

Eco bubble

Eco bubble was born from a global pandemic and the idea to help both our local community and those far away. The idea started from a small project to help younger students understand the importance of hand washing and hygiene during a health crisis and turned into a way to share something bigger. Through a lot of collaboration, we were able to turn this small goal into a bigger passion that reached beyond the inside of our school. And in the end, contribute to getting closer to reaching the UN's Sustainable Development Goals.

Our group is from the International School SEK Alborán (in Spain) and it is formed by Ana Zarauz, Julia Quevarec, Celia Sánchez, Marta Zapata, Marta Carbajo, Fiona Pérez and Sofía Villegas. Our project's aim was to give accessibility of something as essential as soap to people who do not have this advantage. We also promoted the wellbeing of our planet by making the soap ourselves with reused oil and without nasty chemicals that may damage our skin. That is why our project can be related to the SDG number 3: Good Health and Wellbeing.

We collaborated with two organizations and one company. The company lent us the recipe to the ecological soap and showed us how to make it, it is called "Cosmética Natural Artesana". The first NGO we contacted with was ACOES Honduras because our school was collaborating with them on other projects as well. The last NGO that we found in our local city was "The Social Cantine of El Ejido," a community food bank, where we went to give out the soap to families and unexpectedly food too.

One of our members had a relative working in the mentioned ecological soap business so she came and taught us how to make the soap, which was the most fun we got to have by trying different dyes and scents. Once the soap was ready to sell, our little business began. From students, to teachers, to families they all contributed to our cause. We were surprised that it got so popular, and people asked for more.

Something we did not expect to do at the food bank was to help give out food to those in need, but with the necessary precautions we were able to, and it was a beautiful and fulfilling experience that we won't forget. Also, we were the first group in our school to go on a field trip since COVID 19 hit, so we felt really blessed to be able to have that opportunity and trust vested on us.

At first, the aim was to sell the soap and with the money we collected buy more materials to make even more to give it to two organizations. But some clients decided to donate money even though they didn't buy our product, just to help out. In the end, since we would have to send the soap in a container to Honduras, we decided to just donate the money and let them buy the soap their because they could buy more. We collected up to 800 euros that were split for the two organizations. We donated the spatulas and the materials that were used to make the product to our school for educational purposes.

We had our ups and downs, for example, when we first started on the project our representative took a paternity leave for months, so we were passed on to another teacher. The problem was that this teacher organized all the groups in our school, so he was busy most of the time, which is why you could say we had a lot of autonomy. This also helped us to be more independent and have more responsibilities that relied on us, like talking to the principal and with the organizations. COVID-19 also had a big impact on our project because it did not allow us to make soap workshops, which was a big part of our plan and perhaps even going to Honduras, but luckily, we were able to go to help locally. We were very disappointed when they told us we weren't going to Honduras, but on the bright side we were still able to help them and that was our aim from the very beginning.

We would stay for a couple hours after school every Friday, working on the project and we had a lot of fun, even when we had a lot of work to do, we would bring food and play music and we didn't really mind working. Some classmates came and helped us too, like for example Noa Collado who actually appears in our video. After class we would make soap, do informs, take photos. We have spent about 4 hours a week for 5 months working making a total of 80 hours spent on the project.

Thanks to this project, we learned how to make our own ecological and organic soap that helps us, the environment and those that don't have access to some of the most necessities; to wash their hands with soap and disinfect them from disease. We also learned how to work better in a group because sometimes it can be more complicated when you are working with friends, you might have lots of differences, but that helped us to express our ideas and what we wanted to do.