

Annual Report of Mossy Foot UK for year ending 12 August 2024

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 fifteenth 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 up this year from £12,800 last year to £21,500. The difference was due to a substantial increase in donation amount from a regular donor 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). Four 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. Mossy Foot paid the company £165 for webhosting during the year. 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 £20,000 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. The amount in the account at the end of the year was £2,411.

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 2024. Professor Paul Matts continues to provide external governance support for APIDO and visited Ethiopia and the project sites in April 2024. He plans to go again later in the 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 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 completed its planned intensive hands-on approach in Dawro. After 5 years they have been able to pull back leaving behind a system where every health centre across this Zone is equipped to recognise and treat Podo. They have also set up 6 shoe workshops making custom, over-sized boots for patients with very large feet. This is a great legacy.

APIDO have now extended into a new area of Gamo / Gofa, piloting a different strategy. From a review of their 1st ¼ report from 2024, they are working directly with all the Health Centres across these two Zones – over 40 sites. Already they have set up 2 new shoe workshops to supply the need in this new region.

The Gamo/Gofa project has 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 (474 have been produced in the 1st ¼)
- Reducing Podo disease related sufferings holistically.
- Awareness raising and preventive shoe distribution support (wearing shoes prevents podoconiosis developing). So far 18000 people have been reached.
- Enhancing podoconiosis education to reduce misconceptions in the minds of patients reducing the burden of the disease and improving life quality. 700 educational packs have been disseminated across the region.
- Providing of medical support for persons with Podoconiosis cases.
- Promoting awareness raising about podo within communities.
- Partnering with stakeholders to deliver the above.

In their first quarter report they indicate that 1649 treatment kits have been supplied so far reaching all 43 health centres.

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 continues to chair 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 >2000 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. He continues to advocate for podoconiosis management internationally and within Ethiopia.

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 has updated its website content (www.mossyfootuk.com). It will continue this process 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.