

Calling for Trade Justice

"To end poverty and protect the environment we need Trade Justice not free trade."
– the Make Poverty History campaign.

Please join Skillshare International on 10 December for the third international white band day.

Anti-poverty campaigners are calling on world leaders, convening at the World Trade Organisation ministerial meeting in Hong Kong 13–18 December, to deliver fairer trade rules. These would enable people to escape from poverty rather than force them into it.

In an unequivocal statement on 1 and 2 July, millions of people mobilised world-wide to show politicians that they want to see action on debt cancellation, more and better aid, and trade justice ...

Why trade justice?

Currently the rules of international trade work in favour of the most wealthy countries and businesses. Trade rules undermine labour standards, prevent governments from protecting their markets from cheap imports and make it impossible for southern farmers to compete with rich-world farmers who receive subsidies. The result is that poor countries often struggle to be effective trading partners in international markets, and so continue to be unable to afford to provide good health care and education for all of their people.

In 2005, as well as joining Make Poverty History, Skillshare International has formally become a member of the Trade Justice Movement. We now invite you to add your voice to ours in the call for trade justice.

Vote for trade justice:

- www.makepovertyhistory.org, click on Take Action and then Vote For Trade Justice.
- Wear the white band and watch out for events near you on 10 December.
- Write to the UK Secretary of State for Trade and Industry the Rt. Hon. Alan Johnson MP to tell him what you think and ask him to take action on trade justice.

Contact:

- Jonny Gutteridge, Supporter and Campaigns Co-ordinator.
- Trade Justice: www.tjm.org.uk
- International campaigning: www.whiteband.org



▲ Elijah Adera, Regional Programmes Manager in South Africa, makes a point at the Africa Standing Tall Against Poverty march earlier this year.

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Returned Development Workers

What are they doing now?

Between 1998 and 2000 Ian Draycott was the interim General Manager for Thusano Lefatsheng Trust in Botswana. Since his return to the UK, Ian has worked on a rural development programme in Wiltshire and at an environmental education centre in Dorset.

In Botswana he was surrounded by it, most people he knew either used it, harvested it, or traded it. But since his return to the UK five years ago, he has never publicly spoken about Kalahari Devil's Claw ... until now.

In October 2005 he gave a presentation to medical students about his work related to Kalahari Devil's Claw and led discussions on intellectual property rights and access to medicinal plants.

Despite it having a spiny, gnarled seed casing that looks like it would do you more damage than repair, the underground tubers are widely recognised as helping to relieve symptoms of arthritis, rheumatism and some blood disorders. People in small, isolated villages have been harvesting and using it for generations.

The Thusano Lefatsheng Trust saw the commercial value of Kalahari Devil's Claw being sold to the European market as an alternative medicine and initiated a project that benefited rural communities by teaching sustainable harvesting techniques and by buying the sliced dried tubers for onward sale. The trust itself also added further value by granulating the tubers and packaging



▲ Ian Draycott presents Kalahari Devil's Claw to third year medical students.



◀ Kalahari Devil's Claw.

a product for local markets which could be easily measured and administered as an infusion.

During his two years with the Trust, Ian managed to secure a stable relationship with several new trading partners and to increase the price paid to the harvesters. He also helped prepare another man, Tebogo Matlhare, to take over his role as General Manager ... and on a recent visit to Botswana they met up again.

"It was great to see Tebogo and other old friends again and to find that the Trust was still doing great work despite the tough operating environment. Kalahari Devil's Claw was still of benefit to more people than just those taking it as a herbal remedy."

Development Workers

NEW

- Sam Hodgson, Agricultural Coordinator
- Andrew Harris, Information & Communication Advisor
- Emmanuel Koro, Communications & Research Coordinator
- Robyn Cox, Fundraiser & Communications Advisor
- Bratislav Mijovic, Massage Therapist
- Jeslin Justus, Community Health Trainer
- Francis Lopez, Disaster Management Worker
- KP Chandrashekar, National Curriculum Advisor
- Stephen Ojwang, Programme Advisor
- Peter Sanchez, Financial Administrator
- Rebecca Sanchez, Finance & Fundraising Officer
- Meg Schoch, Lodge Technical Advisor

RETURNED

- Sarah Brooks, Operations Programmes Advisor
- Nick Brooks, Communications and Research Coordinator
- Sarah Lee, Occupational Therapist
- Mark Roesink, Planning and Finance Officer
- Asha Bai, Social Development Worker
- Helen White, Community Healthcare Trainer
- Melanie Wright, Advisor to Managing Director
- Samuel Ogolla, EFL Teacher
- Clare Brundle, Occupational Therapist Support Worker
- Manson Munchenje, Horticultural Advisor
- Michelle Spearing, Programme Officer
- Rachel Njonjo, Administration Advisor
- Greg Solomon, Community Health Trainer
- Suzi Beaumont-White, Community Health Trainer

Skillshare International News in brief...

£1.5 million for joint conflict management project with RTC

Our joint three-year project with Responding to Conflict (RTC), an NGO based in Birmingham UK, has been granted almost £1.5 million from the Conflict, Humanitarian and Security department of DfID (Department for International Development). The "Integrating Development and Conflict Transformation (IDCT)" project aims to develop the ability of individuals, NGOs and peace networks to understand conflict and manage it in a constructive way. We will work together to build the capacity of partners in Southern and East Africa, South East Asia, the Balkans and the UK in fundraising, research and advocacy, financial management and strategic leadership.

For more info go to www.respond.org



Fit fundraisers

On 25 September, fifty Skillshare International **Lesotho supporters** set off on a "fun walk" to raise money and awareness for Katleho 'Moho, a small agriculture association, and the campaign to have Maletsunyane waterfalls declared a national heritage site.



Mark Collins volunteered in the Leicester office for three months and managed to fit in a 13 mile run on 11 September to raise money for us before jetting off for a UNDP Internship in Bratislava.



We thought **Katie Junor** would take four days to cycle the 386km from Leeds to Edinburgh in time for the G8 rally, but she had the wind at her heels and made it in three!



On 16 October **Skillshare India** staff and development workers ran in the Great Delhi Run to raise money for the HIV/AIDS sector. Sumit Asthana, Development Worker, reports: "We raised a sum of INR 25,000 (£329) and are hoping to continue the counting ... Everyone in the group was so excited to finish after 7km ... and the smiles that followed were so soothing."

And finally ...

Congratulations to Stefanie Thormer and John Pearce!

Two development workers who met through Skillshare in Gaborone, Botswana in August 2002 and married on 31 August this year. In John's words: "The big day was an outdoor event watched by rhino, warthogs and ostrich in Hlane Royal National Park (Swaziland) and was something of an international wedding. Tony McCloskey, a DW in Botswana, was the best man and Bakoetse Tsiane and Chris Hodder also came over from Skillshare Botswana. All the staff and DWs from Skillshare Swaziland were there and a couple of ex Botswana DWs also came over from UK."

We wish you all the best for a long and happy life together.



Tsunami: One year on

By Katie Junor, UK based International Programmes Officer

As the first anniversary of the Boxing Day tsunami approaches, the media is full of criticism for the agencies involved in relief work. The stories of success and the huge impact that all the agencies, communities and people have made are often bypassed in favour of a more negative angle. So I'm using this opportunity to share one success story of which Skillshare International is very proud.

Last year Skillshare International India and the Coastal Education and Cultural Trust (CECT) initiated a partnership, which placed us in an ideal position to react rapidly but sensitively in the aftermath of the tsunami. Sustainability is a vital component of the partnerships we develop, which means the long-term view is always taken. For instance, areas worst affected by the tidal waves were the coastal settlements mainly inhabited by fishermen. Their boats were destroyed along with the fishing infrastructure, making it impossible to fish or transport their catch to market. Replacing these boats and rebuilding the surrounding infrastructure were therefore pivotal in enabling coastal communities to begin

rebuilding their lives. Therefore fishermen were not simply given boats but are working with local boat builders to make sure that their boat meets their own individual requirements. This approach, although more time consuming, means individuals feel they can take ownership of their lives and destinies again rather than be victims reliant on handouts.

But it wasn't just possessions and infrastructure that the tsunami destroyed. Communities that used to entrust their livelihoods to the sea now fear for their lives because of it. If you walked on the beaches on the coast of Tamil Nadu before the tsunami you would have seen children playing and splashing in the waves. Since the tsunami the beaches are deserted in the evenings and children stay at home out of fear. Skillshare International health workers are now working as a team of trauma counsellors, to try and mitigate the psychological impact of the disaster.

All this work has been made possible with funding of over £300,000 from the Disasters Emergency Committee, channelled through Christian Aid.

Project impact:

- 450 families have been assisted so far
- 40 self help groups have been formed

Supported by:

Christian Aid grant of £308,684

As part of our ongoing funding relationship with Christian Aid Katie will be making a monitoring visit in January 2006.

Awareness raising

Talking point

You are a qualified doctor or nurse placed in a rural area. You encounter dangerous practices (e.g. risky birthing procedures / Female Genital Mutilation). Do you adhere to what is considered the right thing according to your professional training, or do you stand back and accept that these practices are entrenched in local customs and tradition?

What do you think?

Email: editor@skillshare.org

Jargon buster

TRIPS – The Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights. Negotiated in the 1986-94 Uruguay Round, this introduced intellectual property rules into the multilateral trading system for the first time.

Editor's note

I hope the new snapshots of the lives of Skillshare volunteers (development workers) satisfies some of the unanswered questions you may have about who they are, where they go, why they go, and what happens next for them.

Do get in touch if you're still curious and I'll do my best to find out the answers ...

Meanwhile, the talking points pose the questions that face people on the ground daily and aren't easy to answer. If you have experience of this dilemma – or others – feel free to address your responses to me at the UK office, or by email to editor@skillshare.org.

Best wishes

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