

Annual Report of Mossy Foot UK for year ending 12 August 2021

Administration

Mossy Foot UK achieved registration with the Charity Commission on 29 May 2009 under number 1129888. Its first full accounting year after that registration ended on August 2009 and that was its second year of operation as it was given charitable status by HMRC in October 2008 backdated to the date of its Trust Deed (13 August 2008).

This is Mossy Foot UK's thirteenth year of operation. The Trustees of Mossy Foot UK are Dr Lucinda Claire Fuller and Graeme David Akhurst. The offices of the Charity are at Beacon Hill House, Little Mongeham, Kent CT14 0HW. They were the trustees at inception and expect to remain as the only trustees for the foreseeable future. Only the existing Trustees as a body have power to appoint new trustees. Mossy Foot UK does not have any employees. The Trustees held 3 meetings during the year.

Financial Report

Mossy Foot saw its receipts roughly flat this year from £12,244 last year to £12,325. Mossy Foot UK has no reserves policy and is not in deficit. Its own website hosting and administration requires it to keep a small amount in hand (it has no other committed payments). Last year Mossy Foot migrated to a new web design company and paid for a new website which will be easier for the Trustees to update. This year it continued donations to "Action on Podoconiosis and Integrated Development Organisation" ("APA") www.actiononpodo.com which gained administrative approval at the beginning to 2012. Mossy Foot UK transferred £10,000 to APA during the year which it uses for general purposes (paying the staff who run its clinics in Southern Ethiopia and running training programmes in shoemaking, training on income generation. In addition to supporting training of government healthcare workers to take over the care of patients, APIDO is also support the logistical infrastructure of ensuring treatment package materials are available for the government run clinics). Further grants are expected to be made to APA in the future. None of Mossy Foot UK's funds are restricted and it holds no funds as custodian trustee. No payments were made to the Trustees. The amount in the account at the end of the year was £3,848.

Objects, Activities and Public Benefit Statement

The objects of Mossy Foot UK are to relieve the condition of podoconiosis ("Mossy Foot") in sufferers in Ethiopia and to provide care and rehabilitation for such persons. It is also to promote the physical and mental health of Mossy Foot sufferers in Ethiopia through the provision of financial assistance, support, education and practical advice.

Mossy Foot UK has supported Action on Podoconiosis and Integrated Development Organisation (APIDO) with financial disbursements in 2021. Professor Paul Matts continues to provide external governance support for APIDO but due to the restrictions of the COVID19 Pandemic has not been able to visit this year.

APIDO's vision to see Ethiopia free of podoconiosis is in line with the objects of Mossy Foot UK. Its strategy to achieve this is via the co-ordination and empowerment of stakeholders. Specifically, Ethiopian Federal Ministry of Health workers are targeted with support to enable them to continue to improve provision of care for persons with podoconiosis and to improve their health, psychosocial and economic outcomes. APIDO has maintained its programmes through the political instability of 2020 and the COVID pandemic to support 9888 podoconiosis patients in several districts within the administrative area of Dawuro zone in Southern Nations, Nationalities, and People's Region of Ethiopia. They deliver this through the following workstreams:

- Strengthening and increasing Morbidity Management services at all the project sites.

- Supporting and expanding the provision and production of custom made shoes for podo patients
- Reducing Podo disease related sufferings holistically.
- Awareness raising and preventive shoe distribution support (wearing shoes prevents podoconiosis developing).
- Enhancing podoconiosis education to reduce misconceptions in the minds of patients reducing the burden of the disease and improving life quality.
- Providing of medical support for persons with Podoconiosis cases.
- Promoting awareness raising about podo within communities.
- Partnering with stakeholders to deliver the above.

In addition to screening for new patients, APIDO has sensitised at least 28910 members of the zonal communities to understand podoconiosis enabling reduction of stigma towards those affected.

2020 activities included the distribution of personal protective equipment and hand sanitisers for the staff and partners working with podoconiosis clients.

Dr Fuller continues as Chair of the International Foundation for Dermatology (IFD) www.ifd.org and is also on the board (as well as a member of the executive committee) of International League of Dermatological Societies (ILDS) (www.ilds.org). This enables her to keep Mossy Foot on the agenda of global health dermatology and ensure that it is included in the programme of dermatology and tropical health scientific agendas. Over the past year she has been working directly with the WHO neglected tropical disease unit to develop a training package for community health care workers which will include care for podoconiosis patients.

Dr Fuller is one of the founders of the British Association of Dermatologists (BAD) Global Health Committee. This was launched in 2021 at the annual scientific meeting of the BAD which included Professor Gail Davey OBE as a keynote speaker sharing the advances and developments of podoconiosis care over the past 20 years.

Dr Fuller has used her IFD/ILDS roles and membership of the Footwork International (www.podo.org) steering group to continue to work with the World Health Organisation (WHO). Additionally, this year she has been invited to join the board of FootWork International UK trustees. Mossy Foot UK continues as a partner organisation of Foot Work International.

Mossy Foot UK continues to update its website (www.mossyfootuk.com) . Following the commission of the new website in 2020, work is on-going to refresh the news areas and educational components to improve the educational effectiveness of the website as well as an advocacy platform.

The public benefit of these actions is (a) to improve the situation of Mossy Foot sufferers both financially and medically enabling reintegration into their communities with no dependence on begging and (b) to increase awareness of Mossy Foot amongst both the Ethiopian and non-Ethiopian populations thereby helping to reduce the stigma attached to the condition.

The trustees therefore confirm that they have complied with their duty to have due regard to the guidance on public benefit published by the Charities Commission in exercising their powers.