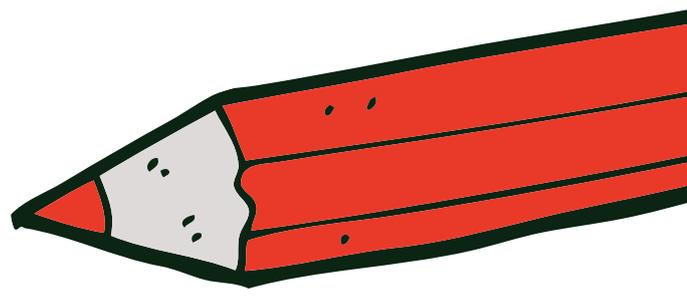
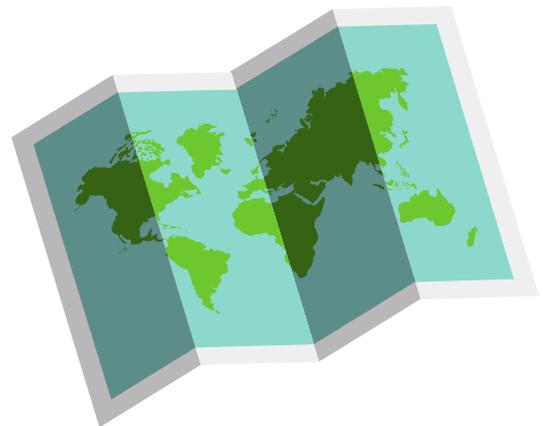
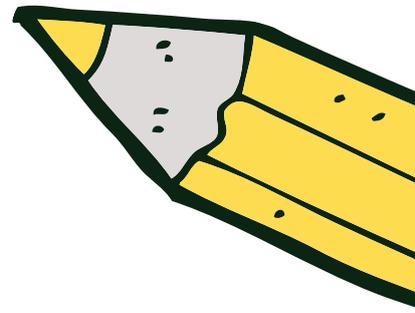
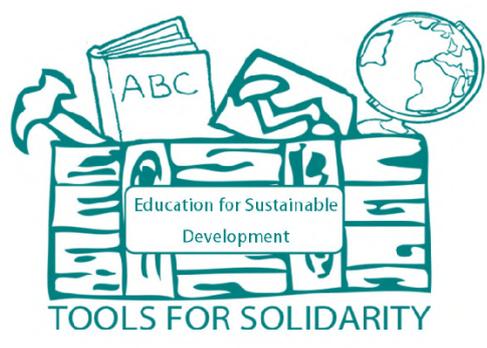


Tools For Solidarity



Education for Sustainable
Development Report 2020-2021



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Aim of 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 2020 - June 2021.



Mission Statement

The objectives of the ESD programme include:

- raising awareness of the issues of inequality, poverty, exploitation of natural resources and sustainability;
- encouraging everyone to reflect on how our lives and actions impact the world and others;
- engendering the ability to think critically and enact solutions to these issues and changes to our lifestyles.



June 2021
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Overview of the Programme (Schools)

In the academic year 2020-21 Tools For Solidarity (TFS) continued to deliver its ESD programme to Key Stage 2 primary school classes despite the ongoing challenges of the pandemic. Due to Covid-19 we implemented measures such as wearing face masks and social distancing. The sessions and materials were adapted to allow the implementation of the safety measures and to correspond with the policies adopted by different schools. In some cases sessions were delivered outside and online. 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'. An overview of the school programme is provided below.

Session	Objectives and Outcomes
1: Inequality in the World	Increase knowledge and understanding of global inequality
2: Poverty	Increase understanding of concept of poverty; difference between extreme and relative poverty
3: Resource Exploitation	Knowledge about where resources come from and how we use them; understanding of exploitation of natural resources
4: Fairtrade	Show a practical example of how our decisions can make a difference; gain knowledge about where foods come from and how fairtrade works
5: Relative Poverty	Understanding of the causes of poverty, as well as the concepts of equity, equality and fairness
6: Extreme Poverty	Awareness of what it would be like to live in a developing country; further reflection on what are basic needs are

Groups and Schools 2020/21

Primary Schools

Name of School	No. of Participants
Ballysillan Primary School	56
Botanic Primary School	20
Bunscoil Bheann Mhadagáin	37
Bunscoil Mhic Reachtain	16
Gaelscoil na bhFál	51
Gaelscoil an Lonnáin	17
Holy Rosary Primary School	28
Knocknagoney Primary School	38
Nettlefield Primary School	44
Sacred Heart Boys' Primary School	41
St. Clare's Primary School	130
Wheatfield Primary School	31
Total	509

Adult Pilot Programme

No. of Participants
25

Youth Groups

	No. of Participants
St. Columb's Park Youth	12
Coleraine Youth Board	4
Derry Youth Board	6
Transform Mencap	8
Total	30
Total Participants (All Groups)	564

What Teachers / Co-ordinators Liked:

Group activities /
roleplay activities
which gave pupils a
chance to imagine /
problem solve

Knocknagoney Primary School

The global aspect of
the programme and
how the children
were introduced to a
variety of countries

Gaelscoil na bhFál

[The] children now have an
improved knowledge of
the world map and an
understanding of the
connection between all of
us regarding fairtrade.

St. Clare's Primary School

The content was partly
guided by the interests of
the participants - they
were able to look deeper
at aspects that interested
them.

St. Columb's Park Youth

The delivery of information
was very clear and
interesting - very
appropriate for the
children.

Bunscoil Mhic Reachtain

[I liked how] lessons were
pitched for the class. [I
liked the] mixture of
listening / writing / activity.

Nettlefield Primary School

Feedback from Pupils (in their Own Words)

The sewing machines can make stuff for other people like blankets so they can stay warm and start a small business so they make money.

[Our] favourite [activity] was the actions to end poverty.

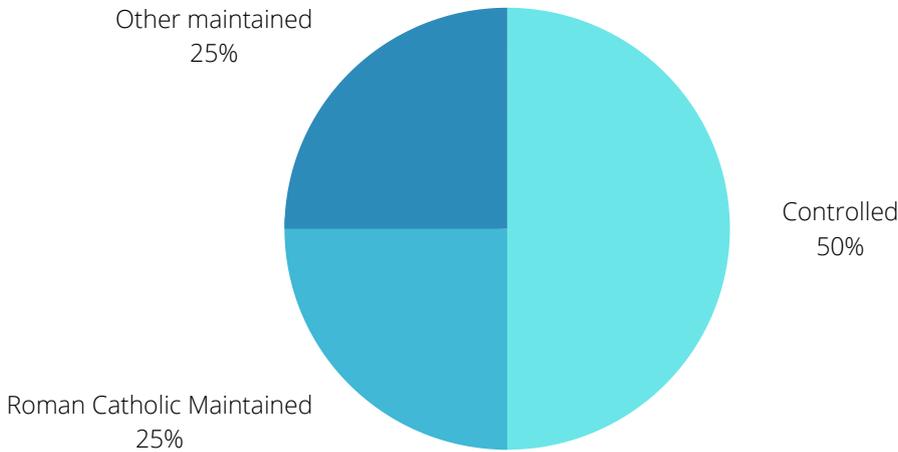
We have the power to make this world a better place.

[It was interesting to learn] where cocoa beans come from and what [people] do with them.

We realised that lots of people are in very bad poverty.

[The most interesting thing we learnt was] how much rubbish is made by an average person.

Types of School Visited:



TFS is committed to delivering the ESD programme in all types of school. The context of the corona virus pandemic meant it was more difficult to ensure the balance of type of school visited. Notably, this year we did not have the opportunity to work with integrated schools. TFS will continue working with all school types going forward.



A third of the schools we worked with were in the Irish medium sector.

Rating of TFS Educators:



Teachers of those classes who participated in the ESD programme were asked to rate how well the TFS Education Officer and volunteers delivered the programme. 21% of teachers said the delivery and facilitation of the educators was very good, with the remaining 79% indicating that they felt it was excellent.

ESD Resources for Primary School Children

In the year 2020/21 the ESD group made 2 new resources aimed at primary school children (aged 8-11). The resources are suitable for use in school or at home and may be used by teachers, youth club leaders or individuals. The first resource is the **One World Pack** which was made for the One World Festival 2020; the festival was organised by CADA (the Coalition of Aid and Development Agencies N.I.). The pack includes art activities, games, creative writing, puzzles and opportunities to reflect and learn more about the world we live in.

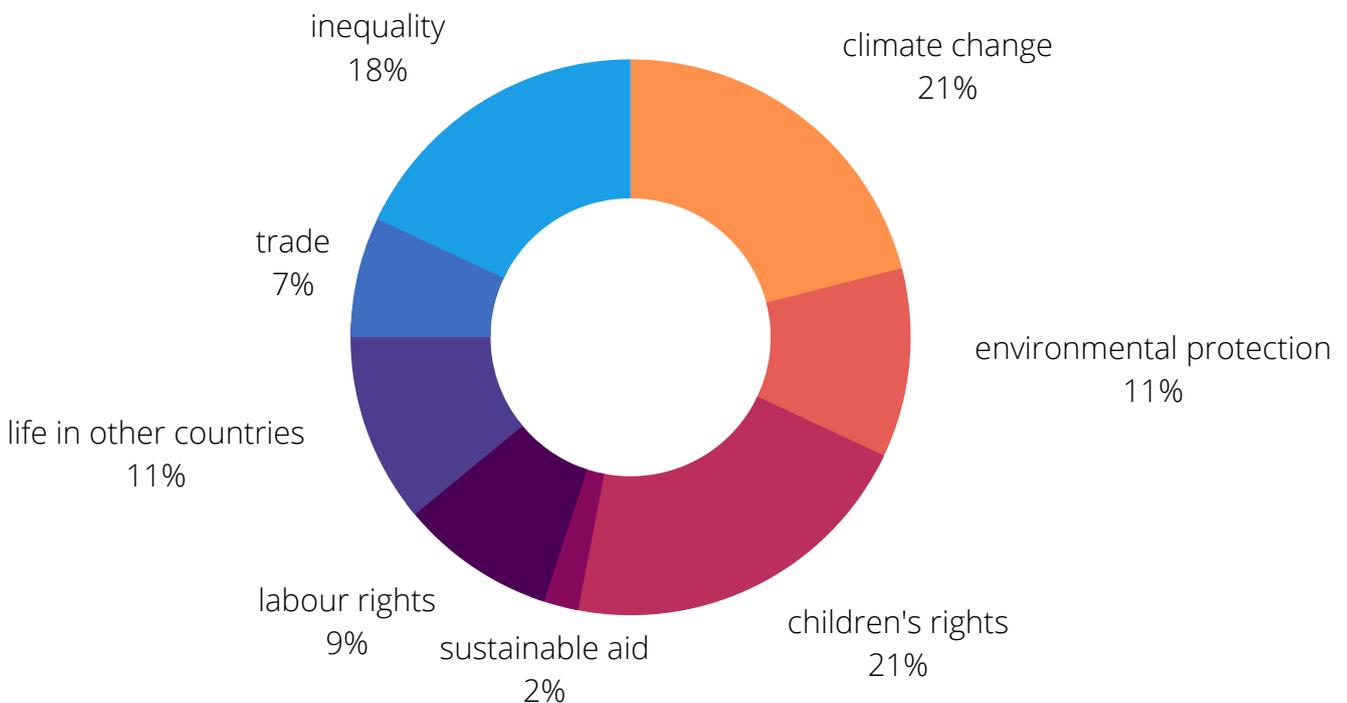
The second resource is the **Tools For Solidarity Activity Pack**. The aim of the pack is to reinforce the topics covered in primary schools as part of the organisation's ESD programme. However, the activity pack can also be used as a learning resource independently of the programme. The activities were made with parts of the Northern Ireland and Irish curricula in mind: 'Personal Development and Mutual Understanding'; 'The World Around Us' and 'Myself and the wider world' and 'Environmental awareness and care' respectively.

The One World Pack is available for download at the 'ESD Resources' section of the Tools For Solidarity ESD website. It is also possible to download the activities by topic. The Tools For Solidarity Activity Pack will be made available for download on the website in the next academic year.



Future of the ESD School Programme

The ESD team enjoyed another busy year, despite the challenges of the ongoing pandemic. The production of resources was a new aspect of work undertaken by the ESD team and we hope to add more to the resources section of our website in the future. The ESD group would also like to add a session(s) to the ESD school programme, with a focus on another topic which ties in with the curriculum areas, 'The World Around Us' and 'Personal Development and Mutual Understanding'. Feedback received from teachers indicates that climate change and children's rights are the 2 most popular topics that teachers would like to see as an addition to the programme. Development of the new session(s) will be an aim of the ESD group in the next academic year.



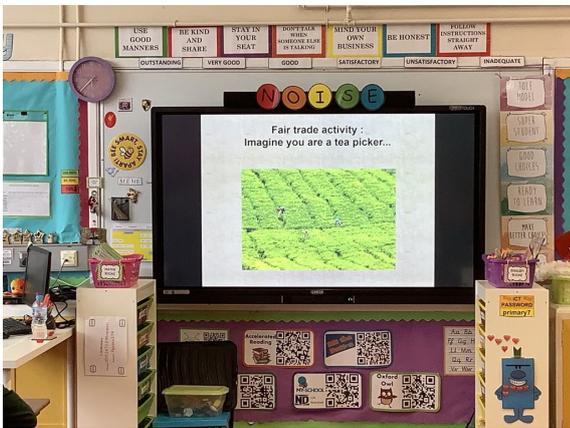
We asked teachers to choose the 2 topics which they would most like to see covered in the new ESD session(s). The feedback given can be viewed in the above graph.



We asked teachers what topics they would like to see downloadable resources for and received a wide range of suggestions. However, the most popular topics included:

- fairtrade
- human rights
- climate change
- the rainforest

This information will inform the resources which the ESD group makes in the future. It is important to note that certain of the topics requested already feature in the new Tools For Solidarity Activity Pack: these are fairtrade, inequality, life in other countries (namely Tanzania) and sustainable aid.



TFS have also taken initial steps to establish a school partnership between a primary school in Northern Ireland and a primary school in Tanzania, as well as between a secondary school in Northern Ireland and a secondary school in Tanzania. Three TFS members made a field trip to Tanzania at the start of 2021. Their time spent in the Njombe region was viewed as an opportunity by the ESD group to make initial contact with schools in the region and gauge interest regarding a school partnership project. In the academic year 2021/22 TFS hopes to support a partnership between Agnes Trust Secondary School, Njombe and Ashfield Boys' High School, Belfast. The organisation will also be endeavouring to find a partner primary school in Northern Ireland for Gilgal Primary School in Njombe. This year, TFS hosted a masters student from Queen's University Belfast who undertook research regarding school partnerships - see the 'Leadership for Sustainable Development' section.

Other objectives for the ESD group next year include the translation of the ESD sessions into Irish for use in Irish medium primary schools. We would also like to make the ESD sessions available for download from our website so that schools throughout the island of Ireland can use them. TFS realises that it is not possible for its Education Officer and team of volunteers to reach all schools who may wish to benefit from the programme. Therefore, making the materials available for teachers and educators is an important step. The sessions reinforce 'The World Around Us' and 'Personal Development and Mutual Understanding' areas of the N.I. curriculum and the 'Myself and the Wider World' and 'Environmental Awareness and Care' strands of the Irish curriculum.

Education for Sustainable Development for Adults

Tools For Solidarity recognises the importance of engaging with adults with regards to sustainability, equity and justice. We aim to foster an awareness of how the local and global are connected, as well as empowering people to make change towards a fairer, greener planet in their lives and communities. Due to the constraints of Covid-19 we carried out an online pilot of 4 sessions for adults online via the platform Zoom in February 2021. This allowed the ESD team to gain valuable feedback. We would like to deliver these sessions in women's centres, community groups, businesses and to any groups of adults interested in participating. For an overview of what the sessions involve and the feedback received from the pilot programme please see the following 2 sections of the report.

Overview of Sessions

1: Fashion

In this session, we grapple with such issues as the human cost of fast fashion and how we can change our relationship with clothes. We reflect on how we might reduce the number of clothes we buy, while getting the best out of the items we already have.

2: Food

We discuss the problems with the world's food system. One problem is that a third of all food produced worldwide is wasted. We think about what we can do to reduce our own food waste.

3: Climate Crisis and Action

In this session we consider the effects of climate change and think about climate justice. We discuss solutions and how we can change our lifestyles for the benefit of the planet.

4: Cultural Diversity and Migration

What is the difference between a migrant, a refugee and an asylum seeker? In this session we examine cultural diversity and attitudes towards other cultures. We consider how we might welcome migrants to our communities.

ESD Pilot Programme for

Adults: Feedback

TFS received feedback regarding its pilot programme for adults. We will use this to improve the programme for delivery in 2021/22. The ESD group was glad to receive pertinent suggestions and very positive comments. Below are some of the things participants said in response to the questions: What was the most important thing you learnt? and What action will you take on this issue?



Try to be more conscious of companies and how frequently I wash or use my clothes.



Food miles! Made me really think about how long it takes food to reach the markets.



Over 2/3 of asylum seekers in the U.K. didn't choose to come here.



Fossil fuel divestment



How rapidly the earth will overheat.



[I will] use this new awareness in my every day work.

Leadership for Sustainable Development Research

Tools For Solidarity hosted 2 students on an 8 week placement at the start of 2021. They both carried out research that the ESD group has used and will continue to use in the development of both the ESD programme for adults and the schools partnership project (mentioned in the 'Future of the ESD School Programme ' section of this report). The placement was part of the students' MSc in Leadership for Sustainable Development.

One of the students looked at what adults in Northern Ireland would like to learn about with regards sustainability, what prevents them from taking sustainable action in their everyday lives and finally how they would prefer to learn about these issues.

The other student focused on what examples of school partnerships exist already, what the challenges for such partnerships could be and the benefits of a twin / partner schools project.

TFS would like to thank both Nicole and Omeed for their hard work and the insights that they have provided through their research.

Volunteers

TFS would not be able to offer the quality of ESD programme that it does without the dedication, imagination and enthusiasm of the volunteers in the ESD group. In turn, the ESD programme allows volunteers to develop their teaching and presentation skills, gain experience creating pedagogical resources and have an insight into the work of the development education sector. In the year 2020/21 we were lucky to have a team that comprised both local and international volunteers. TFS acknowledges the contributions of Rahel, Noel, Sam, Paul, Zeinab and lastly Jennifer (who volunteered for a second year in the group) - each brought their own distinctive set of skills, experience and insights.

The Covid-19 pandemic and Brexit have and will impact the number of volunteers coming to TFS from other European countries. Therefore we envisage the possibility of needing to recruit more local volunteers to the ESD group in 2021/22.

Important Partnerships for the ESD Programme

TFS is a member of the Centre for Global Education in Belfast and in the past year became a member of the Irish Development Education Association (IDEA). Being a member of these organisations allows TFS's Education Officer to access training and resources and learn about best practice within the sector. In June 2021 the Education Officer attended IDEA's virtual conference. TFS wishes to provide quality education for sustainable development which can only be enhanced by engaging with other organisations who share our aims.





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