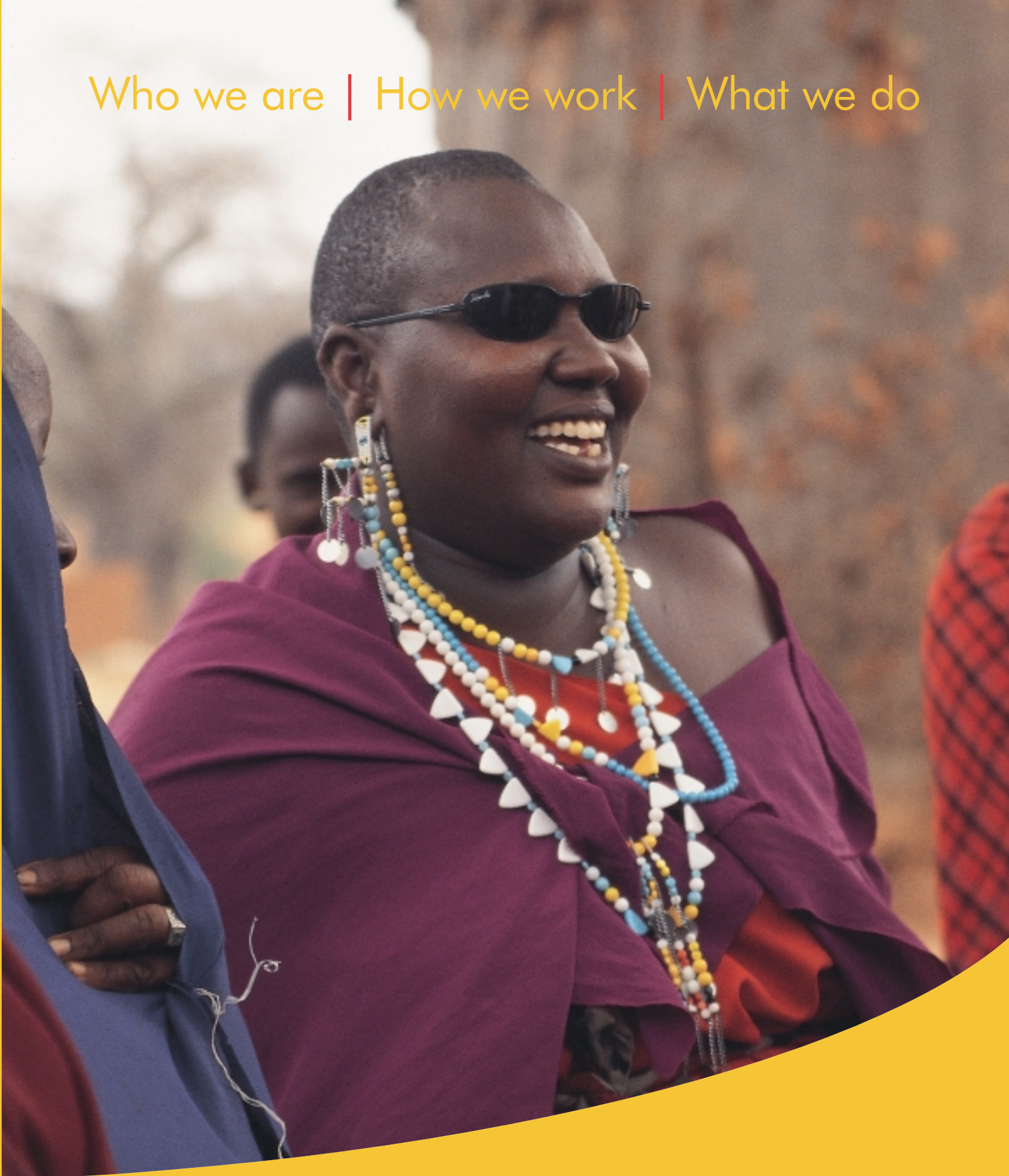


Who we are | How we work | What we do



"In Africa, we don't want programmes that come from foreigners who don't understand what we do or what we need... by working with Skillshare, I feel as though I'm making a difference and we get something back."

**Keboitse Machangana, Executive Director of
Emang Basadi, Gaborone, Botswana**



Statement of purpose

Skillshare International works for sustainable development in partnership with the people and communities of Africa and Asia. We do this by sharing and developing skills, facilitating organisational effectiveness and supporting organisational growth.

Skillshare International:

- *recognises the right of people and communities to determine and develop their own future*
- *is committed to organisational and individual development*
- *believes working in partnership is central to effective economic and social development*

Background to Skillshare International

Formerly part of International Voluntary Service (IVS), Skillshare Africa worked for over ten years throughout southern Africa in support of skills and organisational development. In July 2000, Action Health joined Skillshare Africa which led us to broaden our programme geographically and change our name to Skillshare International.

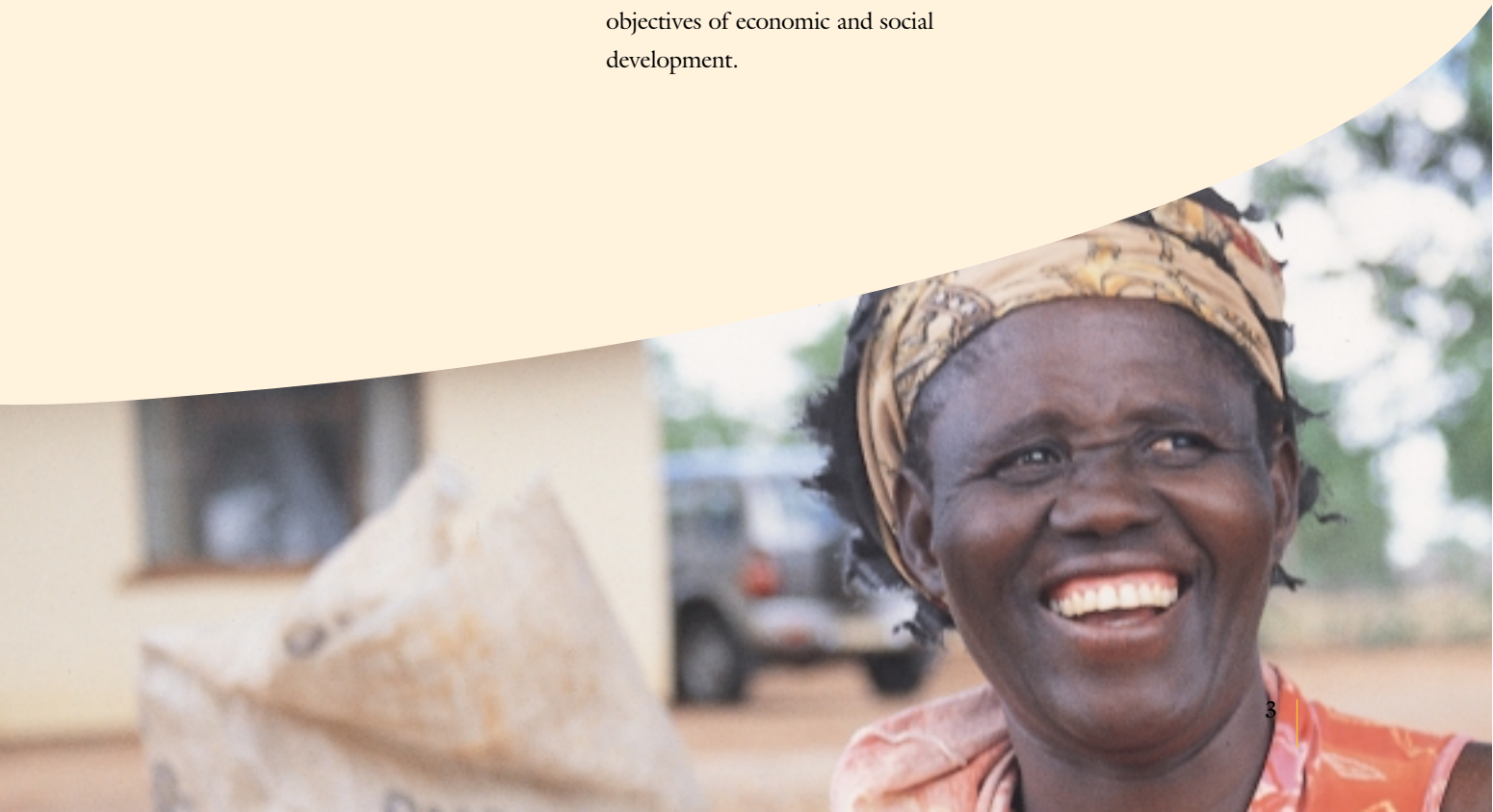
Skillshare International has over thirty years of development experience, bringing together the traditions and values of international volunteering with the objectives of economic and social development.

Some of our primary stakeholders include:

- low income groups
- marginalised groups
- people living with HIV and AIDS
- rural communities
- vulnerable women
- young people and children
- survivors of abuse
- people affected by disability

Some of the sectors in which we work include:

- agriculture and food production
- education and vocational training
- environmental conservation
- health care and HIV/AIDS
- local authorities
- rural and community development



How we work

Skillshare International works in a number of countries in Africa and Asia. Each country has different needs and requirements. We work with partner organisations, including government institutions, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and community based organisations. These organisations come to us with specific needs. We aim to provide a route for those needs to be fulfilled.

Working in partnership is central to our approach. Our aim is to work with our partners helping them to achieve their vision. We work alongside people, communities and organisations to determine their potential and establish joint strategies to secure their rights.

For the purpose of skills development, we recruit people from all over the world with skills and experience in areas such as agriculture, business, education, health, community development and technical skills, who are committed to supporting the development of our partner organisations.

"I used all my skills but what was most important was listening to people."

*Ruth Allen,
returned development worker,
Botshelo Project, Serowe, Botswana.*

Our development workers and health trainers work with local partner organisations. They share their skills, experience and knowledge with local people so that when their placement is over, the capacity remains.

"It is very good for a local NGO to have a bigger partner because it gives us much more political clout and we can develop more contacts. We also have the opportunity to share learning with our partners. A development worker acts as a catalyst for change. Many things have changed at LSMHP. There is more accuracy in planning, for example. We also benefit from administrative and management skills that we didn't previously have."

Thaba Joseph, Head of Lesotho Society for Mentally Handicapped People, Maseru, Lesotho.

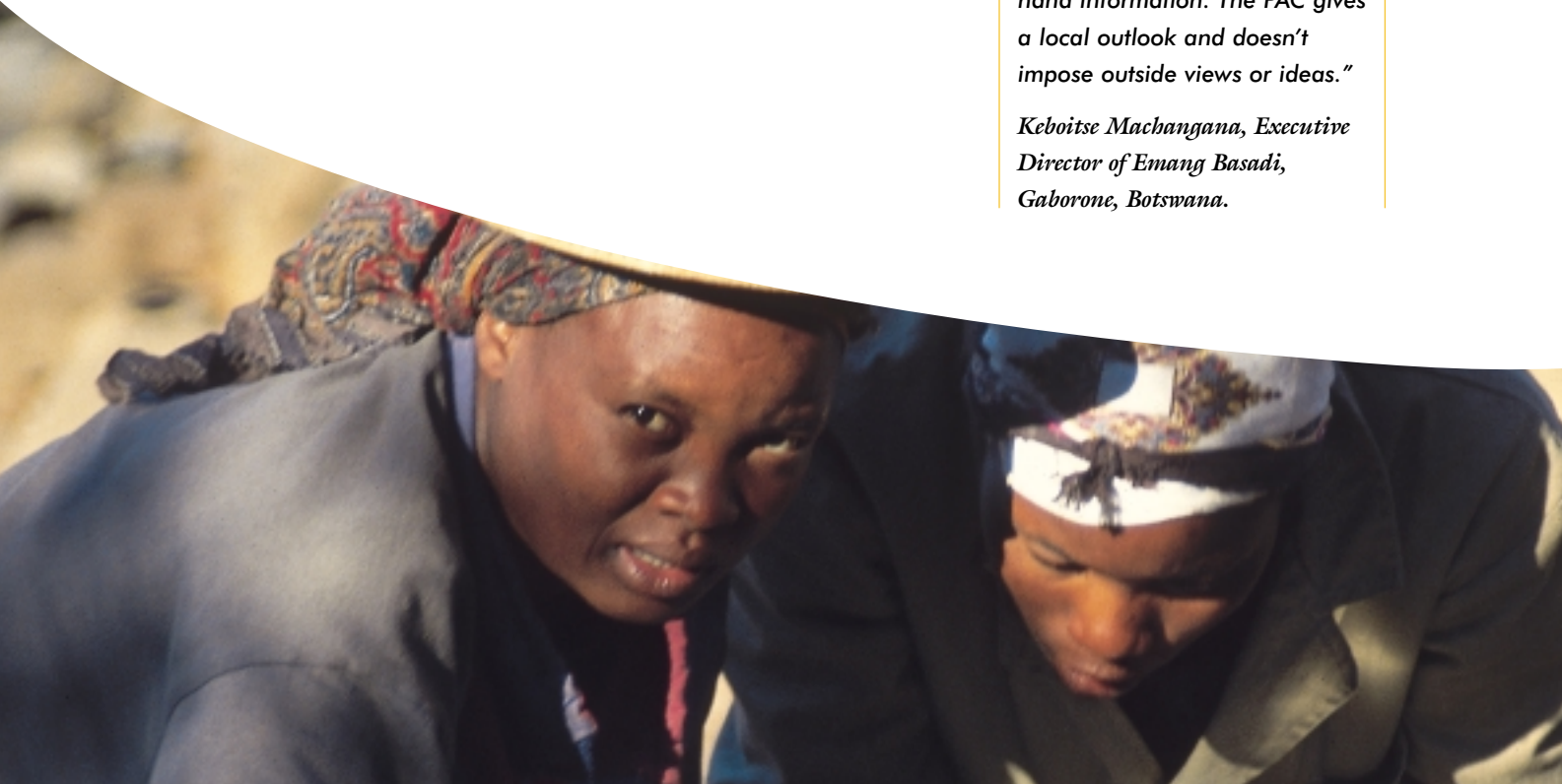
Local impact

We have offices in most of the countries where we have programmes, usually staffed by people from the region, who manage locally determined programmes. We believe that the appointment of local staff gives our programmes the necessary support for their ongoing work and a basis for the development of new activities.

Most of the countries where we work have a Programme Advisory Committee (PAC) which has a delegated governance role from the Board of Trustees. The PAC is responsible for guiding the country office staff on the development of our programme strategy and monitoring its implementation. The PAC is made up of a number of key members of the community and may include current programme partners and heads of other NGOs who work in those countries.

"The PAC is an active body that is in touch with programmes on the ground because the members move around, see the programmes and can provide first hand information. The PAC gives a local outlook and doesn't impose outside views or ideas."

Keboitse Machangana, Executive Director of Emang Basadi, Gaborone, Botswana.



What we do

Skillshare International aims to help organisations achieve their vision through improving their performance and services. We have a range of practical ways in which we assist organisations to develop and grow. For instance:

- the placement of international development workers and health trainers with our partner organisations
- financial resource development eg building the capacity of programme funding
- the Leadership Development Programme (LDP) - an initiative designed to develop the strategic leadership skills of Skillshare International's partner organisations

"It was good to participate in the LDP. I learnt many things. It has helped me in terms of organising and planning internally. Before participating in the LDP, I faced problems with planning and organising but now I can sort them out. The LDP has also helped to improve the organisation's financial systems and reports. During the workshops I was able to present my difficulties and the facilitator and the other delegates helped me overcome them."

Mr Octávio Macamo, ATAP, Maputo, Mozambique.

Botswana

We have a number of partner organisations dedicated to empowering women in income generation projects.

"Before I became a member of Kgetsis ya Tsie, I didn't know how to make jam and now I do. I also couldn't have got a loan if it wasn't for Kgetsis ya Tsie. Now I can buy food for my family. It was always difficult to get food before. Kgetsis ya Tsie has helped me to increase my income and the food available for my family."

Keolebige Silas is a member of Kgetsis ya Tsie - a women's group in the Tswapong Hills, eastern Botswana.

In the north-west region, on the edge of the Okavango Delta, we work with communities to encourage the use of natural woodland, indigenous trees and backyard nurseries.

We work with the YWCA on Peer Approach to Counselling and Teenagers (PACT) which aims to empower young people between the ages of 10 and 19 and raise awareness on issues such as sexual health, sexual abuse, alcoholism and drug abuse, teenage pregnancy and HIV/AIDS.

Our work with the Basarwa San pastoralists includes advocacy training; resources for micro-credit and income generating activities, such as garment production, tannery, tie dye, carpentry and handicrafts; vocational and small business training; pre-school teaching and strengthening local community based organisations.

India

Skillshare International's health trainers work with poor rural communities to identify and prioritise their health problems. The aim is to improve the health status and eradicate preventable deaths by training village women to become village health workers, with the skills to diagnose, treat and prevent common illnesses. We also have occupational and speech therapists working with children in a school in Vidya Sagar, southern India.

Lesotho

In Lesotho, a large proportion of our work is dedicated to vocational and enterprise training, in areas such as design, engineering and business. We also work with the Department for Rural Roads because many rural areas are isolated by a lack of adequate roads and this limits access to markets, education and health care.

Mozambique

We have doctors and teachers working in Maputo, Nampula and Nacala providing health and education to people who may not usually have access to these essential services. Angoche is the southern capital of the Nampula Province where there is a continuing demand from the City Council for development workers, including doctors, teachers, town planners and architects.



Namibia

Skillshare International has been supporting the AIDS Care Trust (ACT) which works to address the issue of income loss for people living with AIDS by supporting income generation activities, such as selling AIDS awareness-raising products like T-shirts, caps and posters. ACT also offers comprehensive support to people living with AIDS by providing training for home based care and counselling.

South Africa

Our programme in South Africa is developing a focus on the empowerment of disadvantaged groups, rural development, health promotion that prioritises HIV/AIDS and primary health care. It also assists organisations and institutions to strengthen their leadership and democratic governance. The regional office in Pretoria helps develop the programme and fundraise in the southern African region.

Swaziland

In Swaziland, we work with a number of partner organisations. The Sebenta National Institute aims to eradicate illiteracy and offers relevant vocational training for disadvantaged people. Swaziland Action Group Against Abuse (SWAGAA) works to change practices and policies affecting women and children survivors of sexual and physical abuse. SWAGAA offers counselling for survivors and training for all service providers involved with abuse cases.

Tanzania

We're working with the Simanjiro District Council to improve the health status of the semi-nomadic Masai communities. The focus is on the provision and utilisation of mother and child health services. We're supporting the initiative by assisting with skills development and capacity building within the District Health Management Team, for the local health workers and the village communities. In July 2001, the first Tanzanian occupational therapists qualified, having been trained and supported mainly through our Action Health Programme.

Uganda

Skillshare International's Action Health Programme has made a key contribution to the establishment of occupational therapy as a profession in Uganda and Tanzania. Before Action Health started working with governments and national institutions, there were only two occupational therapists (OTs) in Uganda. Now there are over 40 qualified OTs all of whom have been taught by health trainers.

United Kingdom

Skillshare International works with schools and universities in the UK, Europe and the countries where we operate, to build understanding of development issues and to create a constituency of support - not just for our work - but for the wider international development movement. For example, we're working with medical schools to teach their students more about the global causes and consequences of ill health.

We're active in campaigns on development issues that improve conditions for sustainable development and we facilitate our supporters' involvement in a variety of ways.

Funding our work

The majority of our activities are funded through UK and European based funders, such as the UK government's Department for International Development (DFID), the European Union (EU), APSO, the Community Fund, Comic Relief, trusts, foundations, smaller donors and individuals. Some activities are also funded by local based donors, such as DFID Southern Africa Regional Office, DFID country offices, New Zealand Official Development Assistance (ODA) (South Africa) and the Canada Fund. We are extremely grateful to all those who support our work.



To find out more about Skillshare International

Visit our website at www.skillshare.org, write to us at 126 New Walk, Leicester LE1 7JA, telephone **0116 254 1862** or e-mail info@skillshare.org

To work with Skillshare International

We recruit experienced professionals to work with our partner organisations in Africa and Asia. If you are interested in working with us you need to complete an application form (available from our website www.skillshare.org or by calling **0116 254 1862**).

To support Skillshare International

If you would like to get involved in our work, please contact supporters@skillshare.org

You can make a donation by cheque, made payable to Skillshare International. Alternatively you can pay by bank giro credit at any branch of Lloyds TSB quoting sort code 30-94-97 and account number 2765288. Please ask us for Gift Aid details.

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