

A common, painful and debilitating disease causing great suffering – yet it's treatable and potentially eradicable.

WHAT IS MOSSY FOOT?

Podocniosis (Mossy Foot) is a condition which affects people in wet, volcanic areas around the world.

Mossy Foot UK is currently concentrating on Ethiopia: with a population of 80 million, several hundred thousand are likely sufferers.

As farmers mainly work barefoot, silicates in the soil get into the body through the skin: the feet and lower legs of the sufferer become hugely swollen and the irregular skin deformity causes the skin to appear covered in 'moss'. There is pain and loss of mobility.

Not only visually off-putting, the swelling frequently becomes infected and emits a truly offensive smell. Sufferers therefore endure not only the discomfort and disability of Mossy Foot but also social stigma. Many are shunned by their community and end up unable to support themselves.

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Mossy Foot UK supports effective treatment programs that make a real difference: simple, inexpensive measures have a profound effect.

SUPPORT

Re-integrating sufferers by re-training them to make shoes, become hairdressers, carpenters and even provision of microfinance.

TREATMENT

Washing of the feet with soap and water prevents entry of bacteria and inhibits infections. This may be supplemented by drug therapy or surgery.

EDUCATION

Teaching sufferers how to care for themselves, how to care for others in their communities and spreading the word that Mossy Foot is not incurable.

PREVENTION

Wearing a pair of shoes and socks whilst working in the fields provides protection.

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