



MALAWI SHIPMENT

TFS Future Projects

During the field visit to the NASTC centre TFS discovered that the tools side of the project is not selling and working very well. TFS is looking to expand the NASTC centre and open a centre focusing on tools in the neighbourhood region, Iringa. One first contact was made during the TFS visit with SIDO Iringa and the response was positive. TFS and SIDO Iringa hope to develop a strategic plan for a future centre in the coming months.

VOLUNTEERS REPORT

"Volunteering is central to all that TFS is and does. For more than thirty years people have come to Tools from around the world and across the street; all ages, backgrounds and abilities. "

They bring their energy, passion, interest, curiosity, humanity and humour. They come to learn, to share, to build a better world and it works because we share values: empathy, compassion and a desire to create sustainable development.

This has been an extremely challenging year for us. COVID lockdowns and restrictions have had a real impact on our operations and slowed down the preparation of our shipments. They have also created hurdles and barriers for our international volunteers – the red list of countries affecting a number of our incoming European Solidarity Corp volunteers.

However, it is the UK government's decision not to continue to be involved in the European Solidarity Corp programme that will have a major, long term on our organisation. The ESC programme provides us with 6 volunteers from a wide range of countries for a 12month service. It also generates a significant part of our funding. Such a loss presents us with a fundamental challenge to find alternative sources of volunteers and funds.



VOLUNTEERS REPORT

The situation has been made even more difficult by the UK Government's decision to require EU volunteers to obtain a visa and to pay a Health Insurance Surcharge which means volunteers have to find close to £1000 before they even enter the UK. The ESC programme had, at its core, a commitment to inclusion and to provide the support needed to enable volunteers coming from disadvantaged backgrounds to participate. The UK government have taken the opposite approach.

TFS has campaigned with other NGOs and community organisations throughout the UK to call for the withdrawal of the Health Surcharge for international volunteers and for the retention of the ESC programme for NI – sadly with no real affect.

The final group of ESC volunteers joined us throughout the year. They all had some difficulties with the new regulations, COVID guidelines and visa requirements but none more so that Elif, our last ever Turkish ESC volunteer who refused to be deterred by so many set backs and delays. She showed so much determination and commitment to be part of Tools – thank you Elif. Thanks too to all the other international volunteers, especially the core volunteers who have stayed with us for a second or third year or more. They provide the stability and continuity that empowers new volunteers to find their place. Special thanks to Jessica who was with us for more than 3 and a half years of hard work, laughter and a few tears.

VOLUNTEERS REPORT

In November we started a communication with VISA -AD in France. This NGO promotes volunteering opportunities and is involved in delivering the French Service Civique programme funded by the French government. We submitted an application for 3 volunteers from France to join us for one year. If this is successful we will at least be able to continue hosting volunteers from 2 countries – France and Germany (through our long term partnership with Eirene).

More and more local people are becoming interested in our work and the number of locals now part of our regular team is growing – this is a healthy sign for the organisation but also reflects a growing concern for the environment and how we can create a more sustainable future.

Many thanks to all our volunteers – local, core, international and supported for their dedication and hard work.



SUPPORTED VOLUNTEERS REPORT

In March 2020 we, unfortunately, had to suspend our supported volunteer programme due to the Covid pandemic. After a gap of over a year and a half we were delighted to be able to re-start this programme in January 2022. Initially we had a protocol in place with extra measures to ensure the health of our supported volunteers, like separate tea breaks and work stations. However, in line with the rest of local society, we were able to drop these measures in April 2022 and welcome our supported volunteers to return to mixing normally with the other volunteers in the workshop and kitchen. An important part of the volunteer experience at TFS is being able to socialise with the other volunteers and our supported volunteers had missed out on this.

With the ending of most Covid restrictions in N.Ireland there have been many organisations and families looking for placements for their clients and family members, to enable them to regain some sense of structure back in their lives after the enormous disruption of the Covid lockdowns.

We have consequently had many requests from organisations like Leonard Cheshire, Sense, Inspire, Orchardville and L'Arche. So we decided to increase the number of available places from 12 to 16. We run a supported volunteer programme for volunteers who require extra support with mental health, brain injuries, autism and or a learning disability. We run this programme on Mondays and Thursdays morning and afternoon slots with a tea break in each slot.

The volunteers learn skills of simple repairing and cleaning of hand tools and sewing machines and the tasks our volunteers undertake are matched to their abilities.



SUPPORTED VOLUNTEERS REPORT

Two quotes we recently
received about the benefits of
our programme:

"Tools as it is affectionately known provides opportunities for people who have been disadvantaged and excluded in society due to their disabilities. Tools enables the Volunteer to participate in worthwhile and valuable work giving them a sense of self-worth and a sense of purpose. The staff at Tools are professional and provide an excellent opportunity for individuals to develop their work skills and social skills in a safe and supported environment."

Maria Daly, a case officer from the
Cedar Foundation

"M has attended Tools for Solidarity's supported volunteer programme for almost 6 years. He really enjoys his time there and has learned so many new skills. The supported volunteers help to support M with all his tasks and are always very friendly, patient and helpful. This support has helped M's confidence grow as well as helping him learn how to act in the work place. The woodworking tasks completed at Tools are a great way to engage attention and help participants focus on their work. M. also enjoys speaking with the volunteers, who come from various different countries in Europe, and learning about their different countries of origin and cultures. Overall, Tools is a fantastic place that supports participants both in terms of work skills and social/communication skills."

Leah Yarr, a support worker from
Orchardville society



FUNDRAISING GROUP

2021 - 2022 The Fundraising Group continue to meet regularly to review the plans for Tools for Solidarity and to ensure that funds are always available for new and continuing projects. We were pleased to receive major funding from Irish Aid for our Education for Sustainable Development programme, and look forward to working with them in future years. This was backed up by a grant from the Ultach Foundation to enable the translation of our very high-quality ESD resources into Irish for use in Irish medium schools throughout Ireland.

With the ending of our participation in the European Solidarity Corps (due to Brexit), we have begun a major programme for new sources of revenue. In particular, we are looking for funding from the Health Trusts for our Supported Volunteer work, and we are working towards an application to the Dormant Accounts fund to underpin a substantial restructuring of the organisation. This work is ongoing but we expect it to bear fruit in 2022-23.

Another major focus this year was on gaining funds for the refurbishment of the new storage building on Antrim Road. We are grateful to Ulster Garden Villages for funds for 50% of the work, on the condition that we find match-funders for the other 50%. We have now been able to do this, though the amounts are not available until the 2022-23 financial year.



FUNDRAISING GROUP

2021 - 2022 Fundraising continued to be affected this year by the coronavirus pandemic. With the gradual reopening of the workshop, we were not able to hold any fundraising events, though the volume of donations increased.

Meanwhile NIPSA and Unicorn continue to fund our projects in Tanzania; in 2021-22 the major focus was on the Njombe Artisan Sewing and Training Centre, while we also began to look for funds for the new centre in Iringa.

During 2021 - 2022, we received funding from the following organisations:

Archer Trust	Supported Volunteer Programme
Arnold Clark	Supported Volunteer Programme
Irish Aid	ESD Coordinator
NIPSA	Njombe ASTC
Roger Waters	Education for Sustainable Development
The Executive Office NI	Refugee and Asylum Seeker Programme
Ulster Garden Villages	Refurbishment of new building
Ultach Foundation	Translation of ESD resources into Irish
Unicorn Coop	Mwanza STC

The Fundraising committee would like to take this opportunity to thank all the organisations listed above, and the many individuals and donors who have so generously supported the work of Tools for Solidarity during the year. We rely entirely on your support to be able to continue our life changing work.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Company Number: NI52306 (Northern Ireland)

Registered Charity Number: NIC100614

The Financial Year 2021-22 saw another significant loss. However like 2020-21 there is one explanation that, in large part, explains this. Significant money due from EVS did not arrived until 22-23, if it had arrived in 21-22 we would have been close to breaking even. The end of the EVS scheme is going to present serious challenges in terms of income generation.

The year saw a further visit to Tanzania by Stephen, Manon and Geoff, with consequential expenditure. 22/23 is likely to see two further visits.

The loan received has started to be paid off and is currently being more than offset by income from Anthony as part of his contribution towards the new property.

Overhead Expenditure was almost exactly the same as the previous year.

Going forward it is projected we will break even in 2022-23 but after that changes are essentially to prevent year on year loses. Additional streams of income are being actively pursued, notably a shop.

Income is likely to rise in 22-23. Already Donations and non EVS Grants are showing a healthy return. In addition the expectation is that Scrap Metal and Energy Savings income will rise, and Fund Raising activites will recommence.

However this is in large part due to rising prices. Expenditure on Insurance, Legal and Professional and Light & Heat is likely to rise significantly.



FINANCIAL REPORT

The overall assessment is that 22-23 will be ok but long term changes are required to maintain the viability of the organisation.

Current Account	£ 5,145
Building Society	£ 55,878
Petty Cash	£ 69
Paypal	£ 1,179
Net Financial Assets	£ 62,133



FINANCIAL REPORT

A full breakdown of the finances. Income 2021-22:

INCOME	2021-22
Buiding Society/Bank Interest	£ 721
Donations	£ 19,412
Grants (ESC)	£0
Grants Other	£ 16,861
Other Income / Other Sales	£ 0
Rent Income	£ 10,722
Scrap Metal Sales	£ 1,392
VAT Refunds	£ 3,306
Sewing Machine / Tools sales	£ 2,851
Gift Aid	£ 914
Fund Raising	£ 0
Energy Savings	£ 2,014
TOTAL INCOME	£ 58,906

A full breakdown of the finances. Expenses 2021-22:

EXPENDITURE	2020-21
Direct Expenses	
Purchase, Parts, Material	£ 1,304
Fixed Assets	£ 2,985
Repairs	£ 113
<i>Total Direct Expenses</i>	<i>£ 4,438</i>



FINANCIAL REPORT

EXPENDITURE	2020-21
Overheads	
Financial Fees	£ 54
Field Trip Costs	£ 2,945
Insurance	£ 3,463
Fund Raising Expenses	£ 0
Legal & Professional Costs	£ 667
Loan Repayment	£ 3,750
Light & Heat	£ 4,044
Overseas Payments	£ 1,282
Rent, Rates & Water Charges	£ 4,875
Salary	£ 28,580
Shipping	£ 82
Stationary & Postage	£ 56
Sundry	£ 418
Telephone	£ 943
Travel & Subsistence	£ 5,532
Vehicle Fuel/Motor Expenses	£ 9,783
Volunteer Expenses	£ 22,503
Total Overhead Expenses	£ 88,777
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	£ 93,915
Profit/Loss	-£ 34,309

EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (ESD) PROGRAMME REPORT

The aim of this report is to provide information regarding Tools For Solidarity's Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) programme for the period September 2021 - June 2022. The work of the ESD group during this period was funded by Irish Aid, the Ultach Fund and Community Foundation and Roger Waters. We are very grateful for their support.

Primary Schools

In the academic year 2021-22 Tools For Solidarity (TFS) delivered its ESD programme to 19 primary schools, reaching 1,064 pupils in the Belfast, Lisburn and Downpatrick areas. The programme was delivered in Irish for the first time to 73 pupils in 3 Gaelscoileanna. The ESD group enjoyed being able to visit schools throughout the whole academic year for the first time since the advent of the Covid-19 pandemic. TFS are pleased to report that more children than ever before benefited from the programme which is aimed at Key Stage 2 pupils (aged 8-11).

We offered 6 sessions to primary schools which tie in with the Northern Ireland curriculum areas 'The World Around Us' and 'Personal Development and 'Mutrual Understanding'. The programme covered the following topics: inequality; poverty; resource exploitation and overconsumption; fairtrade.

The programme was delivered in Irish for the first time to 73 pupils in 3 Gaelscoileanna. TFS would like to acknowledge all those who translated and proofread the content for the Irish medium school programme. We are also very grateful to the Ultach Fund and Community Foundation for their financial support.



ESD PROGRAMME REPORT



Primary Schools



ESD for Adults

ESD PROGRAMME REPORT

ESD for Adults

This year saw TFS implement its first dedicated ESD programme for adults. We delivered the new programme to three women's centres and one men's shed in the Belfast and Lisburn areas. Overall the programme received positive feedback and we will continue to deliver this series of workshops in the year 2022-23. The topics covered were: food waste; climate emergency and action; cultural diversity and the migrant experience in N.I.; fast fashion. In all of the sessions adults were encouraged to identify tangible actions they could take to create a fairer, more sustainable world.

TFS is delighted to report that we have already seen some of the groups implement these actions. The Colin Men's Shed put their skills to use, using scrap wood to make toolboxes which they donated along with tools to TFS in June 2022. The toolboxes will be sent out to young people finishing vocational training in Tanzania. The actions of the men's shed demonstrate a desire to reduce waste and also to act in global solidarity. Footprints Women's Centre have decided to plan a Clothes Swap event as an alternative to dumping clothes, an issue we discussed in the fast fashion session.

ESD PROGRAMME REPORT

ESD Event

This year saw TFS co-host its first ESD event in partnership with Colin Neighbourhood Partnership (CNP). CNP (including Colin Men's Shed) participated in the ESD programme in February 2022, and subsequently organised a 'Community Environment & Recycling Awareness Day' along with TFS. Over 10 local organisations had a stall at the event and shared information about their initiatives with the public. These included the Footprints Women's Centre (another recipient of the ESD programme). People in the Colin area of Belfast learned about Belfast groups who reduce waste, present sustainable alternatives to the pervading model of overconsumption and protect the environment. There were 50 attendees. The enthusiasm and willingness of the Colin Men's Shed with regards organising the event indicates the multiplying factor of the TFS ESD programme. We would like to acknowledge the Colin Neighbourhood Partnership for all they did in organising and hosting such a positive event.



ESD PROGRAMME REPORT

Volunteers

The ESD programme provides opportunities for both international and local volunteers, who can aid the Education Officer by presenting and facilitating activities, as well as preparing educational materials. TFS takes the opportunity to thank volunteers, Sam and Noel, who did a second year of volunteering. Noel took on the role of Lead Volunteer and therefore delivered sessions in some schools independently of the Education Officer, as well as helping to train other volunteers. Several volunteers new to the ESD group had a chance to hone their presentation skills and discover the global education sector. Many thanks to Rafaela, Astrid, Joel, Léna and Sofia for their dedication and the unique perspectives they brought to the programme.



ESD PROGRAMME REPORT

Looking to the Future

The future looks bright for the ESD group who will start the school year 2022-23 after their busiest year to date! We especially look forward to offering a new session on climate change for KS2 pupils. Teachers' feedback highlighted the demand and need for this topic to be included. Thanks to a survey carried out in June 2022 we were able to collate input from teachers which will enable us to devise a participatory and transformative session on climate change. Those who filled in the survey indicated that the three most important aspects of the topic for TFS to cover are:

- human causes of climate change
- taking action against climate change
- examples of how communities around the world are adapting to climate change

The ESD group is looking forward to expanding the programme.

This year ESD website underwent a revamp, including the addition of the new resources the group had created during the previous academic year. These can now be accessed via the 'ESD Resources' section of the website. They may be used to complement the programme but can also be employed by educators as stand alone materials. The ESD programme for schools is also now available to download within the 'ESD Resources' section, under 'Lesson Plans'. This will allow teachers and educators throughout the island of Ireland to access and use the programme materials. TFS will be promoting the resources widely in the next academic year. We will also be adding to the downloadable materials, including Irish language versions of many of the lesson plans and worksheets.

TFS is indebted to volunteers Daria, Sofia and Léna for all the work they have done on the website.

REFUGEES AND ASYLUM SEEKERS PROGRAMME REPORT

This last year, thanks to the funding from The Executive Office, we ran three training courses on sewing machine repair and use for refugees and asylum seekers in Belfast. Tools for Solidarity started the first RASP programme in 2018 but had to stop for two years because of the pandemic. Like the previous ones the courses were designed for five participants and consisted of three days of basic learning on sewing machine refurbishing and sewing. The courses aimed to support refugees and asylum seekers in feeling welcomed in the local society, encourage their participation, and provide them with new skills for their future. The courses were completely free of charge for the participants, who have also been reimbursed for the transport costs to the Belfast workshop. At the end of the three days, they also received a plastic sewing machine, some sewing material and a certificate of completion.

The courses were mentored by John, with the support of the sewing section volunteers: Felix, Rafaela, Astrid and Léna. These numbers allowed to pair up every participant with a volunteer to provide individual support during the training. The sewing part of the courses was mentored by Eileen, a former professional tailor. The participants enjoyed both repairing the sewing machines and trying their hand at some simple sewing projects. Some sessions were very successful, with almost 10 sewing machines fixed.



REFUGEES AND ASYLUM SEEKERS PROGRAMME REPORT

The volunteers Rafaela, Sofia and Léna managed the organisation and logistics of the courses. This proved to be very educational as they learnt to take care of all the practical aspects of the programme (call for participants, selection process, bus ticket reimbursement, certificates emission). The organisation has progressively improved from the first session of the year to the last one. Regarding the selection process of the participants, it was not obvious to find suitable criteria to identify the five people for each course. To encourage cultural exchange, we tried to create mixed groups, selecting people of different nationalities. We had people from Trinidad et Tobago, Yemen, India, Sudan, Syria, Iran, Singapore, RDC and Kenya. From the second course, we also started to ask the candidates to write a few lines of motivation. We had almost exclusively female candidates and only one male participant.



REFUGEES AND ASYLUM SEEKERS PROGRAMME REPORT

During the training we had no major difficulties. The language barrier did not affect the sessions. Some participants who were less confident in English were helped by others. Despite a minimum language level being required, one of the goals of the training was to give the people an opportunity to meet and talk together in English. Overall, this aspect was achieved because, especially during the breaks and lunchtime, the participants chatted and shared. The presence and guidance of the volunteers were important, also during these socializing moments. The effort we put into encouraging social interaction was rewarded. In one of the courses, almost all the participants cooked some food for the workshop, creating a very positive and enjoyable atmosphere. We value also the fact of having encouraged some of the people to try something new, not only in terms of manual skills but also in increasing their confidence in moving through the city to find the workshop, interacting with some local and international volunteers, communicating in person, by phone and through the emails. The feedback we received has been very positive. Some people were already planning future sewing projects and teaching friends to use the machine they received.



PUBLICITY GROUP REPORT

Nowadays, publicity and advertisement mainly take place online. The Publicity and Advertisement group is thus crucial for Tools for Solidarity visibility. The main work consists of taking care of the websites and social media.

Tools for Solidarity is present and active at least twice a week on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and LinkedIn. In terms of numbers, the most efficient social is Facebook: each post reaches around 516 people, followed by Instagram (125 people on average). Some posts, especially the ones about Africa, can reach up to 1000 people. The audience lives across Northern Ireland, the Republic of Ireland and England, with 30% in Belfast.

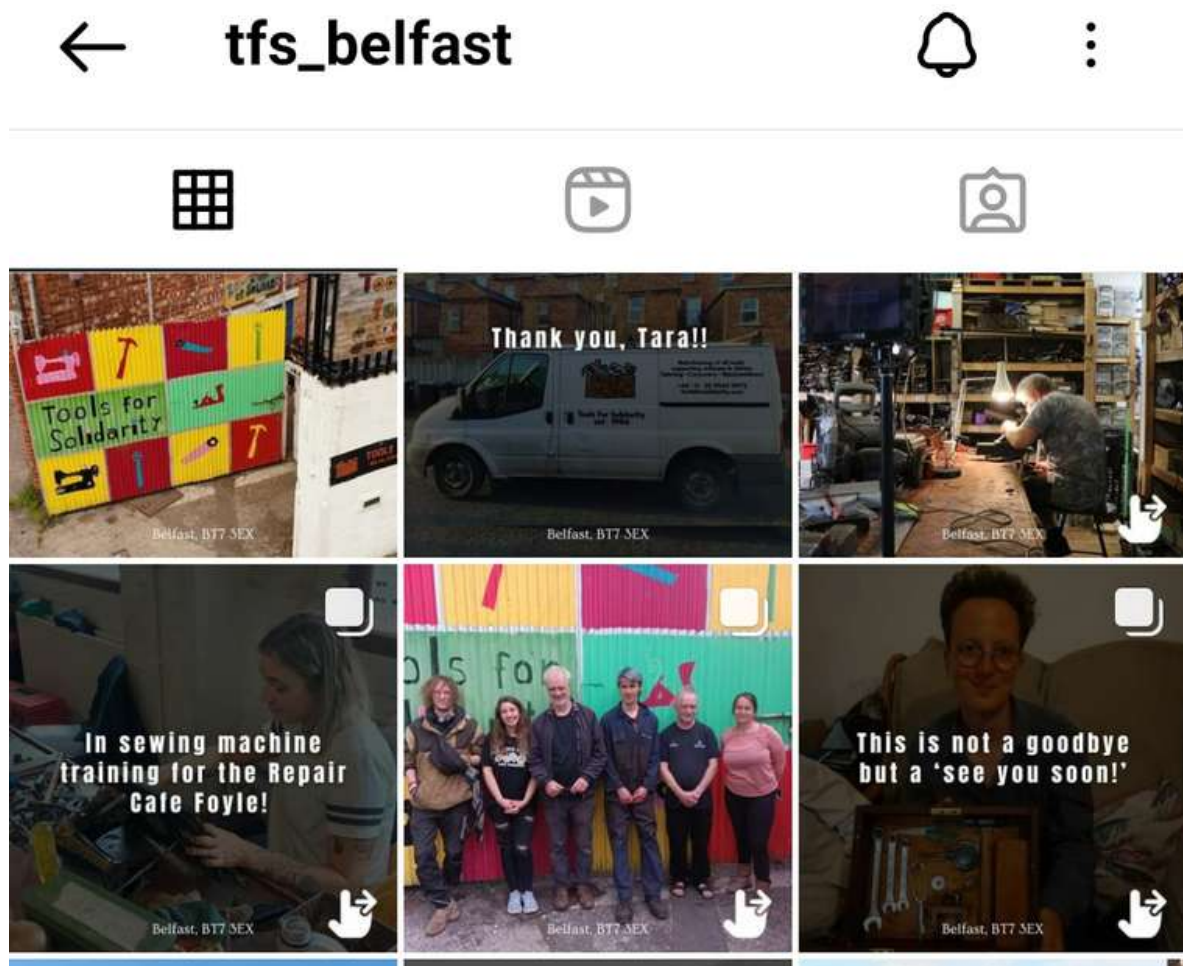
The publicity group is not restricted to social networks and uses various communication tools:

- Daria managed to redesign the Tools for Solidarity website to refresh it and make it more attractive and intuitive. She also made improvements and updated new resources on our ESD website.
- Pavel did two promoting videos about the workshop and the EVS volunteers available on youtube:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HeNykh7mh6U>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m5Jr-cSO9J0&t=228s>
- Sofia and Lena made a video about our work in the workshop and oversea for the Lions Club as a call for the sewing machine collection. <https://youtu.be/EN19aT9ydes> It worked pretty well with 80 sewing machines collected with this channel up to now.

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- They also did a video introducing the Njombe project to NIPSA and wrote an article for Ezine magazine to call for donations.
<https://nipsa.org.uk/attachments/article/965/Global-Solidarity%20May%202022.pdf?fbclid=IwAR0BKgKUqMCiMLmieSjwCsUTRUkUp-jBOQMZXxmewBTNgO3D7YFMTWwHfwo>

Tools for Solidarity needs donations of tools and funds to keep refurbishing tools and send them to Tanzania. Publicity is an important part of the process of expanding the geographical area for collection.



SPECIAL THANKS

We appreciate all the help our supporters provided to us during the last year, especially next organisations and individuals:

All Schools and Colleges in the ESD programme	Archer Trust
Belfast City Council	Phillip Allen
Executive Office	NIPSA
Community Foundation	SIDO
Irish Aid, Department of Foreign Affairs	Colm Gallagher
Emma Duncan and the Global Concerns Trust	Antrim Probus
PJH Wills Charitable Trust	TFS Volunteers
North Down Recycling Centres	Belfast Repair Cafe
Mr and Mrs Millar	Céline Persico
North Belfast Quakers	Jaap Prins
Pam and Tara Patchwork Goose	Nancy Graham
Belfast City Council Recycling Centres	G Sloan
Ralf Zeigler and Eirene	Mr R. Waters
Tools for Self Reliance Garvald	British Council
Mwanza Sewing and Training Centre	Belfast Tool Library
St Malachy's Old Boys Association	R and M Corrigan
South Belfast Quakers	Ecorys
Friends of Mourne Grange	Sewell Trust
Armagh Planetarium	Jenny Groves
Portview Fit-Out Limited	Grace Canham
Geoff and Tina Claxton	Mr and Mrs Finney
Halifax Foundation for NI	Attracta Walsh
International Synergies NI	Arnold Clark
Julian Sanders	T Arrowsmith
Cedar Foundation	R Tweed
Leonard Cheshire Organisation	Sense
Orchardville	L'Arche

THANK YOU