**Prompt 7: What have you done to make your school or your community a better place?**

Last summer, I went to Kei Island, a remote island in Maluku, Indonesia for community service in collaboration with doctorSHARE, an established non-profit humanitarian organisation that focuses on health services.

“Many locals are experiencing diarrhoea, possibly coming from their consumption…” stated Dr Vanessa during the program introduction. Being a water geek, I jumped at this chance to ask about the water condition there. Although she wasn't sure, she claimed that their water contained white residue.

It goes without saying that this information piqued my interest. Asking for several litres of water samples to be sent to Jakarta, I tested the water at the Indonesian Government’s water testing facility and discovered that it contained high calcium carbonate levels, which can cause heart rhythm disturbances and kidney stones.

*A water filter would definitely help to reduce the contaminants*, I thought. I consulted with a water specialist to ask for his advice on the water filter’s layers.

I spent several weeks prototyping the water filter and testing it out on the water sample. Using a small prototype, the percentage of contaminants did, in fact, decrease by about 17% when the filtered water was retested in the lab. Unquestionably, a larger one would significantly remove more contaminants.

When I reached the island, I explained my findings and the effectiveness of the water filter to the residents of the doctorSHARE compound. Given the short amount of time I had there, I conducted a demonstration on how to build a scaled-down model and distributed an instruction manual I’d made on how to make the water filter and taught a few boarding school seniors on my water filtration system.

In order to improve their quality of health, the locals were inspired to enhance the water quality on Kei Island. They grew more conscious of the water they were using and were more motivated to start building their own water filter. When I left, the students were going to propose … at their school assembly, sharing the instruction manual throughout their neighbourhood, and the doctorSHARE’s residents are currently building their own water filter.