



## MAKE POVERTY HISTORY

"As long as poverty, injustice and gross inequality persist in our world, none of us can truly rest... I ask all humanity now to rise up. Make poverty history in 2005"

**Nelson Mandela** addressed 20,000 people in London's Trafalgar Square, 3 February 2005

This year something amazing is happening. Millions, tens of millions, of people from many nations are standing together to express their outrage at the injustices which cause dreadful poverty across the world. Unified by the symbol of the white band, citizens are calling on their politicians to:

- Drop the debt
- Increase and improve aid
- Make trade fair

Skillshare International is calling on all its supporters, friends, staff and volunteers to join the international Make Poverty History campaign. On 2 July there will be a huge family-friendly rally in Edinburgh ahead of the G8 gathering at Gleneagles, where leaders of the world's eight most influential and industrialized nations will

◀ In our pyjamas we marched and chanted to make the UK Secretary of State for Trade and Industry Wake up to Trade Justice!

meet. We will travel to Edinburgh to make our voices heard and we'd like all our supporters to join us for an exhilarating day.

We hope to arrange for one of our partners from Lesotho, Southern Africa, to address the crowd, and we will join in an amazing stunt to publicise the Stop AIDS Campaign.

If you cannot join in the rally in the UK please participate in the year's first international White Band Day on 1 July. For more information about the white band campaign or the G8 rally please contact Jonny Gutteridge, Supporter and Campaigns Coordinator, on +44 (0)116 257 6615.

[jonny.gutteridge@skillshare.org](mailto:jonny.gutteridge@skillshare.org)

Inside:  
Spreading the net  
against malaria



Go Katie!!  
destination G8 rally

New funding  
for peace in Africa

### Sowing the seeds for a new style of learning

by **Stephen Opira**,  
Development Worker, Mozambique

**"Knowledge can't be transmitted. Knowledge has to be acquired."**

This year Sam Ogolla and Stephen Opira, two Skillshare International development workers teaching within the Faculty of Agriculture at the Catholic University of Mozambique, have championed a new approach to learning called Problem Based Learning (PBL).

The idea of PBL is to stimulate learning through problem solving, rather than simply attempting to transmit knowledge to the student.

Student opinions vary but are generally positive. Jamal Mariamo says: "The lecturers and tutors no longer have a monopoly on knowledge or ideas as it used to be. Now they are virtually facilitators."

Assane Fernando is clear about the change this methodology brings: "We have been learning a wide range of skills since we started PBL. These skills are not only helping us here in our studies but certainly they will also help us in our professional life when we go out into the field."

Before the launch of PBL the students tended to be bookworms and reluctant to learn manual labour skills. Now they are more open to each other, ready to debate problems, discuss group projects, and also plant, weed, harvest and sell their produce personally. Professor Mazivila, the Faculty Director, wholeheartedly supports the change and says: "Now they are not only prepared for a life of intellectual commitment but also for a war against the tenacious plague of poverty."

### Attention all medical students...

2005 marks our fourth year of hosting training courses specifically designed for medical students travelling to a developing country for their pre-electives.

Last year a student from Leicester Medical School commented: "It has challenged my views on the way the West actually interacts with developing countries and it also challenged my attitudes towards development work."

To request further information on our one-day pre-elective training sessions, please contact Dr Raúl Pardiñaz-Solis on +44 (0) 116 257 6629 or [raul.pardinaz-solis@skillshare.org](mailto:raul.pardinaz-solis@skillshare.org)

### Have you...

Recently returned from working abroad?  
Got plans to work in a developing country?

We are developing a new one-day cultural awareness workshop for health sector personnel. It will provide an opportunity for reflection and discussion around some of the personal, social and work issues involved in working in developing countries.

All health professionals who are considering doing some work in a developing country are advised to take up this workshop. We'd also like to hear from returned development workers.

If you wish to be involved, please contact Dr Raúl Pardiñaz-Solis on +44 (0)116 257 6629 or [raul.pardinaz-solis@skillshare.org](mailto:raul.pardinaz-solis@skillshare.org)

Returned development workers: keep in touch.

### Destination: G8 Rally

Staff member Katie Junor is making her own way there...

**Transport:** 1 bicycle

**Distance:** 240 miles [386 km]

**Duration:** 4 days

**Average distance per day:** 60 miles [96.6 km]

**Start:** Leeds

**Finish:** The G8 Make Poverty History rally in Edinburgh.

Good luck Katie!



### Call to action

To Make Poverty History in 2005 wear the white band, go to [www.whiteband.org](http://www.whiteband.org) to find out what is happening in your country, or if you are in the UK head to [www.makepovertyhistory.org](http://www.makepovertyhistory.org)

### Our book, To Whom It May Concern, celebrates the 10th anniversary of democracy in South Africa.

"There was a hope towards freedom but South Africa was still firmly entrenched in apartheid."

Gillian Kerr [daughter of Barbara Cohen who was a volunteer with the International Voluntary Service from 1974 to 1979].

Inspirational, enlightening stories written by people associated with Skillshare International reveal the human spirit of solidarity that bridged the physical, cultural and political divide.

The individual accounts stand as a lasting testament to the positive impact of social change in Southern Africa and blend into a fascinating read.

The book costs **£6.99** plus P&P.

To order your copy, please call or email Caroline Frankland +44 (0)116 257 6627, [caroline.frankland@skillshare.org](mailto:caroline.frankland@skillshare.org) or fill in the order form at [www.skillshare.org](http://www.skillshare.org)



## Skillshare International News in brief...

### New funding for peace in Africa

Comic Relief has awarded Skillshare International a grant for £467,562 to support the work of the Coalition for Peace in Africa (COPA), a network of organisations and individuals working towards peaceful resolution to conflict in Africa. The three year grant will provide training for COPA's members in conflict transformation, fund advocacy to bring conflict issues to the national and international agenda and help develop African specific approaches to conflict resolution.

For more information about the Comic Relief grant and COPA contact [katie.junor@skillshare.org](mailto:katie.junor@skillshare.org)

### Tsunami Appeal

The tsunami of 26 December 2004, had a devastating impact on the people and environment along coastlines of Asia and Africa. Nearly 300,000 people were killed and hundreds of thousands more lost their livelihoods.



Thank you to all of you who raised money and gave generously to our Tsunami Appeal in the UK. At the close of the Appeal we had received

£4497.06. Your money is being used to support a specialist occupational therapist who will be working with three of our partner organisations in Tamil Nadu, Southern India; engaging in long-term rehabilitation work, providing counselling for individuals and communities affected.

### Skillshare International Lesotho made "every mother and child count"

According to the World Health Organisation, "almost 11 million children under 5 will die of largely preventable causes this year". On April 7th Skillshare International Lesotho contributed to the event in Thaba Tseka, a district outside Maseru, by inviting supporters and partners along and informing the 500-strong audience about the work that Skillshare International does in the health sector.

### Doreen Lawrence supports Development Education

"It may seem hard to imagine that one person's actions can impact on local or global events but it is possible."

Doreen Lawrence OBE.

In March Mrs Lawrence addressed the Global Citizenship Conference in the East Midlands, UK. In 1993 her son Stephen was murdered and the ensuing police apathy left her little choice but to campaign. Result: an official enquiry, the 1999 Macpherson report and an amendment to the Race Relations Act 2000.

To learn more about the Stephen Lawrence Charitable Trust visit [www.stephenlawrence.org.uk](http://www.stephenlawrence.org.uk)

### NEW SKILLSHARE INTERNATIONAL BOOK PUBLISHED IN INDIA

Written by health trainer Katy Thompson this book documents an approach, pioneered by our long time partner Vidyar Sagar and Skillshare International health trainers, to treating people with cerebral palsy and the associated multiple disabilities. Publishers SAGE have offered to publish the book for free and give the royalties to Skillshare International India. Congratulations to the entire team! Look out for the book soon to be available from [www.sagepub.com](http://www.sagepub.com)



## Spreading the net against Malaria

A personal account from Murray White, husband of Helen White, a Skillshare International health trainer in Tanzania.

Malaria is not a laughing matter, despite the droll joke among health staff here at the Simanjiro Rural Health Clinic that if you cannot deduce the cause of someone's illness, it's likely to be malaria. A minor dose can be debilitating, a vaccine is still years away and it continues to top the medical charts in East African clinics and hospitals.

In developing countries 500 million new cases are recorded annually - 90 per cent of them here in Africa. Under-5s and pregnant mothers are particularly at risk of the most serious form, cerebral malaria.

Simple, short term steps can be taken to combat the malaria-carrying mosquito. As it is only active at night the most effective weapon is an insecticide-treated net for the family to sleep under.

The Tanzanian government, supported by the Global Fund,

launched a 3-4 year scheme last autumn to provide families with insecticide-treated nets. The hope is that the potential 20 per cent decrease in infant mortality rates can be achieved.

Whilst applauding the scheme, we realised that Simanjiro's families might have to wait a couple of years for it to reach them. So my wife Helen, a health trainer in Tanzania's Simanjiro District, and I decided to launch a personal Christmas appeal amongst UK family, friends and other contacts. Our aim was to curtail the long wait and bring nets to our village, Magadini, as soon as possible.

We've now raised more than £1,700 and recently we collected our first order of 300 nets. Keen to support local business, we turned to a local Tanzanian textile company, A-To-Z in Arusha, to provide the new type of nets that don't need retreating with

insecticide for at least five years.

In April we started to sell the nets in Magadini at a heavily-subsidised price of £1 each. The wisdom being that when people make a considered purchase they are more likely to value and use the net than if it is given to them for free. The money collected will be ploughed back into future orders. We are working alongside health staff at the Magadini clinic to incorporate using of the nets in health education sessions for mothers.

Helen says: "If it is successful we may even expand the scheme to neighbouring villages. All of which, we hope, will contribute towards knocking malaria off the top of the charts."

For further information on Skillshare International and Simanjiro Rural Health contact: [micheal.kibure@skillshare.org](mailto:micheal.kibure@skillshare.org)



### Editor's note

Thank you to all the development workers and staff who contributed to this issue. Feel free to suggest future articles, submit photos and stories... it's you we want to hear from! If you need more copies to circulate, please let me know by emailing [editor@skillshare.org](mailto:editor@skillshare.org)  
Best wishes

Abbe Fawcett  
Editor

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