



Photo taken by Nuno Alegria

THE BELIEVERS STAND FOR NO POVERTY



We believe we can turn the world around if we turn people on to its evils. Let's start believing we can be the change by changing something. Poverty is the first step of a giant stairwell.

By: Bianca Bonaparte,
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Links for social media and website:

youTube:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCBUCoFw0gU0FjE8Hmhd2B_w?view_as=subscriber

Instagram:

https://www.instagram.com/.the_believers./

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/The-Believers-2308294692733225/>

Website:

<https://nopovertythebelievers.blogspot.com/>

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“We are the Believers!”

Introducing ourselves:

We are a group of students from the ninth grade in Joaquim Gomes Ferreira Alves Secondary School. We come from a class that has been integrating a CLIL project (Content and Language integrated Learning) since our seventh grade. We are also integrated in an eTwinning Project in our school whose name is *Every day is Earth Day 2* and which develops actions in our school to promote the seventeen sustainable goals.

As our main passions are the performing arts and some of us are genuine technophiles, in order to enter the contest *Youth for a Sustainable World Now*, we decided to form a group whose mission will be to drive positive change through the power of entertainment.

We have an action strategy which is to raise awareness about the first Sustainable Development Goal “No Poverty” as we want to contribute to a fairer world free from poverty. We know we can’t solve this issue completely because its dimension is huge; however, we do think we can minimize it. Our goal will be targets 1.1. and 1.2. contributing, with our cause, to eradicate extreme poverty in all its dimensions for all people everywhere .



Bianca Bonaparte



Diogo Venade



Francisca Mihalache



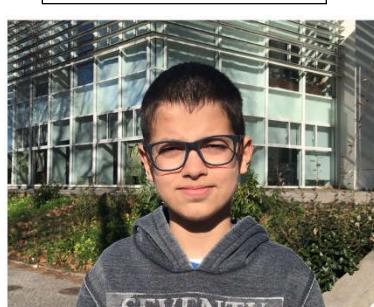
Carolina Alegria



Gonçalo Rocha



Francisca Silvestre



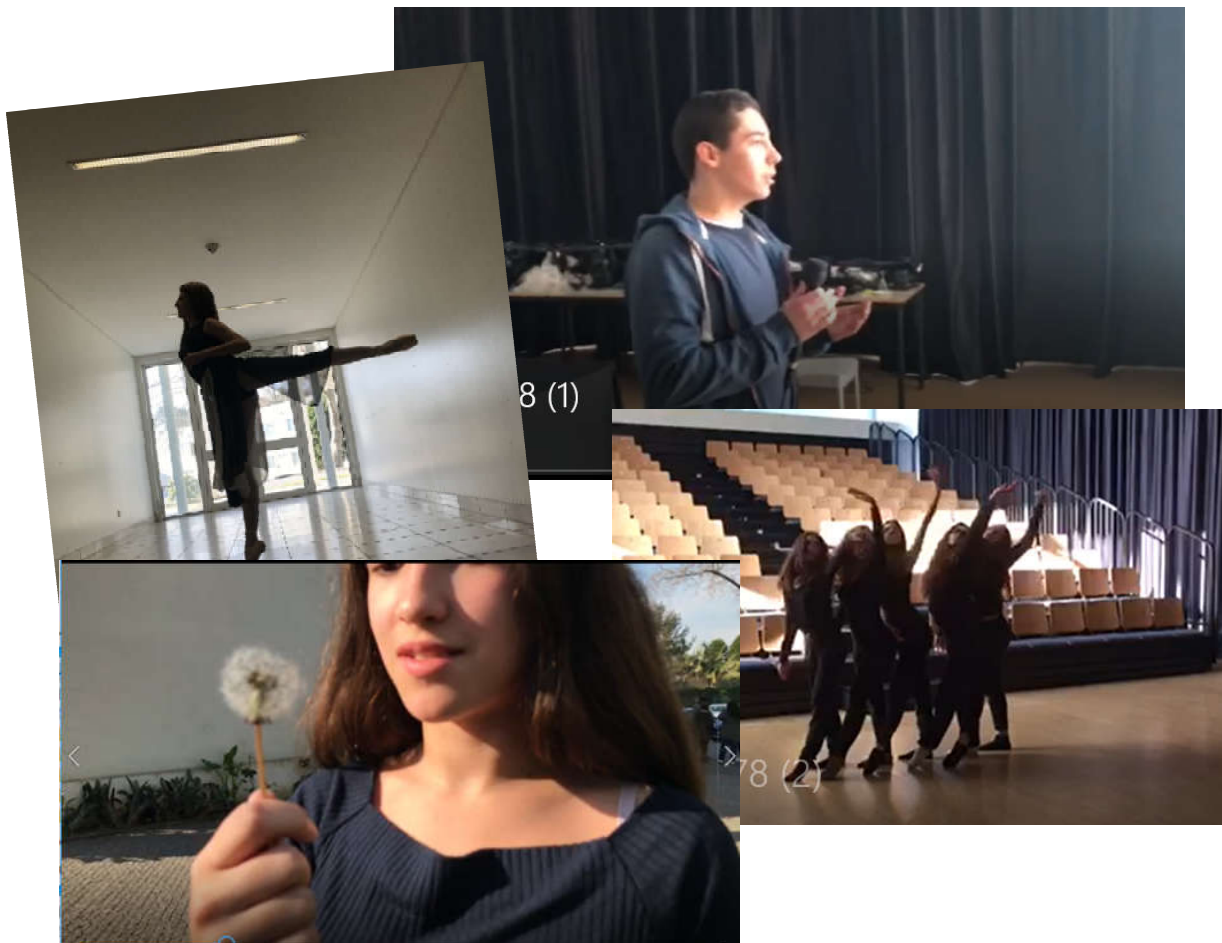
Guilherme Amorim



Joana Moreira

So, what is our dream?

By using our abilities in the field of entertainment, we want to educate, to speak out and spread our ideas, we want to inspire other young people as many aren't conscious about the problems that exist in the world and don't even care whether they are solved. We plan to bring more people to our cause willing to help organizations and governments to eradicate poverty as we think that if goal number one is solved, all the others will also be. Together, we might do some changes.



We thank our class 9th B from Escola Secundária Joaquim Gomes Ferreira Alves for having embraced our cause and for making our dream possible as they worked a lot to help us design this project and contributed with research, photos, music, dance and voice.

We also thank our teacher of English Helena Reis for having coordinated the project. We also thank our teacher of Geography and class tutor, Francelina Cardoso, and our teacher of Arts, Amélia Piedade for having contributed to this project.

Why is our cause important?

No poverty, the Sustainable Development Goal we elected, is perhaps one of the hardest to solve. One might not be certain about the dimensions of this issue in spite of all the institutions, all the people involved willing to help minimize the wide number of people affected. However, we believe that if it were solved, all the world problems would be solved.

In fact, nowadays, there are 2.2 thousand millions of underprivileged or people at risk of poverty or social exclusion. More than half of the extreme poor live in Sub-Saharan Africa. In fact, the number of poor in the region increased by nine million, with 413 million people living on less than US\$1.90 a day in 2015. If this continues, by 2030, nearly nine out of ten extreme poor will be in Sub-Saharan Africa. The majority of the global poor live in rural areas, are poorly educated, employed in the agricultural sector, and under 18 years of age.

However, when we analyse data released by Eurostat, the EU Statistical Office, for 2017, comparing European countries in terms of poverty and social exclusion, Portugal also comes in eleventh place in a list of twenty-six states. So, about a quarter of the Portuguese population is "at risk of poverty or exclusion". In the European Union (EU) the average percentage of people in this situation is 22.5%. Bulgaria, Greece and Romania have rates above 34%. Our head of state, Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa declared it was a national shame to be ranked amongst the most imbalanced societies in Europe. According to Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa, it is urgent to implement a national autonomous strategy of fight against poverty which leads to its eradication.¹

This issue is not a light subject. In fact, there are a series of interrelated factors that tend to keep people in poverty. To escape it, people need capital and credit, which they seldom gain, reinforcing a spiral known as the poverty trap, where other serious issues lead it to a dead end, such as hunger, lack of safely managed drinking water supplies and sanitation services, limited education, poor job prospects, substance abuse, low productivity, crime, unstable families and underserved communities.

We think that there are ways to escape this poverty trap, especially if we analyse the key factors that have hindered the development of some nations and which are, in many cases, at the root of this problem.

¹ in Público online, Lusa, "Marcelo sente *vergonha pela pobreza* e pede uma estratégia nacional com urgência" <https://www.publico.pt/2018/03/21/politica/noticia/marcelo-sente-vergonha-pela-pobreza-e-pede-uma-estrategia-nacional-com-urgencia-1807586> (21 de Março, 2018)

In the first place, one of the main factors that amplify this issue is the economic growth and the human development. The poorest nations are the developing countries where the industry is mainly based on the primary sector and where the traditional activities are often predominant. People get dependent on agriculture and on meteorology. This can lead to hunger and to the vulnerability to natural catastrophes, with other consequences, such as casualties and the destruction of households and historical dwellings.

Other factor that affects the economic growth is the degradation of the terms of trade which is affecting the most disadvantaged countries. The developing countries' economies (as mentioned earlier) are based on the trade of raw materials and as their technologies and their industries are outdated, they need to buy transformed products from the developed countries. All these factors have contributed to the continuous weakening of their economies and have prevented their participation in the world trade. And if the economy of a country is unstable and underdeveloped, its inhabitants won't have a good quality of life, which might include broad access to food and housing, quality education and health care, employment, job security, political stability, individual freedom and environmental quality.

As we have said before, the access to safely managed drinking water supplies and sanitation services is directly related to the issue of poverty as an improved water supply and sanitation and better management of water resources can boost countries' economic growth and can greatly contribute to poverty reduction.

According to the WHO (World Health Organization), in 2015, 5.2 billion people used safely managed drinking water services and 1.3 billion people only had access to *basic* services, which include the use of an improved water source located within a round trip of 30 minutes; 263 million people had limited services or an improved water source requiring more than 30 minutes to collect water; 423 million people took water from unprotected wells and springs; 159 million people collected untreated surface water from lakes, ponds, rivers and streams. As such, about half of the developing world's hospital beds were occupied by people with water-related illness.

For those who live without safe water, adequate sanitation, and effective hygiene practices, water-borne disease is a constant threat to health, keeping people out of the work force and in poverty. An estimated 443 million school days are lost each year due to illnesses related to water. In most of the cases, children are too sick or must take care of sick family members instead of going to class. When children are unable to attend school and get an education, the workforce of the entire country is affected, and nations intending to emerge from widespread poverty find this obstacle very difficult to overcome.

Preventable, water-borne diseases keep the populations trapped in a cycle of illness, illiteracy and poverty as they may spend most of their time on the daily tasks required

for survival, like fetching clean water. Besides that, the lack of safe water and sanitation facilities during the day forces the workers out of their working places preventing them from keeping a healthier and more productive work. Moreover, schools located in rural areas often have a difficult time keeping teachers when they cannot provide sanitation facilities in or near the school. Likewise, when there is no safe water and sanitation, people are more vulnerable to powerful or wealthy individuals and groups that threaten their security and resources.



Photos taken by
Francisca Silvestre



What would we like to see change?

There are people such as UN boards, politicians, entrepreneurs, who have the power to move mountains and if we advocate and raise awareness, we can benignly lead them to help the countries in need.

There are many things one can do to help these countries: at the public, private, humanitarian and emergency level. One can not only use bilateral help, which is given directly from a country to another, providing resources to support the development actions, but also multilateral help, which is done through the multilateral organizations, like UN, that consecrates most of its activity to the development of the countries in need.

However, this international help hasn't always succeeded. In 1986, UN recommended that the help given by the rich countries should be equivalent to 0,7% of the GDP (gross domestic product) of each country.

First of all, we think this monetary help should be bigger and should cover 1% of the GDP. However, these countries should contribute as they could, not considering money alone. If that happened and the management of this money was done carefully, industries could get more developed and economies would develop.

In order to use this help wisely, professionals (there should be UN employees specifically recruited to help these countries directly) should be sent to the countries in need, so they could help in a sustainable way. They should be well accepted and well-paid so as to prevent robberies and frauds. Of course this would only be possible with the collaboration of the government and institutions of the targeted country.

Other aspect that should also be changed is the vision of the leaders in these countries who often don't want to accept the help they so hardly need. The mindset of the ones from the rich countries should also be curbed and so their greed for money and their lack of empathy towards the countries in need. This is, in our opinion, hardly possible to achieve but it is important to mention once the regimes are often one of the main reasons for poverty and despair.

We also believe that water is one of the main keys to end poverty. We all know that the developed countries use too much water for everything they need, even for their daily chores. In our opinion, laws restraining the use of water per person in their households should be created, which means, a person who spends more than the limit imposed should have to pay higher taxes.

There is a huge waste of water in industries and in agriculture that should also come to an end as the wasted water could be reprocessed. Many nations also don't understand the meaning of the "boundaries of watersheds" and only care about their own territories. That is, many people use the water in their watersheds only for national use

as if it were theirs. However, water is everyone's property and should be treated and distributed as such.

Water is needed for agriculture and industries that create and produce foods. Many poor people die starving each year. It's possible to do an estimate of the number of people who will die from hunger every year: about 36 million in the world, as others are diagnosed with obesity. Again, the management of the resources needs improvement. There are ways to reduce hunger. From our point of view, the practice of agriculture and production of food needs to be increased. If so, the number of jobs would increase and the price of food would get lower. That way, there would be more food and it would be easy to provide it to a greater amount of people (as the costs would be minimized). So, a way of increasing the production of food could be the existence of agriculture subsidies. That idea has already been used, and it proves it can really work out.



Photos taken by Francisca Silvestre

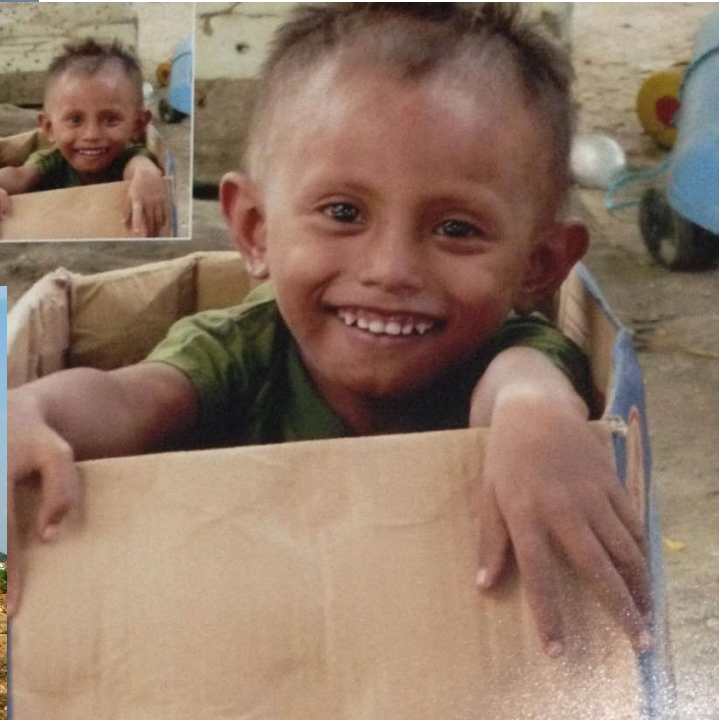


Photo taken by Nuno Alegria



Our action strategy:

We have mentioned some possible ways to solve poverty. However, neither of them can be executed by us, the youngsters willing to help. So we have decided to find our own way to help goal one to be achieved

In our class there are people who are really talented and artistically wise and we have a vision: we want to give use to our passions. So we are willing to form a non-profit group whose mission will be to drive positive change through the power of entertainment. We intend to start locally by raising the youngsters' attention to our cause and educating them about the poverty in the world using our skills in the performing arts.

We are “the Believers”.



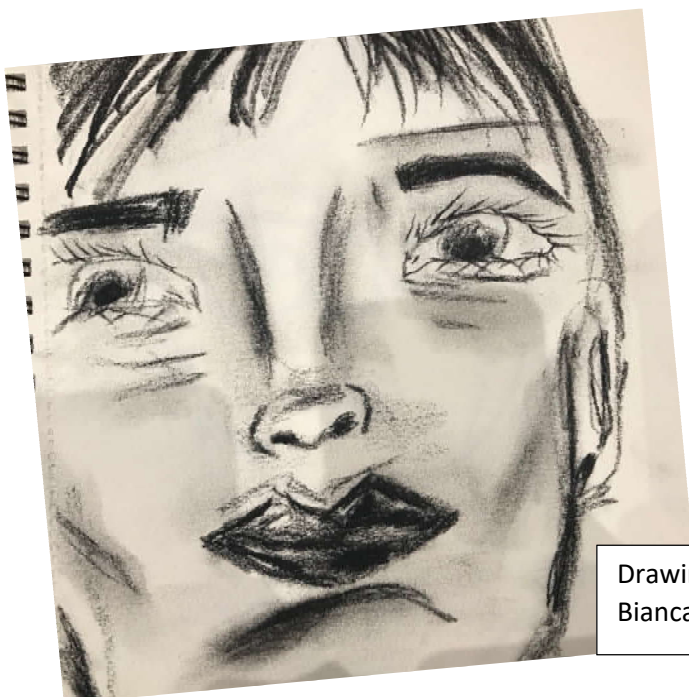
How will we expand and keep our project going on?

In the future, with the help of some organizations we have contacted and using our skills, we will get people to contribute to our cause and will eventually act at a global level doing service and philanthropy.

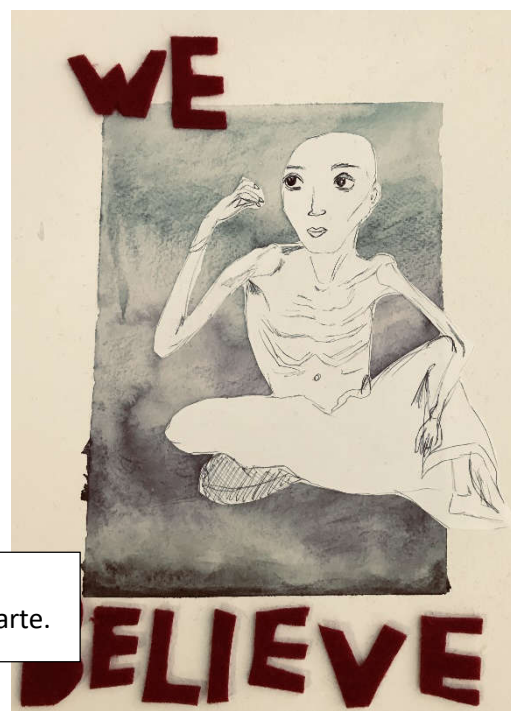
Our “plan of action” includes the performance of music, theatre and dance shows to get people mobilized to our cause. Actually, we intend to compose songs such as the one shown in one of the videos of this project where the lyrics are a source of emotional inspiration. We think that songs and music are a really beautiful way to express opinions and feelings about a subject and they can move mountains. With these shows we can do fundraising and petitions.

We are also organizing a flash mob in Physical Education which will be our first act of activism. With this, we intend to speak out and raise awareness. Some of us are also good at drawing and we plan to create posters and drawings to help in our action strategy.

We also plan to give TED-style talks as we have been rehearsing in the English classes for those who don't enjoy music and theatre performances. This way we can touch and inform as many people as we can, taking them on a journey of discovery around our cause. These Ted-style talks will also be a source of inspiration for those who want to become active citizens and are willing to contribute to the eradication of poverty.



Drawings by
Bianca Bonaparte.



Associations we have contacted so far, which have inspired us and we will work with:

ASSOCIAÇÃO NACIONAL DE AJUDA AOS POBRES

<http://anapnet.wixsite.com/anap>

This association has worked for 15 years without State help, they are simply helped by donations received. They help the people in need with food, clothes and footwear. Before helping someone, “ Associação Nacional De Ajuda aos Pobres “ relies on social security to find out if the person really needs help. People inscribe themselves and from then on the institution provides them with what they need. When the people helped are able to find a way in their life, they have to cancel the subscription.

ASSOCIAÇÃO NACIONAL DE AJUDA AOS POBRES E NECESSITADOS

<https://empresite.jornaldenegocios.pt>

This Association provides daily meals to the homeless with volunteers from Monday to Sunday. Also when there are festivities, the Association makes them feel at home.

ASSOCIAÇÃO NACIONAL DE COMBATE À POBREZA

<http://ancap.org.pt/>

With this project the Association provides orthopedic material for children and have collaborated with the school since 1999. The fund-raisers provide food to the cafeteria which help the ones in need and organizes the distribution of food baskets having made partnerships with the food bank. They have also helped 120 families with monthly support.

Pictures for the social media with text

Photo 1



Photo 2



Photo 3



Photo 4



Photo 5

Poverty can
be turned
into prosperity!



The text used for the radio transmission

Hello! We are the Believers!

We are youngsters who have a huge passion: the performing arts and with this passion we plan to inspire others to make our dream come true.

Have you ever imagined a world without poverty? That is our dream!

It is not an easy task. It takes a lot of effort and understanding from various institutions and people. The rate of extreme poverty has been falling but its dimension remains huge. It requires targeted measures to reduce vulnerability to disasters and to provide people with the basic needs.

That is what we intend to get at. Through the power of art, we will thrive and we will move mountains to bring people to our cause. By singing, dancing, playing, performing and speaking out we will pass on our belief, we will make doubters true believers.

The World needs a change! Let's start with Goal number one.

The songs created for the project

First song:

Close your eyes

Close your eyes
And imagine
A world with no suffering
No dying
Where people care for each other
Where people feel
Where poverty is not more than a bad
dream...
(Let's smile
Let's believe Poverty can no longer
exist)2x

Lyrics written by: Bianca Bonaparte
Music sang by: Carolina Alegria and
Francisca Silvestre

Second song:

No Peace

Do you know
It gives no peace and a little
sleep
How many times I've tried
Drains the faith until you're
weak
To explain to you
Life with no joy, no bells to
ring
Living someone else's dreams
No songs for the earth to sing
It gives no peace and a little
sleep
Drains the faith until you're
weak
Hunger seems the trend that
will never end
It gives no peace and a little
sleep
How many times I've tried
Drains the faith until you're
weak

Lyrics written by: Francisca
Mihalache
Music sang by: Jéssica
Oliveira, Francisca Silvestre,
Francisca Mihalache



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