

Hello there wonderful supporters!

I hope you and your loved ones are all well.

We have lots of work going on at Project the Project as always! While the world sometimes seems to be a tough and unjust place to live for many, I hope you find hope and comfort in the work we do and see the difference you are helping to make.

1. Uganda

Uganda is currently our most active region and we have an excellent network of helpers on the ground.

We are expanding our program to teach women about sanitary pad making. The workshops help women to provide their own, eco friendly, reusable pads so they can afford to stay in work or school.

Having run one successful workshop to teach a group of 20 women, this group is now teaching others and learning how to improve their efficiency with sewing machines and forming a women's group. The community group will address local issues such as;

Keeping children in school and where to go for help if this is difficult for the family to afford education

What to do if their family is struggling with basic needs such as providing food

Reporting street children to ensure they are helped

What to do if domestic violence occurs

How to save some money and food for improved food security in difficult times

Community groups are highly effective at improving independence and local solutions to local problems. PTP is working with organisations in the area to set up men's and youth groups.

2. Ugandan Refugees

Thanks to YOUR KIND SUPPORT, we were able to go ahead with the plans outlined in our previous newsletter. PTP, in partnership with Street Child, has fully funded the resources for 24 teachers, 24 assistant teachers and 26 mentors to teach 1606 children fleeing conflicts in the Democratic Republic of Congo and Sudan. This program will enable the children to integrate into local schools. You can read the full report: <https://projecttheproject.org/story>

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3. Palestinian refugees

As discussed in previous newsletters, we support a small, highly populated refugee camp, Aida, in the West Bank of Palestine where I visited just before the pandemic.

The region has been brought to our news by recent escalations in violence in both Israeli and Palestinian regions. This is after decades of struggles and conflict over who has rights to some of the most important religious sites in the world.

There is a lot of misunderstanding of the Israel/Palestine situation but we must not ignore thousands of innocent people who suffer from injustice.

The history of the conflicts is summarised here

<https://www.un.org/unispal/history/>

We have information available <https://projecttheproject.org/story>

Since visiting Aida Refugee Camp in the West Bank, I have been discussing how PTP can work in this unique and complex environment. We have formed partnerships with local and international organisations.

We have so far contributed to the costs of rebuilding demolished homes. This followed the virtual challenge 'Run the Wall' in March where I ran 26.2 miles in solidarity with runners in the West Bank and around the world, all connected and sharing support via WhatsApp! <https://projecttheproject.org/shop>

House demolition is just one act of aggression and control inflicted on Palestinian civilians and has been going on for decades. Under occupation, Palestinian families have faced a constant threat of eviction, having their home demolished, land seized or more Israeli settlements to be established. In the West Bank alone, more than 440,000 Israelis live in illegal settlements.

4. Tanzania

Our long term friends seem to be doing very well with the goats we donated and they are now able to fund the school and food for children by breeding and selling goats. We continue to stay in touch with the community and we supplied emergency food supplies during Covid restrictions.

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5. Pandemic impact

All the regions PTP works in are on the list of countries waiting for donations to supply them with Covid vaccinations from the COVAX scheme.

I have personally donated 100 vaccines and you can too! PTP will continue to support the community needs at this time and improve future prospects. Let's hope global vaccine distribution evens out soon.

An immediate need is to make enough Covid vaccinations available to poorer communities. The IMF states that a further \$50 billion is needed to vaccinate 30% of poorer nations by the end of 2021. \$13 billion of this cost is yet to be met. For 50p/week/person in the UK to supply this! If this cost is met, the IMF predicts a \$9 trillion economic benefit, mainly to wealthier nations. The UK is believed to benefit £35 for every £1 invested into COVAX.

You can donate Covid vaccines at <https://www.gavi.org/donate>

Uganda

Most of the world is still nowhere near a chance of vaccination. Uganda is one of many developing nations waiting for donations to come through. They have recently received enough to vaccinate less than 1% of the population.

Family income has been hit hard by Covid restrictions so many are struggling to buy food or pay for education needs such as examination fees or mandatory PPE.

PTP is donating sewing machines and training courses in schools to allow parents with children in the school to upskill for free, make their own PPE and sanitary pads. Once the initial needs are met, the schools will lease out the machines at a low cost and use the profits to fund assistance for those in need.

I'll also be running the Virtual Uganda Marathon to help supply emergency needs.

Tanzania

Covid sceptic, President Magufuli, died in March and his deputy, Samia Suluhu Hassan, has implemented some Covid measures. Data is still limited but there is hope on the horizon! As for the consequences of the global economic hit, Tanzanians are likely to suffer for many years yet. A huge part of the economy directly and indirectly depends on international trade and tourism. PTP will

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continue to work closely with small, marginalised communities in Tanzania to bring lasting and meaningful development.

Safari parks bring a huge wealth to Tanzania, both economically and culturally. With no tourists for over a year and few to come, the whole country is feeling the impact and wildlife conservation is also likely to suffer.

<https://secure.awf.org/donate-uk>

Palestine

To date, less than 1% of Palestine has been fully vaccinated. The situation regarding who is responsible for inoculating an occupied territory is complicated. Human Rights Watch outlines the obligations - see right.

The recent bombings in Gaza have destroyed some of the only, already struggling medical facilities.

The West Bank has experienced difficulties, with barely adequate medical facilities at the best of times, Covid infection rates are finally declining.

Palestinians are waiting for donated supplies of vaccinations, medical facilities have been far over run for months and I have been approached with requests for oxygen cannisters as there is such a terrible shortage of essentials, everyone has been rallying around. Community groups have done an amazing job to set up make shift care centres with volunteers looking after sick patients.

Donate to COVAX as above or Medial Aid Palestine <https://www.map.org.uk/>

However, the Fourth Geneva Convention obliges Israel, as the occupying power, to ensure the “medical supplies of the [occupied] population,” including “adoption and application of the prophylactic and preventative measures necessary to combat the spread of contagious diseases and epidemics” to “the fullest extent of the means available to it.” Israel remains the occupying power in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and Gaza under international humanitarian law, given the extent of its control over borders, the movement of people and goods, security, taxation, and registry of the population, among other areas.

So, in all that we face, what can we do?

Don't despair! We can always do something and if everyone does something to make the world a better place then we stand a chance. PTP is very small but we explore where and how we can make a real difference. We can all do a little something!

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Following the outbreak of violence in Ethiopia in recent months, the impoverished regions of Ethiopia I visited in 2018 are in a worse state. An estimated 52,000 Ethiopians have been killed in the Tigray conflict since November. Over 47,000 Ethiopians have fled to Sudan for refuge. Sudan is one of the poorest countries in the world.

I saw how thousands of Ethiopians are always very dependent on food and medical aid but the economy had been improving very well. Now, with conflict and worsening droughts and climate effects, over 1/3 of the population is below the poverty line and famine is a 'serious risk' according to the UN.

PTP is not currently operating in Ethiopia.

More information is at <https://reliefweb.int/report/sudan/sudan-country-refugee-response-plan-crp-january-december-2021> and <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-55879681>

You can donate to Ethiopian refugees here <https://www.ethiopiaid.org.uk/>

There is so much we can do to make a difference!! Keep strong, keep working towards better, brighter, fairer futures for everyone without prejudice or exclusion. As the Tanzanians say 'polepole' (slowly), we will, as the Palestinians say 'inshallah' (God willing), get there!

You can donate or buy goods that give on our website!

<https://projecttheproject.org/shop>

You can donate as always at: <https://projecttheproject.org/contact>

Bank Transfer (preferred):

PROJECT THE PROJECT Account number:35286668 Sort code:309897

With best wishes and lots of hope!

Lucy and the PTP Team