

Annual Report of Mossy Foot UK for year ending 12 August 2023

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 fourteenth 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 2 meetings during the year.

Financial Report

Mossy Foot saw its receipts down this year from £13,971 last year to £12,800. The difference was due to no repetition of a consulting engagement by Dr Fuller payment for which was made last year by the relevant organisation to Mossy Foot UK. 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). Three years ago 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" ("APIDO") www.actiononpodo.com which gained administrative approval at the beginning to 2012. Mossy Foot UK transferred £14,000 to APIDO 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 also supports the logistical infrastructure of ensuring treatment package materials are available for the government run clinics). Further grants are expected to be made to APIDO 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 other than a reimbursement to Dr Fuller for domain name hosting bill of £124.70 that she had settled on behalf of Mossy Foot. The amount in the account at the end of the year was £1,103.

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 APIDO with financial disbursements in 2023. Professor Paul Matts continues to provide external governance support for APIDO and visited recently in May 2023.

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 initially education and then 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 the ongoing political instability and having achieved a sustainable progress in the Dawro zone have plans to withdraw from direct on-going support. They have already started work in two new areas Gamo and Gofa where Professor Matts estimated 10% population were visibly

affected by podo. No podo specific care has been available to these communities previously. At one Health Centre a staff member reported *"I knew about Podo before, but I am ashamed to say that I was one of those who did nothing. It seems to us that today will go down in local history, as the day when Podo started to be beaten"*.

Professor Matts was pleased to report that during a visit to the Dawro villages in the Southern Nations, Nationalities, and People's Region of Ethiopia, where 5 years ago there were many advanced cases of podo, he witnessed well managed patients, slim legs and evidence of excellent ongoing personal skin/leg care indicating the impact of the program is sustained.

APIDO deliver their program 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.

APIDO declares a big challenge in their new area, requiring to partner with at least 42 health facilities across a vast region (compared with 23 Health centres in Dawro the previous area) recognising that they will need to adapt the current approach to enable scaling up their current capacity to meet this need.

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. She continues 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. She is now chairing a WHO working group to capacity build dermatology skills amongst front line health workers in endemic countries for podo as well as other so called neglected tropical diseases.

Dr Fuller is one of the founders of the International Alliance of Global Health Dermatology started in 2018 and now boasting >1000 members. She has been involved in mentoring emerging global health dermatology leaders. One of her first mentees, Professor Wendemagegn from Ethiopia, won an International Award for Social Responsibility in Dermatology at the World Congress of Dermatology in July 2023 for his work Improving access to services for podoconiosis and cutaneous leishmaniasis patients in the Amhara region.

Dr Fuller continues on the board of FootWork International UK trustees (www.podo.org) .Mossy Foot UK continues as a partner organisation of Foot Work International.

Mossy Foot UK having moved platforms will update its website content in 2023-4 (www.mossyfootuk.com) to refresh the news areas and educational components enhancing the educational effectiveness of the website.

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.