

HEALTH IN ACTION

Health Poverty Action and Find Your Feet Newsletter

Summer 2022



In this edition:

Livelihoods

Plus: Vaccine justice, making a living in Malawi and more...

**HEALTH
POVERTY
ACTION**

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INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the latest edition of your newsletter, Health in Action. My name is Dr Tadesse Kassaye Woldetsadik, and I work as Health Poverty Action's Head of Programmes for Africa. I am responsible for overseeing, developing and supporting our activities and teams across Africa. I've been especially impressed and inspired by the way our staff, volunteers and partners have worked together over recent years to respond to the many challenges facing communities around the world.



In this edition, we launch our Livelihoods Appeal, looking at how we can work with communities globally to protect people's health and livelihoods, as conflict, climate change, COVID-19 and the cost-of-living crisis make life harder for millions of people.

We are asking supporters to contribute whatever they can and stand with communities at this critical time.

Thank you for your generous support – I hope you're encouraged to learn how, together with our partners globally, we're addressing the complex issues that are forcing people into poverty and poor health.

Front cover: A beekeeper in India, trained and supported by Find Your Feet alongside our local partners.

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Get involved!

Health Poverty Action and Find Your Feet share resources and expertise so we can better support marginalised communities to enhance their health, livelihoods and wellbeing.

JOIN THE MOVEMENT – HEALTH FOR ALL IN A JUST WORLD

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Registered charities in England and Wales, numbers 290535 and 250456



MAKING A LIVING

Our summer appeal focuses on how Health Poverty Action and Find Your Feet are working with communities as conflict, climate change, COVID-19 and rising costs make it harder for people to make a decent living and stay healthy.

▲ Food distribution in Somaliland

While the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and conflict in Ukraine have contributed to great hardship globally these issues are proving to be truly catastrophic in many of the communities we work with.

Across East Africa the effects of climate change and regional conflicts, combined with the global shortages, price rises and economic disruption caused by COVID-19 and the war in Ukraine, are having terrible consequences.

Russia and Ukraine normally supply around 40% of wheat consumed in Africa¹, and Russia is also a major

supplier of fertiliser. Since the war in Ukraine started, the price of wheat has risen in Africa by over 45% and fertiliser prices have increased by 300%.²

In Ethiopia, it is estimated that internal conflict and climatic shocks such as droughts, floods and desert locust infestation have driven over 5 million people from their homes as they seek safety and security.³ Now, as wheat imports from Ukraine and Russia dwindle and food prices rise, an estimated 10-15 million people in Ethiopia are seeking humanitarian food aid.⁴

Continues over ►

1. United Nations Conference on Trade and Development – The impact on trade and development of the war in Ukraine

2. African Development Bank – Press release 20/5/22

3. Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre – Global Report on Internal Displacement 2022

4. Famine Early Warning Systems Network – Ethiopia Food Security Alert – 27/5/22

Continues from previous ▶

The communities we work with in Mander County, Kenya are situated in the country's volatile north-east frontier region. In addition to the challenges posed by climate change, COVID-19 and the war in Ukraine, the people of Mander County also must contend with long-running social and political issues.

Mander straddles borders with Ethiopia and Somalia and residents are often drawn into regional conflicts. Too often people living in Mander find themselves caught in the line of fire as Kenyan security forces, clan militias or al-Shabaab fighters compete to enforce their interests on Mander's communities and recruit individuals for their own ends.

This contest has resulted in insecurity, repression and underdevelopment for most people in Mander. Alongside the trauma of historical injustice and upheaval, Mander's communities have endured years of marginalisation and the consequent stagnation of public services and economic opportunities.

In Somaliland, the current global crises are impacting on people for whom recurrent drought, food insecurity, and subsequent risk of famine have become a feature of life in recent decades as the climate has changed. It is estimated that 1.5 million people are affected by the drought across Somaliland and the situation is worsening.



▲ **Drought has worsened across East Africa in recent years**

Across the country, as key healthcare development programmes end, it is becoming harder for people to access life-saving health and nutrition services. The recently declared measles outbreak in Somaliland signals the increased risk of a full-blown health and nutrition emergency.

As the cost of living continues to rise worldwide, with the energy crisis, the war in Ukraine and the COVID-19 pandemic forcing families into poverty, securing funding for vital health and social development programmes is becoming harder and harder. We are working with communities across Africa, Asia and Latin America to protect people's livelihoods and ensure they can still receive vital healthcare as the economic picture becomes bleaker.

Alongside activists, health workers and community leaders we are addressing the economic issues that matter to people – from supporting grassroots business initiatives to developing sustainable farming methods to exposing unfair global trade practices. Now, more than ever, as purse strings tighten around the world, we are redoubling our efforts to build a healthier, richer future together.



▲ We work with communities in Ethiopia to ensure that people can access healthcare

LIFE SAVINGS

We have been working with pastoralist communities in Dollo Ado district, southern Ethiopia, for many years. Women in this region often had to ask for permission and money from their husbands to access health care. Sometimes their husbands would refuse to sell livestock to raise the necessary funds.

Women in Suftu village, with support and training from Health Poverty Action, have now established the Suftu Health Insurance Group. The group has 15 members, all women, who save approximately £1.60 each per

month - a considerable amount by the standards of pastoralists in this region. They can use this money to pay for transport to health facilities or to purchase drugs when they or their children are unwell.

Now the women can make their own decisions and access funds when they need medical assistance. They have sufficient resources to deal with health issues as they arise, both for themselves and their children. The group succinctly summarized their ability to better manage their health with the phrase “we are now government”.

Donate now:

Donate to our Livelihoods Appeal and stand with communities across Africa, Asia and Latin America to safeguard people’s livelihoods and ensure they can receive vital healthcare as the cost of living rises globally.

 www.healthpovertyaction.org

 Health Poverty Action, Kemp House, 152-160 City Road, London EC1V 2NX



► Food processing enables people in farming communities to earn more

BAKING A LIVING IN MALAWI

Find Your Feet Malawi is working with women to develop their businesses and economic independence



Find Your Feet Malawi has been working with the community around the northern village of Bulala. In this predominantly agricultural region, a patrilineal culture prevails. Women have limited land tenure and security, and often have limited authority over the use of household income. This situation discourages women from active participation in income-generating activities and leaves them economically disempowered.

Through the Bulala Sustainable Livelihoods project, women are learning how to produce commercial goods to support their economic independence and empowerment. Women like Linley Soko, a married mother of four from Josaya Village.

Before her involvement in this project, Linley's primary

occupation was farming. She has now completed training in food processing and utilisation, learning how to bake bread, scones, biscuits, and doughnuts. Linley has started her own bakery business with capital of just £9 and has already made a return of £95.

Linley tells us "I thank Find Your Feet for training me in bakery. Just imagine from the training I attended, I realize money every day from baking breads and doughnuts. I save some money in a Village Saving and Loans group I belong to for me and my husband. Before the training in bakery, I used to struggle...for food and income but now it's history. My family can now fund basic needs for our children like buying clothes, groceries and uniforms, which was not the case before".

Your contributions mean we can continue to work with communities like Linley's to secure and improve people's livelihoods. Please visit www.findyourfeet.org to donate today.



FEET ON THE GROUND

Long-time supporter Libby Scott shares her story

◀ Libby and her granddaughter Edith

Q: How did you first hear about Find Your Feet?

A: There was an article in the Guardian about Find Your Feet's founder Carol Martin and research she'd found about making good, cheap protein, vitamins and minerals by heating crops like brassica and chard in water, removing the curd from the top and drying it to make leaf concentrate.

Find Your Feet worked with communities to produce leaf concentrate in order to combat childhood malnutrition. I studied Horticulture and Plant Sciences at university, so was inspired by this sustainable approach to improving people's diets.

Q: Is there a particular aspect of Find Your Feet's work that interests you?

A: Everything Find Your Feet does is great because it's hands on and the local populace is involved. Like your work in India - ensuring tribal people can defend their land rights. I think it's better than raising money and then telling people what to do.

Q: Is there something that has motivated you to continue supporting for so long?

A: Find Your Feet just ticks a lot of boxes for me, in terms of the cause and the focus on agriculture and food production. I've raised funds for Find Your Feet at local fairs and by selling plants from my nursery.

Q: I can see that you've left a Gift in your will to FYF; what led you to make that decision?

A: I've got a few favourite charities and want to support them. We'll see how much it is in the end; I'm not ready to go yet!

VACCINE JUSTICE

GLOBAL SOLUTIONS FOR A GLOBAL PROBLEM

We were excited to launch our vaccine justice work which began in January this year. As part of the People's Vaccine Alliance, we aim to amplify voices in the Majority World in the fight for global vaccine equity.

The problem we face is that large pharmaceutical companies refuse to share the technology and recipe for COVID-19 vaccines with countries around the world in order to protect their own profits. This leads to direct loss of human life, extended lockdowns and the propagation of new variants of the virus.

But there are solutions. Right now, over 100 factories could be producing life-saving COVID-19 vaccines around the world but are not currently being used. Health Poverty Action is calling for a waiver on the intellectual property rights currently holding back vaccine production; this is known as The Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual

Property Rights (TRIPS). A TRIPS waiver would release the technology that would allow countries to manufacture their own safe and effective vaccines. Ensuring that everyone had access to vaccines could save 1.5 million lives.

As part of the People's Vaccine Alliance, Health Poverty Action is supporting the proposal by India and South Africa at the World Trade Organisation to temporarily waive relevant intellectual property rules for COVID-19 vaccines. In addition to this, we are also supporting the People's Vaccine Alliance's campaign to enhance the World Health Organisation's mission to establish mRNA hubs across the Majority

▼ We support and deliver vital vaccination programmes



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THE PROBLEM WE FACE IS THAT LARGE PHARMACEUTICAL COMPANIES REFUSE TO SHARE THE TECHNOLOGY AND RECIPE FOR COVID-19 VACCINES. THERE ARE SOLUTIONS.
”

World. The objective of the mRNA hubs will be to build capacity in low- and middle-income countries to produce their own vaccines through a centre of excellence and training, thus creating a legacy of self-sustainable vaccine and medicine production.

To support this work, we aim to produce short films from countries at the back of the vaccine queue to shine a light on the reality of monopolised vaccine production. These stories aim to give a human face to the Peoples Vaccine Alliance’s policy demands for the upcoming G20 Summit in November in Indonesia and other key vaccine summits next year.

We will continue to play an active role in ensuring global access to the COVID-19 vaccine as we integrate

this campaign into a longer-term movement to remove all intellectual property rights in healthcare. This will drastically reduce the cost of healthcare in the Majority World and end the colonial dependency on Western pharmaceutical companies. Achieving this change will also result in more sustainable global healthcare systems that are robust and resilient enough to respond far more effectively to future pandemics.



A GIFT IN YOUR WILL HELPS FAMILIES ACROSS AFRICA AND ASIA CONTINUE TO TAKE CHARGE OF THEIR OWN LIVES

Stand with the communities, campaigners and activists who've been taking a different approach to tackling poverty and hunger for over sixty years.

Find Your Feet was founded in 1960 and originally focussed on supporting Eastern European refugees. Today, because of our committed supporters, we are able to work with communities across Asia and Africa.

**To find out how even a small gift in your will
can make a huge difference, please contact
fyf@fyf.org.uk**





There are many ways to support the work of Health Poverty Action and Find Your Feet. Here are just a few ways, and you can find more on our websites at www.healthpovertyaction.org and www.findyourfeet.org.



Royal Parks Half Marathon

Get your place now in the Royal Parks Half Marathon for October 9th. Entry costs just £35 with a minimum sponsorship target of £350 and we'll be here to support you every step of the way.

London Marathon

Looking for a bigger challenge? Join #TeamHPA this October 2nd and take on the world-famous TCS London Marathon. Registration costs £150 with a minimum sponsorship target of £2,000. Applications are still open now! **Interested in 2023 instead?** Register your interest with Lisa: l.konomoore@healthpovertyaction.org

Easyfundraising



If you're already plotting out your summer holiday shopping, check out easyfundraising for a great way to raise money for Health Poverty Action whilst you shop online. easyfundraising works with over 4,000 retailers who donate to your chosen cause as a thank you for shopping with them. Simply sign up at easyfundraising.co.uk and select Health Poverty Action. Then each time you begin your shop at easyfundraising you'll be supporting our work, at no extra cost to you.

Get involved!

If you're interested in getting involved in any of these opportunities or have other unique fundraising ideas, please contact Lisa Konomoore via email at l.konomoore@healthpovertyaction.org



IT'S GETTING HARDER TO MAKE ENDS MEET

Climate change, COVID-19, conflict and rising costs are making it harder for people to feed their families and stay healthy

Make a donation today

As the repercussions from the COVID-19 pandemic and the war in Ukraine impact on the global economy, communities across Africa, Asia and Latin America are facing increased hardship.

Many of these communities were already struggling with the effects of climate change, regional conflict, political marginalisation and economic exploitation.

Your contributions enable us to continue working with activists, health workers and community leaders to support people and families trying to make ends meet.

From establishing community healthcare initiatives and developing climate-resilient farming methods to advocating for women's property rights and exposing unfair global trade practices, together we can address the issues that matter to people.

Please give to our Livelihoods Appeal and stand with workers and families across the world as together we build healthier, more prosperous lives for all.

Registered with



How to donate:

Web: www.healthpovertyaction.org

Email: fundraising@healthpovertyaction.org

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152-160 City Road, London EC1V 2NX

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