Toy Making in Malawi

To Mr. Okumoto and the students at Takeda Junior High School,

We selected five toys designed by your students, translated them into English, and created them together with caregivers and community members at preschools in the Republic of Malawi. The toys were then used to play with the children.

1. About Malawi

Malawi is a landlocked country on the African continent. Its area is approximately 118,000 square kilometers, about one-third the size of Japan—roughly equivalent to the combined size of Hokkaido and Kyushu. The population is approximately 20.93 million (World Bank, 2023). Most of the population belongs to Bantu ethnic groups. The official languages are Chichewa and English. About 75% of the population is Christian. Malawi gained independence from the United Kingdom in 1964.



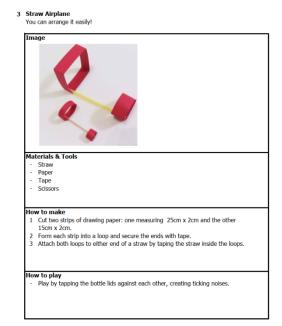
1. Toy Instructions Translated into English





11 April 2025 Kyoko Taniguchi Hiroshima University





2. Creating toys

Facility A







Facility B



The caregivers and community members were enthusiastic and worked hard to create the toys. The children had a great time playing with the toys, and they said it was a lot of fun. From now on, we plan to continue creating toys in Malawi using materials readily available in the local area.

Mr. Okumoto and all the students—thank you very much! Although we could only introduce five toys this time, they served as outstanding examples for caregivers in Malawi to make toys using everyday materials.