

Series 1 - Background Information

Series 1 of the Global Problem Solvers is set in Malawi, a country in Africa.

Some facts about Malawi:

- Malawi has an estimated population of 18,143,217 (as of July 2018).
- The capital of Malawi is Lilongwe. Lilongwe is also Malawi's largest city.
- The climate in Malawi is sub tropical. It has a rainy season from December to May, and a dry season from May to December.



The Global Problem Solvers

The Global Problem Solvers (GPS) are a team of problem solving teenagers from around the world who come together to solve real-world social problems. The team are Adrien, Beela, Cristina, Kelile, Putri, and Satoshi. They are teenagers who each possess a unique skill to solve social problems.

The individual skills and qualities that the GPS team have are:

1. Beela, Digital skills
2. Adrien, Creativity
3. Satoshi, Critical thinking
4. Kelile, Social consciousness
5. Cristina, Entrepreneurial spirit
6. Putri, Teamwork skills

Malawi and The Global Problem Solvers

In Series 1, Putri, the team leader, summons the teens to an airship and identifies their first challenge: to provide access to clean drinking water in Malawi. In many places around the world, people rely on wells as a source of water. Many of these wells have pumps that draw the water up. However, these pumps can sometimes break and people are unable to access clean water. When this happens, people will often have to walk long distances to a well that is working, and because this takes time, this can interfere with the jobs and tasks that they normally need to complete, including working or going to school. Without clean water, there is an increased risk of illness.

The GPS team are given the task of investigating this issue, and working together to develop a solution. When the team arrives in Malawi they find that there are very few

well technicians available for checking and repairing wells, so when a well breaks down the local community just need to wait until a technician is due to arrive in their village to check the well; they have no way of letting the technician know that the well is broken and that it needs repairing.

With guidance and help from the Malawi people, the team devises a solution: sensor technology that will notify local technicians when a well needs repair. This means that the technician can travel to the wells that are broken sooner, which means the people in these communities can have access to clean water sooner and can quickly get back to their schools and jobs.

Steps to a Solution

The GPS team followed a series of steps in generating and implementing their solution. These steps are:

- Teamwork - The GPS team came together and spent time getting to know each other's skills and qualities, and understanding how these skills and qualities could contribute to the team.
- Problem Finding - The GPS team undertook research to find out what the problem was.
- Problem Solving - The GPS team worked collaboratively to generate a solution.
- Technology - The GPS team explored how technology could be used in their solution, and thought about the risks associated with using technology.
- Test and Retest - The GPS team test their idea to find out if there are any weaknesses in their solution and then make improvements based on their findings.
- Business Plan - The GPS team make a business plan to show they have thought about how their idea could be a success and to attract funders.