

A young girl with dark skin and short hair is walking towards the camera on a wide, reddish-brown dirt road. She is wearing a white short-sleeved shirt under a bright blue sleeveless dress. She has a colorful patterned bag slung over her right shoulder and is carrying a wooden stick under her left arm. The background shows a clear blue sky with scattered white clouds, green bushes on the left, and a line of trees in the distance. The road stretches out behind her, with a small figure of a person visible further away.

Tawonga

From
Malawi

Lower Primary Story



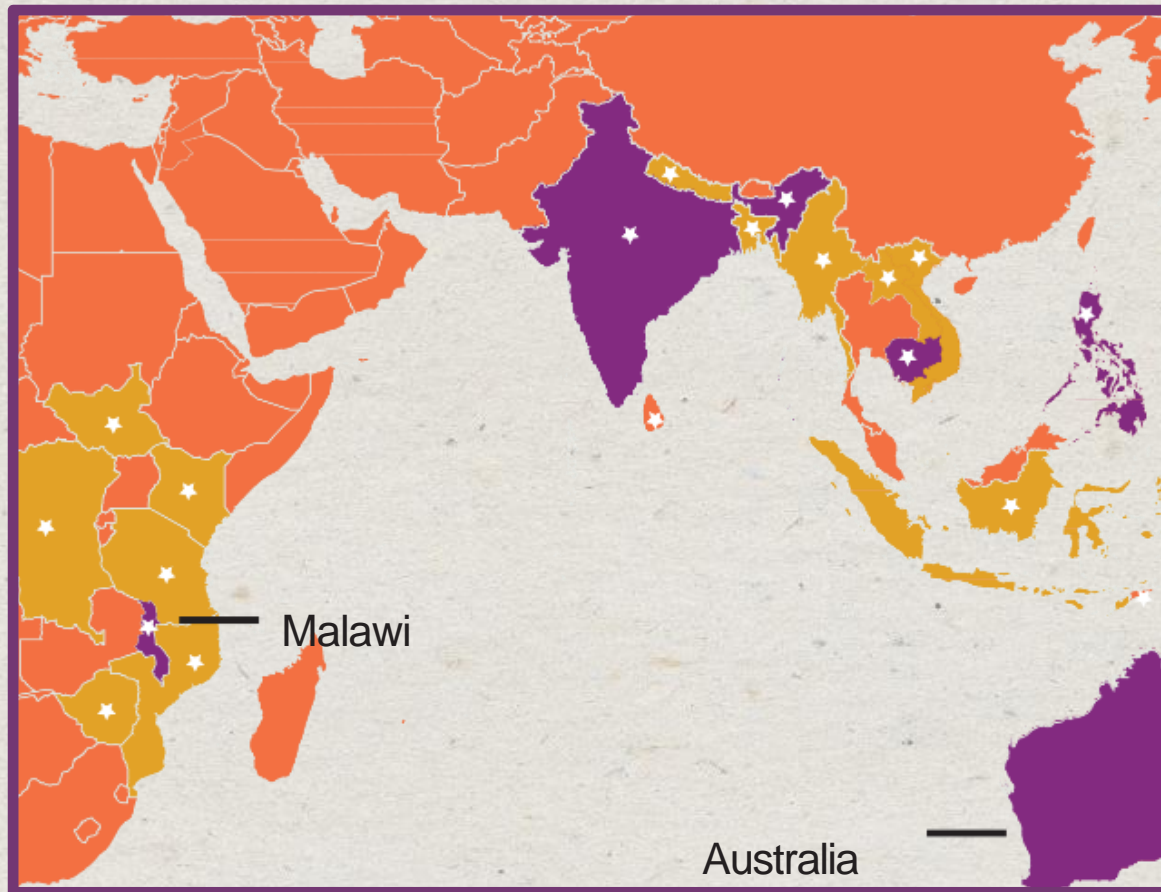
Photo credits: Pilirani Chimombo



This is a story about Tawonga.

Tawonga is 10
years old and lives
in a country called
Malawi, in Africa.

Tawonga means
'thank you'.





Tawonga lives with her family. She is the youngest of six children in her family.



Tawonga was born with one leg weaker than the other. She uses crutches to walk.



For most of her life, Tawonga's parents found it hard to grow enough food to feed their family.



Growing up Tawonga was often sick as she didn't have enough food to eat or clean water.



Tawonga's parents joined a Caritas program in Malawi. They learnt how to pump water to their vegetable garden so they could grow food all year.



Through the program they were given fertiliser and better seeds, and also learned improved ways of farming.



Tawonga's parents are now able to grow three times as much food as before, and provide three meals a day for their family.



Tawonga helps cook meals for her family. What do you notice about her kitchen? Do you like to help with the cooking at your house?



Tawonga's mother has also joined the village savings and loans group and was able to start a small business, selling fish, rice and vegetables.



The community has worked together to dig a borehole. Now they have safe clean water closer to their homes.



How many water taps do you have at your home?
How many water taps do you have at your school?



Tawonga uses a tippy tap to wash her hands.



How do you wash your hands? Why is it important to wash your hands?



Tawonga helps her family by washing the dishes.



How do you help at home?



Tawonga and her family now have a bright future. They have enough food to eat, safe drinking water and Tawonga can continue to go to school.

Questions

1. Where does Tawonga live?
2. What made life hard for Tawonga and her family?
3. What help d make things better for Tawonga?
4. How did Caritas Australia help?



TAWONGA, MALAWI

Learning Tasks

1. **Read the story book and discuss the questions.**

Curriculum: English: ACELY1650, ACELY1660, ACELY1670.

2. **Pray.** As a class or individually, students write a prayer for the featured community.
3. **Act:** After reading the story, discuss different actions students can take to build a fairer world. For example. sharing their knowledge, making a donation, learning more. They might be prompted to change something in their daily lives as a result of something in the story, for example; including people in their games more often, wasting less food or carefully watering their gardens.
4. **RE LINK: Loving our neighbours** Discuss: Tawonga was teased by her classmates. Why is it wrong to tease others?.
5. **Play Ndado**
Ndado is a game played by children in Malawi. Read the instructions and have a go playing it at your school.

NDADO

2 – 8 players. This may remind you of a game called Knuckles or Jacks.

This is normally played on the ground where a shallow hole is dug. Find an existing hole or you could use string to mark out a hole in ground, or use a small bowl.

A number of big seeds/stones are placed in the hole.

The first player starts the game by scattering the stones/seeds in front of them. Take one stone/seed and throw it in the air, while grabbing another single stone/seed that is on the ground. All players repeat. In the second round, players pick up two stones/seeds and so on.

The game goes on and on until all players have had their turns and the one who has not failed through her turns is declared the winner.

Instructions adapted from
<http://www.foacmw.org/?s=ndado>