

## WHEELS OF CHANGE

“Empowering Hands. Transforming Futures”



The UN estimates that everyday 14,000 children under five in the developing world die from preventable diseases made worse by poverty. A major underlying issue is the lack of practical, income-generating skills that help communities become resilient and self-reliant.

Communities urgently need low-cost mobility solutions, and demand for skills-based, practical technologies is rising across Africa. Irish schools are already building sample training kits, and partner schools in Africa are ready to begin hands-on training—but funds are still needed to ship these sample kits.

Wheels of Change addresses these challenges by training young people to build durable, low-cost, all-terrain wooden wheels while developing long-lasting, transferable hand skills. The project aims to strengthen livelihoods, support community mobility, and build a bridge between youth in Ireland and Africa.

Objectives include:

- Providing practical hand-skills training in Africa and Ireland
- Enabling local production of low-cost wheels for essential transport
- Supporting family incomes and community resilience
- Creating cross-continental learning between schools
- Expanding access to sustainable mobility technologies

Beneficiaries: young people in Ireland and across the developing world, Irish schools and Men's Sheds groups, and African communities relying on equines, push-carts, or improvised transport.

Core activities include producing training kits and fabrication jigs, running hands-on workshops in African partner schools, and involving Irish schools in kit assembly as part of their hand-skills curriculum. Skills taught include measuring, assembling,

woodworking, repair techniques, and the creative use of upcycled materials. Collaboration with Men's Sheds supports kit-building and fundraising.



Expected outcomes:

- Youth gain marketable skills that create rapid income opportunities
- Communities gain affordable, durable transport solutions
- Local economies grow through small-scale fabrication
- A sustainable technology-transfer model develops between Ireland and Africa
- The programme scales from 3 pilot schools (South Africa, Lesotho, Uganda) to 10 by 2026

This project delivers a practical, low-cost strategy for reducing poverty, guided by Patrick Finnegan, who brings nearly six decades of engineering and craft expertise and two decades of teaching hand skills. By enabling one trained individual to uplift an entire community, the initiative promises scalable, high-impact results for lasting change.

Stakeholder support is needed to ship kits, expand production, and sponsor the programme's growth. In return, partners gain clear social impact, visibility, and meaningful engagement for communities, schools, and retired craft workers.

For further information and to learn how you can help us, please contact:

Patrick J. Finnegan

Email: [pfinnegan44@gmail.com](mailto:pfinnegan44@gmail.com)

Website: [www.worldenterprisehandskills.com](http://www.worldenterprisehandskills.com)

Facebook: [patrick.finnegan.1675](https://www.facebook.com/patrick.finnegan.1675)

