Edukado
Encouraging
Solidarity

Content

Preface	3
What is Edukado	7
Malawi 2016	10
Some facts and figures about Malawi 2016	12
Timeline	13
Building the school	15
The cultural experience	19
Quotes	23
Financial balance	26
Thank you	28
Support Edukado	30

Preface

by Aushim

Here we are, 2016 is coming to an end and Edukado once again realized a new project thanks to the help of many volunteers, donators, partners, sponsors and sympathizers. Two extra school blocks with in total of 4 classrooms have been built in Malawi, but besides the construction itself, a strong bridge has been built: a bridge between different cultures, a bridge of friendship, a sustainable bridge of collaboration.

The students have experienced the time of their life, and so did the locals. Their enthusiasm when they came back is the reason why we - the Edukado board members - do it. It is our source of motivation, our energy to continue guiding students to experience an unforgettable journey where they do not only collaborate with the locals to realize a project together, but where they learn so many skills no one could even teach. Experience is the best teacher...

Preface

I am so proud of the growth of Edukado. In the past we organized a project every two years. This time we decided to avoid a break and immediately start with the new project. I can say that this was a very good call. Not less than 70 students were interested for the coming project! After a difficult selection, we kept a team of 14 students for Edukado's next project: building a school in Sierra Leone during the summer of 2017.

And that is not all! This academic year, Edukado will organize not one but two projects. Together with some friends of mine, I am going to Malawi in July 2017 to do a follow-up of the project that the students realized last summer.

In times of budget savings in companies and governments and of a political shift worldwide, we kept our positive vibes and decided to be very ambitious for 2017. With you on our side, we are sure that we can show that solidarity is still strongly present in Belgium. Together, we are making a (small but significant) change!

Preface

Now that we have revealed our future plans, let us travel back to the previous academic year. In this file, you can learn about the Malawi 2016 project which started in April 2015 and finished in August 2016.

I hope to meet you at one of our various coming activities, for example for our yearly charity dinner that will take place during the weekend of 25/26 of March.

Best regards,

Aushim Koumar

December 11, 2016

What is Edukado

Edukado organizes construction projects for students in developing countries. Every project is somehow related to education. As such, Edukado contributes to one the major sustainable development goals set by the United Nations.

During an academic year, a group of students works together as a team to complete a solidarity project from beginning to end. They start by getting in touch with our local partner, the beneficiary of the project. Based on their expectations, needs and wishes, and taking into account the local requirements and limitations, they draw up the construction plans. The students then promote the project and organize several activities creating awareness about their initiative. With fundraising events, subsidies and scholarships, they raise the budget required for the project.

Finally, in summer, the students get to enjoy what is probably the most exciting part of the project: they travel to the respective developing country to construct the building, in collaboration with the local community. In an intensive two-month cultural exchange, the students eat, work, sleep and live with the local population. Offering this unforgettable and life-changing experience to students is an essential part of Edukado's philosophy.

A strong Framework

Edukado can rely on a wide and long-standing experience with solidarity projects in the South. This places Edukado in the ideal position to select and lead projects which contribute to a sustainable improvement of living standards in developing countries.

Although Edukado lets the students work as independently as possible, Edukado sees to a timely completion of the project and a correct use of the funds. Edukado guarantees that 100% of the donations make their way to the South directly (e.g. raw materials, labor). All other costs are fully covered by fundraising activities.

Edukado also performs a thorough screening of its partners in order to guarantee the project's sustainability. Each project is carefully selected based on aspects such as the scale of the project, the need for a construction, the reliability of the partner and political stability of the country. Furthermore, in order to qualify for an Edukado partnership, the Belgian partner organization must have a sustainable and long-standing relationship with the local partner in the South. After completion of the construction, the Belgian partner bears the responsibility of supporting the project on the long term.

Malawi 2016

GenCoo is the outcome of the encounters of Shadreck Padoko (Malawi) and Michèle Pieters (Belgium). It is an organization founded in 2008 to support the community of 11 villages in the district Chimutu of Malawi.

The region is struggling with food and water scarcities, diseases, inequality, a lack of communication, durable developments, technological and scientific knowledge and education. GenCoo successfully completed multiple projects to tackle those problems. Besides constructing new roads, knowledge centre, water well, dam, maize and soy garden, GenCoo also invested in a kindergarten and primary school. The success of the school was so overwhelming that expansion of the school was required to ensure all children of the region would have access to education. Therefore Edukado decided to help and support GenCoo by expanding the primary school in Chimutu with 4 additional classrooms. During the construction of the classrooms in the summer of 2016 Edukado was assisted by local Malawian contractors with extensive knowledge of the local building conditions. Together we built a high quality construction following local construction techniques.

Malawi 2016

As durability is a key aspect in our projects, we are excited to learn that over 300 families of the 11 surrounding villages now have access to education in appropriate infrastructure. GenCoo now holds the responsibility of closely monitoring the evolution of the primary school within the community and continue their efforts to improve the living standards of the local people. As our project fits in a bigger framework, we know our efforts will have a lasting positive impact on the future of the people of Chimutu.

Some Facts and Figures about Malawi 2016

2x2 classrooms were built with a total ground area of 120 m^2

9 students participated

300 children are enrolled in the school built by the Malawi2016 team

€ 35.434,64 was raised for the project

Gencoo vzw was our partner for this project

Timeline 2015

- 26/02/2015 — Infosession for the new project
- 01/04/2015 — The student team is formed
- 14/05/2015 — Malawi 2016 @ Campusfestival
- 22/09/2015 — Edukado @ Academische Opening VUB in Bozar
- 15/10/2015 — Burger sales
- 24/10/2015 — Teambuilding
- 07/11/2015 — Charity diner
- December — Calendar sales

Timeline 2016

7/03/2015 — VUB Resto-week

30/04/2016 — Second charity dinner

10/02/2016 — Edukado visits the project country and meets the local people

27/03/2016 — Mattab @ GC Felix Sohie

04/07/2016 — Students travel to Malawi and build the school

Building the school

by Leen

The goal of this project was to construct 2 buildings with 2 class rooms. The dimensions of these class rooms are 5 to 7m by 5m. This infrastructure was necessary for the expansion of the existing school. School in Malawi is organized in kindergarten, 8 years of primary school (Standard) and 4 years of secondary school (Form). Thanks to the new school buildings, the school will be able to teach up to Standard 5.

Our first day of work started with digging the foundations. Luckily they did not have to be too deep because the soil was stony-broke. After some ineffective attempts to chop the ground, we decided to leave the job to the locals. But no worries, there was enough work to be done. An enormous pile of 15.000 bricks was waiting for us. They had to be carried to the top of the construction site. It was instantly clear that our physical condition would be challenged. Fortunately, the first days we could stop earlier. The locals did not want the azungus (white people) to get overworked. After one week they told us they were amazed by our perseverance. They thought we would have been exhausted by that time, but we kept on going – maybe mostly on willpower. The chilly and windy weather – it was winter now – was an advantage.

The first Sunday – resting day – was welcome. After only 3 days of work, we already experienced muscle pain and fatigue. On this relaxing day we explored the country a little bit. With renewed courage we started a new week. The foundations were completed. Because the terrain has a strong inclination, the terrain inside the building needed to be leveled to be able to place a floor later on. We spent the entire week chopping and dragging soil into the future buildings and further bricks, bricks and more bricks. To transport the bricks, we invented several techniques. We searched for the handiest stacking method to transport bricks individually.

Building the school

We set up a human chain, but it was not very effective since too many bricks broke by throwing. We also repaired the wheelbarrows several times, trying to keep them rolling. After 4 days of labor, the trip to Lake Malawi and the safari park was a good relief.

When we returned from our brief holiday, the construction work had progressed well: some walls were finished. To place the roof, the other walls and windows had to be completed. This bricklaying work was mainly for the skilled workers. After some days, sufficient bricks were carried upwards, so there was some leisure time. But even then we did not rest on our laurels. We wanted a pizza oven to fulfill our pizza cravings. Different constructions were built, version 3.0 appeared to be functioning well. We were proud to finally come up with a tasteful pizza.

The next week we arrived to a tricky construction phase. The trusses of the first building would be put in place. After a small discussion about the amount of trusses, they were assembled. Then the delicate work started: the trusses were put upright and anchored in the walls with iron wires. They had to be kept in place until they were nailed together and could stand by themselves. With help of some tall people and attributes the installation was completed successfully. That night, however, there was a strong wind. The next morning, we were happy to see there was no damage. After the completion of the trusses, they were immured. The upper part of the outer walls was plastered so the Edukado and GenCoo logo could be painted later on.

Because quite some bricks were broken on the yard, we were in need of more bricks. They were made on the spot. A mixture of soil and water is put into a mold and flipped over on the ground. The bricks are then covered by straw to let them dry for some days. When all bricks are sufficiently dry, they are stacked in a huge pile with some tunnels for fire. The pile is covered with mud to keep the heat inside the pile. The tradition says a pig needs to be slaughtered to have a prosperous baking process and so it happened. The fire was set in the evening and maintained during the night and it kept smoldering during the day. This night had a campfire atmosphere and was very cozy.

Building the school

Meanwhile, it was time to start plastering the inner walls. August brought hotter weather, so we were pleased to work in the cool inside the building. After doing plaster work we were covered in mud which led to hilarity among the locals: "now you're one of us". Besides, locals were showing high interest in working azungus, they were not used to see white people at work. Meanwhile the terrain between both school buildings was cleared from bush and stones. Also, the roofing plates were nailed on the timbers. We assisted in this by handing over nails. Quite exciting, sitting on the roof.

The next Sunday was, exceptionally, a day of work since some of the workers had been absent in the past week for several reasons. So, this day one floor was placed. Therefore the room was filled with stone chippings. It was covered by a mortar layer. The surface was finished by a layer of cement and water. After one day of drying, the floor was shining. Now the painting could begin: two white layers, a beige layer from bottom to the window level and a black layer on the bottom to hide smudge from children sitting against the wall.

The remaining work was mainly the finishing touch. Installing the doors, fixing the borders on the doors and windows, the creation and painting of the blackboards, plastering and painting the front side of the building and bricklaying, plastering and painting of the pillars supporting the overhanging roof. Furthermore, racks to furnish the classrooms were crafted from our unused bunkbeds. Local people are very creative with limited resources. The one but last day we painted the Edukado logo on the building which was almost finished.

The day of our departure the first building was almost ready. The second building, however, still required some work. But there was one more week left before the start of the new school year. Before leaving we took a group photo in front of the brand new building with all people involved in the construction process over the past 2 months. We heard both buildings were finished in time, except for some small things. We were also happy to hear the school is a big success.

The cultural experience

by Suzanne

Next to constructing two school blocks, there was of course also the cultural part. We were thrown into a totally different culture than what we were used to. This was visible both in small habits and life style as well as in bigger traditions and events.

The first thing we encountered was the friendly and hospitable reception at our arrival. We were hugged and greeted as if we were cousins or brothers and sisters. This is Africa! Next, we were offered our first, out of very many, Nsima meal, for which they slaughtered two chickens. We learned how to eat it with our hands.

As Shadreck was already familiar with European culture we had the luck to eat at a table with chairs and to sleep in real beds, bunk beds, made specially for us, and not on the floor as the poorer locals do. The toilets, at the other hand were rather primitive, being a too small hole in the ground. At first, directing our poopoo or peepee was quite a challenge, but I swear, you get better at it. Furthermore it led to some funny stories such as that of the 'mystery pooper', who didn't clean up his or her misdirected package. Another option was to go to the toilets near the pig cages, which had bigger holes. Also showering was new to most of us, a bucket and a cup were all you needed to fresh up daily. As it was winter time in Malawi - which corresponds more or less to a windy Belgian summer- we were spoiled and given have hot water to wash ourselves.

Already from the first evening we realized that music and dance were really something to bond with the locals. We were happy to have quite some musical students in our group, and others were just enthusiastic. We were fine with our performance just until we asked the cooking girls, Meriner, Maleni and Alinafe, to sing a song. When they started singing with their angelic voices, we realized that we absolutely sucked, but we had fun. Same for dancing in fact, only that we expected them to be extremely good in advance, so the disappointment in our own abilities was smaller. The way they could shake hips and bellies as if every part could be controlled separately was really impressive.

The cultural experience

Other cultural differences became clearer little by little. Life in dark Africa seemed much more carefree, but in fact this was just the case for us. For the locals it's all about putting priorities differently, as their main concern is surviving. Daily things that are evident for us are their main occupancy. Daily cooking on wood fire takes hours, the cooking girls often woke up at 5 am to wash dishes and cook sweet potato or porridge as our breakfast; clothes were washed by hand; going to the market in the city easily takes half a day; every day buckets and buckets of water needed to be carried from the borehole, 2 km away, to GenCoo village for eating, drinking, showering, cleaning, and constructing; … Furthermore life is much more ruled by the rising (at 6 am) and setting (at 6 pm) of the sun, as the only electricity was that of a single solar panel. The star sky was magnificent!

Ideological differences were explored mainly by Adam, a group member who organized a discussion about religion, in which many local workers participated. It was interesting and surprising to discover that most of the locals had never heard about the big bang – or evolution theory. Witchcraft and Christianity were the explanation to most phenomena. Also later on the topic of religion was often discussed.

After our first three weeks, we planned a journey to lake Malawi and to go on a Safari. Travelling in Malawi is exclusively for the rich, most people never go much further than walking or cycling distance from their village. Densely packed, we took Shadreck's car and a friend's jeep to Salima, a place near the lake. Some had to sit in the trunk of the jeep, this was cool for a little while, but quickly became rather uncomfortable and sometimes cold. In Salima we had middle-class rooms very close to the beach. After three weeks of living primitively, the real shower and toilet were perceived as great luxury. The lake was awesome as it had waves just like the sea, but no salty water… It was fun swimming and playing football, frisbee or werewolves on the beach. Also after three weeks of Nsima, we could eat pasta or fried potato as diner, bliss! The day after we drove to Shadreck's hometown where again, we couldn't be hosted more friendly. After some food and some football we went to bed on time to be fresh next morning to leave early for the safari. We saw elephants, from really close distance, and some other animals, but the elephants were the coolest. Also very stereotypically a monkey stole some cookies from us. After the safari a long trip back homewards followed.

The cultural experience

The African landscape is also very different from the European. The dry, sandy, hilly environment often made me think of the movie 'the Lion King'. Also the primitive villages and cities are not what we are used to. Lilongwe, the capital city, has only few buildings with more than ground floor, so you don't have an urban skyline. Also in the city electricity and current water are not evident as many slums exist near the polluted river which functions as water provision and sewer system at the same time.

In the rest of our free time we also went to a Malawian wedding and a tombstone ceremony. We would make music, dance and dress up, which is of big importance. A walk through the untouched nature every now and then was also part of our free time. Sometimes we participated in some football games on very irregular fields. We went out in the city, where drinking, dancing and prostitution were very present. This makes the smooth transition to another part of the Malawian culture, the corruption of the governmental businesses. Often we passed a road block by car or packed in a van or truck together with some goats, a pig, some bikes or tons of onions. It was always unpredictable what would happen at such road block. Sometimes you could just drive on, another time a heavy discussion about that certain pig started, or you got fined for having painted your car or not wearing a seat belt (nobody wears seat belts in Malawi by the way). Besides the road blocks, also for official documents, bribes were the solution when you had a problem. In our case we were too late with extending our visa, because we were not aware of that rule. With a bribe money we could leave the airport without any trouble.

The longer we stayed, the more we got used to the culture and the more we lived it. We helped carrying the water on our heads, helped cooking, learned the language little by little, made some more music, danced with the kids, played some games and laughed a lot…

Having been submerged for two months in this totally different culture with lovely, thankful people and great experiences, saying goodbye was quite emotional. A goodbye party with some soft-drinks and puffs (an airy kind of crisps), many speeches and some tears marked the end of our stay. As we called it a day, we left for the airport and had a 30 hour journey back home, full of reflections.

This trip made a big impression on all of us, and I think Malawi will always have a special place in our hearts.

A journey that not only helped build a school, but also helped build bridges between cultures, build friendships, and showed me a lifestyle that I had previously only seen on TV - *Adam*

It was an amazing journey in the heart of Africa - *Koen*

Definitely the most intense experience of my life. I'm tremendously thankful for this beautiful journey.
I have wonderful memories I'll cherish and stories I'll narrate with passion - *Leen*

I had the privilege to undergo an internal and global journey, getting to know new friends and being submerged into a new culture - *Marilyn*

Creating a beautiful school together, discovering a new culture and rediscovering yourself - *Nico*

Vanessa, Alinafe, Merriner, Maleni, Duncan, Rasta, Jinga, Douglass, Loyde, Thousand, Jo, Joseph, Evance, Shadreck; I will never forget - *Niki*

Living another culture, meeting great people and yourself, and this whilst constructing two school blocks for which we raised the funds ourselves, was extremely satisfactory - *Suzanne*

When you're in a place without electricity, running water or any basic comfort, you realize the world is in bad shape. But then you see all these children smiling at the sight of you.... Priceless - *Stan*

ZOMBIES

Financial Balance

INCOMES

Activities		*4.983,53 €*
Burger sales		468,41 €
Calender sale	-	338,00 €
Two charity dinners		4.601,55 €
Other activities		251,57 €
Sponsoring / Subsidies		*8.750,00 €*
Branding vzw		2.000,00 €
BrEA		500,00 €
City of Brussels		5.000,00 €
Crazy Copy Center		1.000,00 €
Bijleszoeker		250,00 €
Contribution of partners		*12.069,11 €*
Private donations		5.915,47 €
Gencoo		1.500,00 €
Mattab		935,25 €
De Grote Mei Kwis by De garnaalvissers (2x)		2.815,00 €
VUB-resto week		747,00 €
Warmathon Music for life 2015		281,39 €
Contribution of members		*9.632,00 €*
Flights		9.632,00 €
Total		35.434,64 €

EXPENSES

Promotion	*3.216,08 €*
Costs for students and sympathizers	1.345,21 €
PR-stuff (brochures, letters, t-shirts, etc.)	1.671,18 €
Website costs	199,69 €
Administration	*210,96 €*
Administrative costs	123,06 €
Bank costs	87,90 €
Follow up previous projects	*583,00 €*
Sponsoring for side project Kailakuri	583,00 €
Construction and travel	*26.796,95 €*
Flight tickets + insurance (prospection)	2.112,00 €
Flights + insurance (summer)	9.632,00 €
Visa	1.200,00 €
Construction	10.812,14 €
Food	1.428,65 €
Transportation	262,16 €
Others	1.350,00 €
	30.806,99 €

Financial Balance: Additional Information

- As always, all the private and corporate donations went to the building itself. The flight tickets and insurance were paid by the students themselves and the costs for promotion and administration were paid with subsidies.
- During the winter of 2015, two board members went to Kailakuri in Bangladesh were we built a maternity unit in 2010. We decided to sponsor a side project that consisted of filling a huge hole that was next to the maternity unit and dangerous for the small children.

Before

After

- The remaining money of the current project will be invested in a follow-up project in July 2017. One member of the board and some sympathizers will go to Malawi to work on a water project in order to provide water to the school and the community.

Thank you!

Malawi 2016 was a big success thanks to all donators and the sympathizers that participated in one way of another to one of our activities. Without you, this would not have been possible!

A special thanks to following persons:

- Bram Vissers, Ilse Luyten, Michèle Pieters and Shadreck Padoko (Gencoo Vzw)
- The MaTTab team, and especially Tom Dekock
- Our godfather prorector Paul De Knop
- Philippe Merckx (VUB Restaurant)
- Cedric Genie (De Garnaalvissers)
- Benjamin Steegen
- Niels De Temmerman

Thank you!

Thanks to our partners

A big thanks to our sponsors

And finally a enormous thanks to the Malawi 2016 team and the board of Edukado

Adam, Barbara, Ken, Koen, Leen, Marilyn, Nico, Niki, Stan, Suzanne,

Aushim, Camille, Geert, Peter, Rokshana, Shaupaun & Tom

Support Edukado

Edukado sees to a correct use of the funds and guarantees that 100% of the donations make their way to the South directly (e.g. raw materials, labor). All other costs (e.g. accommodation) are fully covered by fundraising activities. Donors and sponsors will be kept up to date through newsletters and annual reports.

Donations can be wired to the bank account of the Koning Boudewijnstichting (tax deductible as of 40 euro). Please use the following details:

IBAN: BE10 0000 0000 0404
BIC Code (SWIFT): BPOTBEB1
Structured reference: ***128/2913/00021***

You can also wire directly to Edukado's bank account (donations lower than 40 euro). Please use the following details:

IBAN: BE28 0015 1911 9020
BIC Code (SWIFT): GEBABEBB

mirates

Edukado

Encouraging Solidarity

vzw Edukado - Harenberg 43, 1130 Haren - *info@edukado.be* - *www.edukado.be*