

Small WORLD

Issue 73 May 2021



**Let's tackle the
climate crisis together**

**Practical
ACTION**

Big change starts small

A YEAR OF POSSIBILITY

Communities on the front line of the climate crisis are facing bigger challenges than ever before. The need for solutions has never been more urgent. But this year we have a big opportunity to take collective action for our shared planet. As a Practical Action supporter, you are already part of that collective action. Thank you.

This is a year of possibility, when world leaders will come together at the UN Climate Change Conference (COP26) in the UK. They will negotiate and commit to agreements that will define the future for humanity. We're hoping to see serious commitments from the world's biggest carbon emitters.

Colin McQuistan, our head of climate and resilience, has been to every COP since 2014, so who better to explain what the talks are, and what they mean for the communities we work with. On pages 4-5, he shares his insights.

In our feature article on pages 6-9, we visit communities we're working with around the world to demonstrate what's possible with bold partnerships. It's this kind of positive change that we're working to see adopted more widely at COP26.

This year we have a real chance to help put the world on a better path. I feel optimistic. I hope as you read your *Small World* magazine you feel it too.

And finally, as Paul Smith Lomas steps down as Chief Executive, I want to acknowledge his amazing contribution. Under Paul's leadership, Practical Action has grown even stronger, bringing together more people in exciting partnerships that are achieving greater change. I've learned so much from him in the last year, and I'm excited to take the reins while we recruit Paul's successor, and head into this important year.

With best wishes



Sarah Roberts
Interim CEO



“This year we have a real chance to help put the world on a better path.”



Our work greening deserts in Sudan will be showcased at COP26 – including community-built water storage systems.

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A big opportunity to tackle the CLIMATE CRISIS

In the run-up to the UN Climate Change Conference (COP26), we get an insider's view from our Head of Climate and Resilience, Colin McQuistan.



What is COP26 and why is it so important?

It's the 26th meeting of all the world's governments to discuss the actions necessary to tackle the climate emergency. The UK will host it in Glasgow this November.

The nations will come together to discuss the commitments they made in the 2015 Paris

Agreement. The Paris Agreement is unique in that it's the only agreement that actually requires countries to develop legally binding plans of action and deliver them.

What's special about COP26 is that the smallest and least developed countries have exactly the same negotiating space as the United States, Russia and China.

What will be discussed?

There are five themes on the discussion table:

- helping people adapt to the impacts of climate change
- reducing the impact of climate change by restoring nature
- switching from fossil fuels to clean energy
- increasing the use of clean transport
- and channeling global finance to help make all this possible.

How is Practical Action involved in COP26?

The negotiations take place behind closed doors, and there are three groups of key players on the inside: the UK government's COP26 President, Alok Sharma, who will host the negotiations; the delegations from countries who will do the actual negotiating; and then admitted observers who can contribute their expertise, feed in ideas based on their experience, and ask challenging questions to influence the discussions. I will represent Practical Action at the conference as an admitted observer.

The important thing to recognise is that taking part in COP26 isn't about just going to a single event – it's an ongoing participation in a hugely complex and long-term global change process. Our involvement spreads way beyond the talks themselves. We're working directly with the UK negotiators.



Colin McQuistan has brought the voice of the communities we work with to every UN Climate Conference since 2014.

And we've been supporting the delegations from the countries we work with to ensure the voices of those most affected by climate change are heard.

Ultimately, our involvement in the talks is about doing what we do best: bringing our real-world experience to the table to show what ingenuity and collective action can do.

We engage in areas of the debate where we have something really valid to offer. Where we have evidence of approaches and solutions that work brilliantly on the ground.

What are your hopes for the negotiations?

We need more resources and more ambition globally. That's the only way we're going to solve the climate challenge and limit future temperature rise to just 1.5°C.

We want to see a huge injection of global finances directed to communities on the front line of the climate crisis so they can adapt. We want significant additional finance to support the poorest and most vulnerable communities who are already facing irreversible impacts of climate change and face losing everything. In the discussions, you might hear this referred to as "loss and damage".

Personally, I would like to see a renewed sense of global solidarity at the talks. A realisation that we have a shared responsibility to look after the planet for future generations. And that means working collectively. All of us, together.

This approach has been the foundation of Practical Action's transformational work for decades. And we'll have a great opportunity to demonstrate this at COP26, as the UK Government will be showcasing our work in Sudan as proof of what's possible.

You can find out more about COP26 and how Practical Action is involved at: practicalaction.org/smallworld



Sitelnisa Nasr Eldin is regreening the desert and adapting to climate change in Sudan.

Anything is possible TOGETHER

Welcome to the front line of the climate crisis, where you are helping communities show the world that big change is possible.

For the poorest communities around the world, climate change is already hitting hard. Droughts, floods and severe storms threaten lives, livelihoods and futures.

While national leaders gather to find solutions, we're working to show that it's not just the responsibility of governments to tackle the climate challenge. We can all play a role, finding ways to reduce our carbon footprint and tread more lightly on the earth. In fact, we must. It'll take massive collective action to rise to the climate challenge – businesses, organisations, communities and individuals coming together.

As a Practical Action supporter, you're already part of that collective action. With your support we're creating courageous partnerships to develop local solutions and grow them into global transformations.

In this special feature, we'll show you just a few of the ingenious, collaborative partnerships you're making possible. Thanks to you, communities are protecting their health with clean energy, developing farming skills that overcome climate change, and building resilience to floods.

While the scale of the global challenge is huge, each of these projects shows that small actions taken by individuals make a massive difference collectively.



**Together
we can tackle
the climate crisis.**

Make a gift today at practicalaction.org/smallworld

Let's use clean energy for healthier living

YOUR IMPACT

100% of families report better air quality

3 HOURS per day saved on cooking

50% reduction in energy consumption

Communities in Sudan are using cleaner energy to protect the health of their families and the planet.

Our award-winning project with EcoAct is helping communities to create better health for their families and the planet, while also creating new job opportunities.

In Sudan, 26.1 million people cook their food the traditional way – on wood or coal fires. But this comes at a health cost. Smoke from indoor fires kills more people every year than malaria, HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis combined. Wood fires impact the health of the planet too. Forests are degraded as communities gather wood to burn, and carbon emissions from the fires contribute to climate change.

We've been working with environmental impact specialists, EcoAct, to distribute low-smoke cookstoves to communities in the El Fasher area of Sudan. Using the Liquid Petroleum Gas (LPG) stoves reduces carbon emissions, creates healthier homes and reduces deforestation. It also frees women from the daily burden of collecting wood, creating opportunities for them to find meaningful work.

Aesha used to spend hours every day collecting enough wood to cook food for her family. And the smoke from the cooking was taking a terrible toll on her health. But the LPG stove has transformed her life.

“My early morning used to be a nightmare. It took a lot of time and effort to make a fire. It had a bad smell and caused allergies and left ugly stains on the walls. Now with the LPG stove, things are totally different. It takes me very little time to prepare breakfast for my family. We all sit together, drink tea, laugh and have good wishes before they go to school.”

Our Sudan cookstoves partnership was the first registered carbon credit project in Sudan, as well as the first to be developed in a conflict zone. Its positive impact was recognised at the Environmental Finance 10th Annual Voluntary Carbon Market Awards, where it won Best Carbon Offsetting Project.

A simple, powerful way to reduce your own carbon footprint is to switch to a green energy supplier. We've partnered with Ecotricity to create a special offer that benefits you, the planet, and the communities we work with. Ecotricity will donate up to £60 to support our work if you switch your electricity and/or gas to them. To find out more visit practicalaction.org/smallworld

Let's farm in planet-friendly ways

Our partnership with the IKEA Foundation is helping young Kenyans return to farming and create vibrant, sustainable businesses that overcome climate change and boost local economies.

Around the world, the people most affected by climate change are small-scale farmers. In Kenya, frequent droughts mean poor harvests, making farming unviable as a career for a new generation. Many young people are being forced to leave their rural homes and find work in cities.

In partnership with the IKEA Foundation, we're working with young people to create exciting new opportunities for farming. Sustainability and climate adaptation are at the heart of these new ventures.

Teresa (pictured below) had always loved poultry, and so she started rearing chickens to sell eggs and meat locally. When she heard about Practical Action's training programme for young farmers, she was keen to develop new skills and grow her business.

"I was very excited by the information I got from the Practical Action training sessions. I learned about agroecology and how I could use things I'd assumed were trash as inputs in my farming."

Teresa learned new techniques to save her money and help save the planet. How to use chicken droppings to grow worms that she can feed to her chickens. How to crush shells from hatched eggs to supplement the chickens' feed to boost their calcium levels. And how to make briquettes from wood ash to provide heat for brooding chicks instead of using electricity, reducing her energy use.

With business training, Teresa was able to expand her farm and hire three young people to work with her. She has big ambitions for the future, and her success will inspire many more young people to come back to farming and make a sustainable living.

 Get the bigger story online at practicalaction.org/smallworld



Teresa uses agroecology techniques to make her poultry business profitable and sustainable.

YOUR IMPACT

6,000 young Kenyans farming profitably
80,000 local people benefitting as a result

Let's join forces to rise above the floods

Members of the Zurich Flood Resilience Alliance work together to help communities protect themselves.

Floods devastate more lives around the world than any other natural hazard. And climate change is making flooding more frequent and more severe. The Zurich Flood Resilience Alliance is a partnership of nine international organisations, including Practical Action, who work together to find solutions.

We're working with communities in Nepal, Peru and Bangladesh. Through innovative early warning systems and community organisation, they've managed to increase flood warning time from minutes to hours. When floods come, communities are equipped and prepared to save lives and protect livelihoods. Thanks to the success of the programme, we've now begun expanding to Bolivia, Senegal and Zimbabwe.

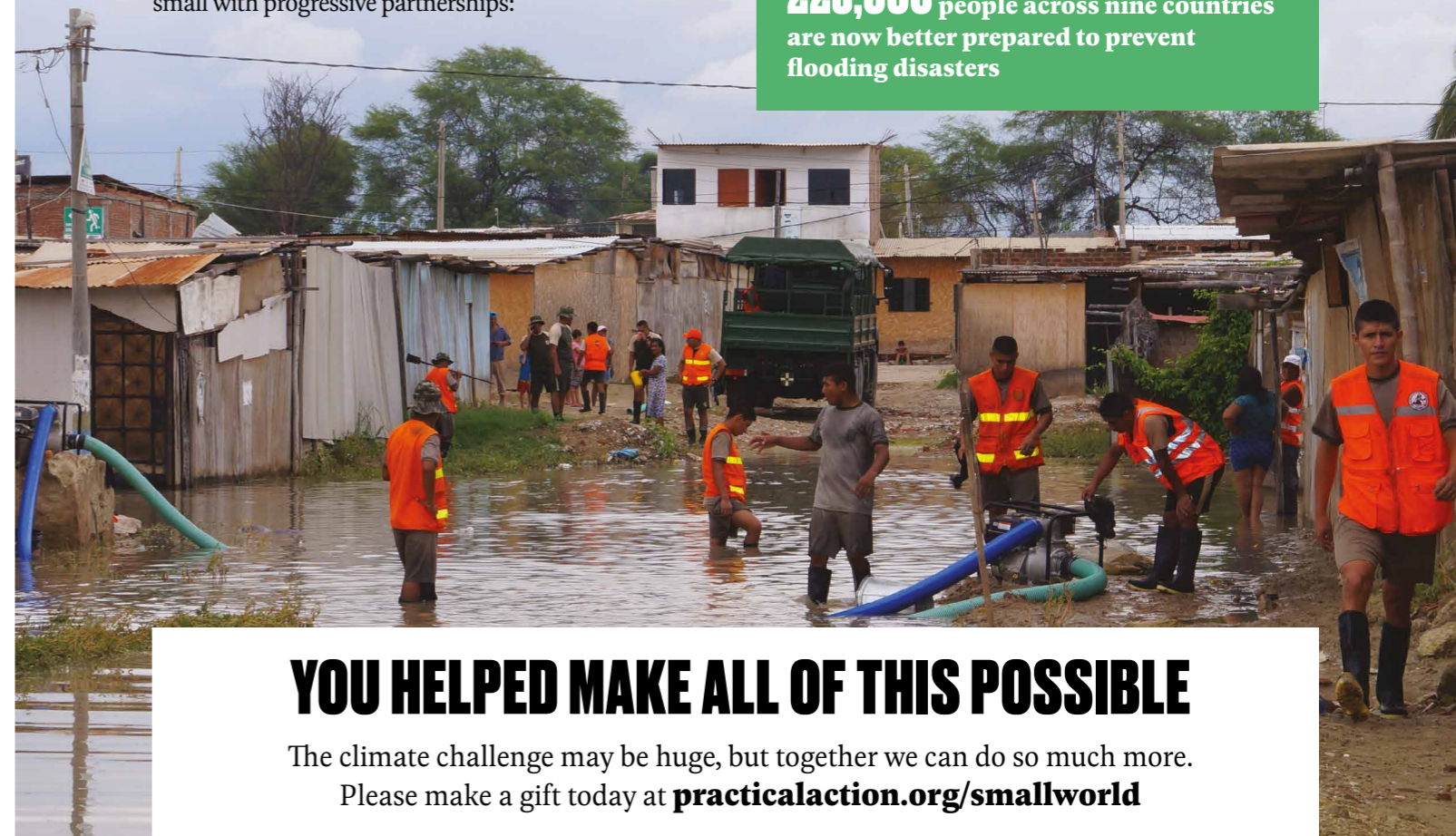
Chris Anderson, Practical Action's flood resilience programme manager, explains how big change starts small with progressive partnerships:

"Each of the partners brings their own skills and strengths to the challenge. Ultimately, our goal is to demonstrate the effectiveness of our approaches to global decision makers so the benefits can be scaled up and reach many more communities.

"Peru is a great example of this. There, we've been working on flood early warning systems, in close collaboration with local government and meteorology services. After seeing the success of our work, the government of Peru has invested \$13 million to establish early warning systems across Peru, protecting many more lives. Our aim is to see 2 million more people around the world resilient to floods by the end of 2023, and \$1 billion invested in flood resilience – every \$1 spent on flood disaster prevention saves \$5 on disaster response."

YOUR IMPACT

225,000 people across nine countries are now better prepared to prevent flooding disasters



YOU HELPED MAKE ALL OF THIS POSSIBLE

The climate challenge may be huge, but together we can do so much more. Please make a gift today at practicalaction.org/smallworld

TEAM POSSIBLE

As a Practical Action supporter, you are part of a global collective effort rising to the challenge of climate change. Meet some fellow supporters raising awareness in their own unique way.



Santosh speaks up for Nepali farmers

Masterchef star Santosh Shah took part in our webinar event from Nepal.



We were thrilled that celebrity chef and *Masterchef: The Professionals* finalist Santosh Shah joined us for a live webinar from Nepal. He transported viewers to his home country, which is experiencing some of the worst impacts of climate change.


"I grew up in a small farming village in rural Nepal," Santosh explained. "And I've seen the impact of climate change on the people there. They are struggling to grow crops in the drought. And when there are floods, people's homes, everything, are swept away."

The village where Santosh grew up is just 15-minutes' walk away from the river where Practical Action has worked with the community to install a flood early

warning system. He talked about how excited he'd been when he heard about this system, and about our work to help farmers turn the tables on climate change. *"I always want to help farmers, from the bottom of my heart."*

Big thanks to Santosh for bringing attention to the climate issues in Nepal and our work there.

During the event, there were lots of questions from supporters, including about how climate-resilient seeds help farmers adapt. So we created a Q&A page on our website to provide some more detail.

 You can see the Q&A for yourself on our website at: practicalaction.org/smallworld

Natasha paints with positivity

Natasha Awuku is a London-based street artist and musician using her skills to raise awareness of climate change.



Natasha became a Practical Action supporter after reading stories from communities we're working with to turn the tables on climate change.

"I chose Practical Action because they are very clear about what they are going to do. And very grassroots. The stories of the people they are working with really spoke to me."

Natasha wanted to get involved and help raise awareness of climate change, so she created two spectacular pieces of art, which have filled the windows of our bookshop in Rugby.

We're so grateful to Natasha for highlighting our work in such an awe-inspiring and unique way.

Adrian attempts a world record

Athlete Adrian Bennett is attempting to break the triathlon record to raise funds and awareness for our work.

We were blown away when we heard that long-term supporter Adrian was going to attempt to set a new world record to support our work.

"I'm hoping to complete the world's longest triathlon ever: 7,500km in 75 days! It's going to be an awesome challenge, and I hope it'll raise lots of funds for Practical Action – an organisation that's very close to my heart."

Adrian is part of a family with a long history of supporting our work through audacious sporting challenges. His uncles hiked the Himalayas and cycled up Mount Kilimanjaro. We're so grateful to Adrian and his family for their dedication and energy to our work, and we wish him the best of luck in this incredible new adventure.



STAY IN THE LOOP

Sign up for our monthly e-newsletter, *Small Talk*, and you'll be the first to hear about upcoming webinars, the latest news, and what other supporters are doing. We'd love to hear your stories too, so please do share them with us.

 Sign up at practicalaction.org/smallworld

Powering progress for refugees, despite the pandemic

Our renewable energy for refugees partnership project has made a big difference for families going through the toughest of times.

During the lockdown, a Gihembe camp resident said:

“Before, if a child would fall sick at night it would be impossible to take them to the clinic, but now we can thanks to the street lights.”

YOUR IMPACT

3,288 homes powered by clean energy

73% said their solar home system was a great support during the pandemic

92% feel safer in their home after dark



Imagine living in a place without electricity. Where you are afraid to go out at night because the streets are dark and dangerous. Where the only way to light your home is with candles, if you can afford them.

Refugee camps are often thought of as temporary places – half-way stations for people driven from their home country by persecution or war. The truth is, many refugees spend years, or even decades living in camps. Children grow into adults in refugee camps.

We are working with 60,000 refugees in Rwanda and Jordan so they can access clean, affordable energy. With that energy, they can power schools, clinics and business. They can cook safely, study, earn an income, and feel safe at night. They can free themselves from reliance on humanitarian aid and regain their dignity.

To achieve transformation on this scale, we're working in partnership with UNHCR – the UN Refugee Agency, and the IKEA Foundation.

In Rwanda, we're working with communities in three camps: Kigeme, Nyabiheke and Gihembe. The communities there have been an essential part of installing the solar energy systems and lighting. Following training, many have taken on roles as technicians, engineers, customer care, and more. The project has created 400 jobs in the camps.

Since the project began in September 2019, the difference to people's lives has been amazing.

Small businesses are popping up throughout the camp – hairdressing, carpentry and mobile phone repair. Crime has decreased by as much as 98%.

And women and children feel safer at night.

Mariza runs a business selling bananas in the camp, and is thrilled with the difference that electricity has made to life.

“Life has really changed since the streetlights were put in. We used to close the shop at 6pm, but now we can stay open until 10pm. This means we can make more income. There are lots of other new shops run by refugees too. After dark, people can socialise, and children can play.”

As you can imagine, the pandemic has been especially tough on the refugee communities. We couldn't enter the camps during lockdown, but thanks to the networks and relationships we had built inside the camps, we were able to keep in touch remotely. Having reliable electricity was a huge benefit for the community at this challenging time.

Most people have been able to continue working, and in many cases, businesses providing essential services, such as food sellers, actually grew, as lockdown meant people had to buy from within the camps.

Having access to clean energy during lockdown made a huge difference to family life. One camp resident said: *“Imagine there is no place to go, you have to stay in your home 24/7. Having a solar home system, we got the chance to listen to radio drama and music. The radio kept us company in the lockdown.”*

To support more life-changing work like this, make a gift at practicalaction.org/smallworld



Like other refugee business owners in Gihembe camp, Mariza's income has increased since electric lighting was installed.

Meet the CHANGE-MAKERS

For Practical Action staff, helping make a world that works better for everyone isn't just a job, it's personal. We talked to two people with a passion for creating positive change in their communities. Meet Holly and Awadalla.



Holly Hughes Supporter Team, UK

What does your role involve?

I'm here to answer enquiries from our fantastic supporters – for example, how to join our volunteer Speakers' Network, or questions about leaving a gift in their Will to Practical Action.

What's your background?

I did an MSc in International Development. This is my first role post-university.

What do you enjoy most about your job?

Practical Action shares the same ecological philosophy of a world where people work with, rather than against the environment, and that is why I love working here!

How do you apply that ecological philosophy in your own life?

I'm a co-founder of the environmental action campaign Sustainable Water Use Birmingham. We raise awareness of the impact of people's water use and share tips on water consumption.

Why is this work important to you personally?

As a young person who is already seeing how climate change is affecting people around the world, it's difficult to even imagine the further disruption it will cause within my lifetime if we don't take more action now.



Awadalla Hamid Mohamed Osman
Environmental Conservation Manager, Sudan

What does your role involve?

A lot of things! One of the most important is making sure that in the communities we work with, the structures are in place so the learning and knowledge continues to be shared after Practical Action leaves.

What changes would you most like to see for communities in Sudan?

Climate change has caused huge problems in Sudan. The work Practical Action does in North Darfur helps people replant trees, store water more effectively, rebuild peace between communities who were at war and grow crops more effectively. I want to see this work replicated throughout Sudan and in other countries facing the same problems.

Why is this work important to you personally?

I know the life of the rural community very well. I am from Darfur and grew up in a village here, so I am very passionate about developing this region so that the people can have a better life. Farmers are among the most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, so I'm really happy to work hard to support them.

Read more about the Practical Action team at: practicalaction.org/smallworld

Together with Deloitte for big change

An exciting new partnership with one of the world's leading companies.



We're delighted that Deloitte has chosen Practical Action as their D2i Social Impact Fellowship partner for 2021 from among some pretty tough competition.

The Fellowship was created by a group of young Deloitte employees who wanted to use Deloitte's business skills to help create big global change.

Kate Wharton, Programme Leader at Deloitte, said: "D2i is founded and operated with the belief that doing 'good' is good business. We impact communities through the exchange of ideas, cultures, and business practices. Our local partners are innovative, capable, and able to translate Deloitte's philanthropic commitment into direct community progress."

Over the next year, creative thinkers from Deloitte will work closely with our team in India. Together we'll find innovative new ways to scale-up the impact of our work with local communities. We're excited to see what we can achieve together.

Ian Derbyshire, Practical Action's Corporate Partnerships Manager, said:

"With Deloitte's support we will strengthen our vital work in India to make cities cleaner, healthier places to live. This partnership is a great example of the relationships we're building with the private sector to innovate and draw on a mix of wider skills to tackle some of the world's toughest problems."

We'll keep you updated as the partnership develops. Exciting times.



Your children can rise to the challenge

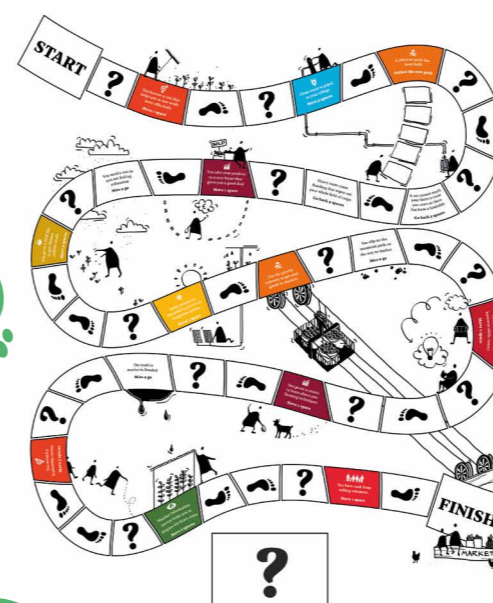
Our free educational games spark young people's imaginations.

In this important year for the future of our planet, it's the perfect time to inspire children to get involved – at home or in school. Our education resources are designed to raise awareness, develop creative and critical thinking, and most of all, be fun!

A recent addition to the educational activities is "Farmers' Footsteps". Set in Nepal, the board game transports children to the Himalayas, where they can rise to the challenge of farming in a changing climate.

This is just one of many activities available for free. Each one comes with all the downloadable resources you'll need. We'd love to see how you got on, so please do share any photos or experiences on our social media pages. And if you know any teachers, please do share these resources with them too.

Check out our amazing games at practicalaction.org/schools



I'd like to help people on the front line of the climate crisis

You can give quickly and securely online at: practicalaction.org/smallworld

I would like to give a donation of: £ _____

I enclose a cheque / postal order / charity voucher made payable to **Practical Action**

OR please debit my: MasterCard / Visa / Charity Card

Card number:

Expiry date:

 /

Signature: _____ Date: _____

So more of your gift goes directly to our work, we won't send you an acknowledgement unless you tick this box

Please tick here to receive information about how to leave a gift to Practical Action in your Will.

Your donation will help communities around the world tackle tough challenges like the impact of climate change.



Maximising the impact of my gift

If you are a UK taxpayer, the value of your donation will increase by 25% under the Gift Aid Scheme – at no extra cost to you!

Yes, I would like Practical Action to treat this donation and any donations I make in the future or have made in the past 4 years as Gift Aid donations. I am a UK taxpayer and I understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in the tax year it is my responsibility to pay the difference. Gift Aid will be used to fund all of Practical Action's work. **Date:** ____ / ____ / ____

Please note HMRC requires us to have your full name and address above to Gift Aid your donation.

Thank you

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We will post you information about our work, fundraising activities and ways to get involved. If you are happy for us to provide this information by phone or email please provide your details:

Email: _____

Telephone: _____

We will continue to post you information about our work, fundraising activities and ways to get involved. Thank you.

If you are happy for us to share this information by phone or email please provide your details.

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Please return in the envelope provided: Practical Action, The Robbins Building, 25 Albert Street, Rugby CV21 2SD
or give online at practicalaction.org/smallworld. You can also give by calling **0800 389 1624** (Mon-Fri, 9am-5pm)



Pass on the POWER OF POSSIBILITY

Create a positive legacy that makes the world work better

You have an amazing opportunity to pass on the power of possibility and make a better world for generations to come. Making a Will is the best way to ensure loved ones are looked after when you're gone, and to remember the good causes you've supported in your lifetime. Please consider making a gift in your Will to Practical Action.

Our useful guide can help you get started. Request your free Will guide at practicalaction.org/leave-a-legacy or email: Liz.Webb@practicalaction.org.uk

