

Small WORLD

Issue 81 January 2024



Lowine



Aliou



Hum

HOPE NEEDS ACTION

Meet the climate pioneers leading the way...

Practical
ACTION

Big change starts small

TIME TO TAKE ACTION

On a recent trip to Kenya, I met the most inspiring person: a young farmer called Lourine. She lives in a part of Kenya where opportunities are few, especially for young people. But thanks to your support, she has learned new farming skills and applied that learning with incredible enthusiasm. Her new, flourishing farm is a wonder.

Now Lourine is sharing her knowledge with dozens of other women and young people, helping them lift themselves out of poverty too. Lourine took action, creating hope for herself, and for so many others. You can meet her on page 8.

In the 60 years since Practical Action was founded, we've worked with many people like Lourine. The progress we've made together is truly inspiring. But today's climate and environmental crises threatens to erode some of that progress.

An emergency is unfolding across Africa, Asia, and Latin America. The world's poorest are already experiencing the worst of the climate shocks our changing world is creating.

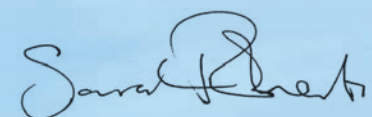
It's easy to be despondent, and to feel powerless, in the face of the challenges we're up against right now. But we mustn't give up. Hope is possible, but it needs all of us to stand up and take action together. A united front to create a world that works better for everyone.

With your support, the amazing communities we work with are responding to challenges and achieving successes that would have astonished our founder, E.F. Schumacher. His philosophy continues to guide us, and his words are as relevant today as the day he wrote them:

"Our most important task is to get off our present collision course. And who is there to tackle such a task? I think every one of us, whether old or young, powerful or powerless, rich or poor, influential or uninfluential. To talk about the future is useful only if it leads to action now."

Thank you as always for taking action with us, and for your amazing support.

Best wishes for the New Year,



Sarah Roberts
Chief Executive Officer



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Correction: E.F. Schumacher was born in Bonn, Germany, not London, as reported in *Small World* 80.

Practical ACTION

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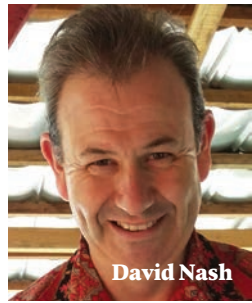
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Cover image

Meet Lourine, Aliou and Hum in the special feature on page 7.

Fish farming is just one part of Lourine's flourishing business. Discover how she is inspiring hope in her community on page 8.



RESILIENT together

As we celebrate 10 years of the Zurich Flood Resilience Alliance, we talk with David Nash, Head of Climate Change at Z Zurich Foundation about the Alliance's successes so far, and Practical Action's role in it.

“

We cannot stop the rain.
We cannot stop the water.
But we can help
communities cope with
the impacts.”

David Nash

Head of Climate Change
at Z Zurich Foundation

For supporters who aren't familiar with the Alliance, can you explain what it is?

The Zurich Flood Resilience Alliance is a partnership of nine organisations, including Practical Action. We work together to support vulnerable communities around the world in building their resilience to flooding.

What is the secret of the Alliance's success?

Building a successful partnership

relies on two things: a shared purpose, and trust. The Alliance came together around the aim that no-one, wherever they are in the world, would be negatively affected by floods.

Our willingness to learn from each other and contribute to a collective goal is the foundation of the trust between us. In my role in the Z Zurich Foundation, it's not always easy to accommodate nine different organisations, but this willingness means we



Local volunteers play a key role in the maintenance and effectiveness of weather monitoring stations, which contribute valuable data to the region's flood early warning system.

Photo credit: Michael Szoenyi.

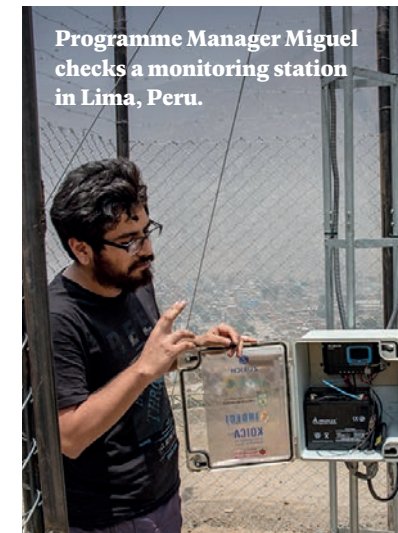


Photo credit: Omar Villacorta

seek solutions and compromises that work for us all. By coming together, we create more than the sum of our parts.

What does Practical Action bring specifically to the mix?

Practical Action is one of several partners in the Alliance that work directly with communities. One of their greatest strengths is the deep knowledge and experience they have of developing early warning systems. This is particularly evident in their successes in Nepal and Peru.

However, this is only part of Practical Action's contribution. They have also been instrumental in developing the way learnings from across all the Alliance's work are collated and shared with the wider world, so the benefits impact many more people than we could ever work with directly.

In the ten years since the Alliance began, what have been its most important successes?

Together, we've helped around 1.1 million people improve their lives. One clear example of this has been in Peru. We've developed a new and improved approach to early warning systems centred around community-gathered data.

This approach has been so successful that the local weather service has adopted it in their own nationwide approaches to early warning systems.

Following this, Practical Action helped encourage the government of Peru to invest significantly in flood resilience. Already, 457,000 people in Peru are benefitting from the early warning systems. The new investment is expected to improve the lives of over 9.3 million people.

Looking forward, what are the Alliance's ambitions and goals for the future?

The next stage of working together is, in part, inspired by our work in Peru – this idea of influencing wider systems, to scale our impact. Our plan is to expand the number of people we are working with massively over the next 12 years and create a real step-change in global resilience. The plan is ambitious, but built on a very solid foundation.

What's the most important thing you'd like Practical Action supporters to know about the Alliance?

The key thing to remember about the Alliance is that it embodies the idea that we can achieve more together than we ever can alone. The spirit of collaboration is a very human trait and one that has helped humans be successful over millennia – and it is one that helps us aim high.

In that spirit, I want to say a big thank you to Practical Action supporters for helping make this work possible. You are an essential part of the Alliance!

To learn more about the Alliance, visit:
practicalaction.org/smallworld

Michael is taking action for his community in Zimbabwe

When Cyclone Idai struck Zimbabwe in 2019, it was the strongest cyclone ever recorded in the country. More than 200 people died, and countless homes, schools, roads and bridges were destroyed.

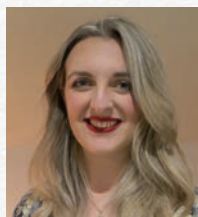
Practical Action is now working with 12 of the most vulnerable communities in Zimbabwe to support them in building flood resilience. Michael is a local councillor in one of those communities:



“

Cyclone Idai was a very trying time for us as a community. We were helpless as we waited for assistance.

Now that we have created disaster risk reduction committees and we have received first aid training, I can proudly say we are equipped to help ourselves. Early warning teams are in place. If and when disaster strikes again, we will not lose as many lives.”



THANKS FOR YOUR FEEDBACK

Jess Wolinski from the *Small World* magazine team answers some of your questions from our recent supporter survey.

Thank you so much to everyone who completed our recent survey asking for your opinions on *Small World* (in May 2023). The most common comment was undoubtedly people saying they loved the magazine, and they enjoyed learning about the difference they're making to communities across the world. The main purpose of the magazine is to make sure you feel informed about the lives you're helping to change, and it feels so good to know that it's achieving that goal.

Online vs print

Many of you were concerned about the environmental and financial cost of receiving *Small World* in print, while others shared that they can't access the internet. I wanted to reassure you that there are no plans to take away the physical copies of *Small World*, but you can get in touch to change your mailing preferences any time by using the details below.

Financial cost

Your support is essential in making our work possible, so we think it's important that we share information about how we're spending your donations, and the impact that they're having for people around the world. We are as concerned as you about keeping our costs and environmental impact to a minimum. *Small World* costs around 75p per copy to print and post, but it is an important source of income for us and raises nearly four times what it costs to make.

Environmental impact

In printing the magazine, we work hard to ensure it's done in the most environmental way, while also being mindful of costs. We print on paper that comes from sustainable forestry, and the company that prints and sends the magazine offsets the carbon generated in its production through a partnership with the World Land Trust. We'll continue to seek out new ways to improve the process further.

Thank you once again for your feedback. We've received lots of helpful ideas which we'll be incorporating into future issues.



"I love that this magazine is not just about the problems but about solutions. It is a magazine that inspires optimism that change is possible and that small actions can have big positive consequences. It makes me feel less helpless. We can all make small steps on a long journey towards improving people's lives and wellbeing. Thank you."

Small World reader

We love hearing from you

To contact our Supporter Services Team, **call: 0800 389 1624,**

email: supporter.services@practicalaction.org.uk or write to us:

Practical Action, The Robbins Building, 25 Albert Street, Rugby, Warwickshire CV21 2SD

SPECIAL FEATURE

HOPE NEEDS ACTION

Meet the people who are taking action to transform their lives, and inspiring hope in their communities.

The impacts of climate chaos are creating increasing challenges for the world's poorest communities, but at Practical Action, we believe that where there's action, there's hope.

Over the next few pages, we'll introduce you to three amazing people who are taking action and inspiring new hope in their communities. In Kenya, Lourine is bucking the trend and showing that farming is the future for young women. In Senegal, Aliou is helping his community build resilience to the rising threat of floods. And in Nepal, Hum has turned conflict into co-operation in his village, and now everyone is benefitting.

Each of these people is a beacon of hope that shines far beyond their own communities. They demonstrate that by developing new skills and working together, people can rise above poverty, hunger and fear.

Let's seize the moment and support more people like Lourine, Aliou and Hum in taking action. Meet them on the next page...



Take action today. Make a gift at:
practicalaction.org/smallworld

HOPE NEEDS SHARING

Lourine believes in the value of hard work. In her home county of Homa Bay, Kenya, where unemployment is high, few people believe farming can work as a career. But every day, she shows them that with effort, hope grows from the ground.

Lourine is one of the thousands of young farmers we have worked with in Homa Bay, introducing new regenerative farming techniques. This is a way of farming that replenishes the health of the soil and minimises the impact on the environment.

She has put her training into action and created a circular farm where nothing goes to waste, and where she needs no chemical fertilisers or pesticides.

“

Three or four years back, if you grew green leafy vegetables, you would spray them with chemicals, but after the training, I can produce my own fertiliser from my vermiculture project. The earthworms break down food remains from the kitchen and make the soil very fertile.”

Alongside nutritious leafy greens, Lourine grows fruits such as mangos and oranges, and she rears bees, fish and chickens. The waste from one part of the farm provides nutrients for the next part.



“This has brought a big change to my family. We save the money that we were going to use buying vegetables from the market. We now use it to pay school fees.”

Lourine is keen to share her new skills with more women. Every month, more people come to her for training. She shows them how farming can be a rewarding job that creates an income and a future for the whole family.

“As a mother and as a woman farmer, I want to encourage my fellow women that hard work pays and there is nothing that comes easy. You just have to have passion for what you want to achieve in your life. You can thrive with knowledge and passion.”



On her flourishing farm, Lourine champions farming as a way of life for other Kenyan women.

HOPE NEEDS LEADERS

For people living in Thies Nord, Senegal, the rains mean worry. This is a poor area, and the homes haven't been built to cope with the increasing threat of floods. Aliou remembers the anxiety well:

“When we saw the rain, we were really stressed because we knew what would come after. There would be water everywhere, up to your knees. It would come inside the houses, inside the bedroom, and no one could go anywhere.”

People had no means to clear the water, and it would stay for as long as two weeks. The standing water caused serious sanitation and health problems, which had the worst impact on children.

“We had plenty of times when the kids got diarrhoea from the water, and suffered from a skin condition.”

Aliou has lived in Thies Nord all his life. This area is particularly prone to flooding, but the frequency and severity of floods here has increased dramatically, as it has across the whole of West Africa. Thirty years ago, this region experienced no more than two floods on average per year. Today, the average is more than eight floods a year.

Practical Action has been working with Aliou's community for three years as part of the Zurich Flood Resilience Alliance. We have supported people in

forming flood brigades, creating early flood warning systems, and also providing training and new equipment for dealing with flood water. Aliou is taking action to build resilience and create hope.



“

It is a huge relief. Before we got this training and equipment, we used to spend the whole day trying to pump out the water ourselves. Most of the people here are young so they can't afford to spend a day getting the water out of the community. Now we can do it within minutes and people can go back to their activities.”



With his new skills and equipment, Aliou leads the community in being prepared for flooding emergencies.

HOPE NEEDS HARMONY

Hum's community lives in the mountains of Nepal, seven hours' drive from the nearest town. Water availability used to be something that divided them. Now it brings them together.

"Before, we faced many challenges due to the absence of a water tank. We had leaks and blockages in the water pipes, leading to disruptions in water flow and disputes among people about water distribution."

Hum's community are taking action



Without a dependable water supply, the community were limited in what they could grow on their land. They were only able to grow hardy cereals like maize and wheat. Subsistence living like this was hard.

The community decided something needed to be done to improve their situation, so they came together and took action. With technical support from Practical Action,

they built a new water tank and laid pipes to share the water equally among everyone. A dependable water supply and new skills brought hope to the whole village.

“

After building this water tank, we have sufficient water for irrigation and have started vegetable farming. We are excited, energetic and determined to expand our farming further.”

We shared new agriculture techniques with Hum and his neighbours, as well as advice on the most profitable vegetables to grow and how to demand better prices from local markets. They were able to shift from subsistence farming, to farming as a source of income.

Now that the people of Hum's village have experienced the many benefits of a reliable water supply, they take great care to keep it flowing.

"It's important for us not to become careless and irresponsible just because we have sufficient water supply. We must use it wisely and efficiently. In case there's a disruption in the water supply, we inspect and clean the water tank, as well as check the water source. Proper usage of water is essential."



Using their new water supply, Hum and his neighbours have established successful vegetable farming businesses.

Hope can't wait. Take action today.

HOPE NEEDS COURAGE KNOW-HOW DETERMINATION INGENUITY GENEROSITY KINDNESS ACTION

Big hope grows from small actions

Lourine, Aliou and Hum come from poor communities at the front line of the climate crisis. They have stood up, taken action, and improved not only their own lives, but those of their neighbours and far beyond.

Please make a gift today to support more people like them.

Make a gift at:
practicalaction.org/smallworld



A big thank you from Nepal

Your support has enabled us to work with nearly 6,000 Nepali farmers to turn the tables on climate change and create successful farms.



At Climate Field Schools, women learn climate-resilient farming skills.

For farmers living in remote, mountainous Nepal, survival has always been an uphill battle. For women farmers the challenges are even greater, as their husbands have often moved to urban areas in search of work, leaving them to run the family home, looking after children and elderly relatives. Climate change is piling on further challenges, such as wetter monsoons, dryer dry seasons, and new crop diseases.

Back in 2021, Practical Action supporters donated £1.75 million to our Turning the Tables on Climate Change in Nepal appeal. This was matched by the UK government, and that money enabled an ambitious project to transform lives in three districts of rural Nepal: East Rukum, Rolpa and Dang.

You have supported 5,565 people so far (including 4,800 women) in taking action to create better futures for themselves. You have helped install new solar-powered irrigation systems to create a dependable water supply. You have helped people develop climate-resilient farming skills at newly established Climate Field Schools. And you have helped create more equality for women through increased business skills and confidence training.

The positive impacts of this work are already being felt. Laxmi, a farmer we worked with in Rolpa said:

“

Before, we faced an acute water shortage. Irrigating the farms required fetching water from a spring source for about two hours to fill a bucket, which was very difficult. But thanks to the solar irrigation system, we now have plenty of water.”



The ease of gathering water, plus new farming knowledge, has helped Laxmi boost the yields of her farm: “We used to cultivate one crop per year. But now, we can cultivate vegetables in two to three seasons annually. Solar irrigation

has encouraged us to be involved in vegetable production at a commercial scale. The vegetable production has helped us double our annual income.”

Thank you for making this work possible with your support.

Help us work with more people like Laxmi by making a gift today:
practicalaction.org/smallworld



Together for a cleaner Kisumu

Our new partnership with Riviera Travel will help tackle waste and improve the lives of thousands of people in one of Kenya's largest cities.

In Kisumu, Kenya, plastic waste is a big problem, with tonnes discarded into the environment every day. It builds up, spilling into rivers and damaging the health of ecosystems. It makes people sick too, which has the greatest impact on children, affecting their growth and development.

We've partnered with Riviera Travel, a curated tour and river cruise operator, to create a solution. They have decided to make a donation to Practical Action for every booking they receive, and this will fund an exciting new two-year project.

We will provide training and safety equipment for over 300 informal waste workers. We'll help them form co-operatives, which will ensure fairer pay, and turn their work into a respected local service.

Together with waste workers and local government, we'll create an effective waste management system. We'll also encourage attitude and behaviour shifts across the city. Dealing with waste and increasing recycling will become part of daily life, where everyone plays a role in making their home city a cleaner, healthier place to live.

John Sande, City Waste Manager in Kisumu said:

“I believe that this model will just revolutionise the waste sector. Because through that project we will be able to turn the perception about waste into something positive.”

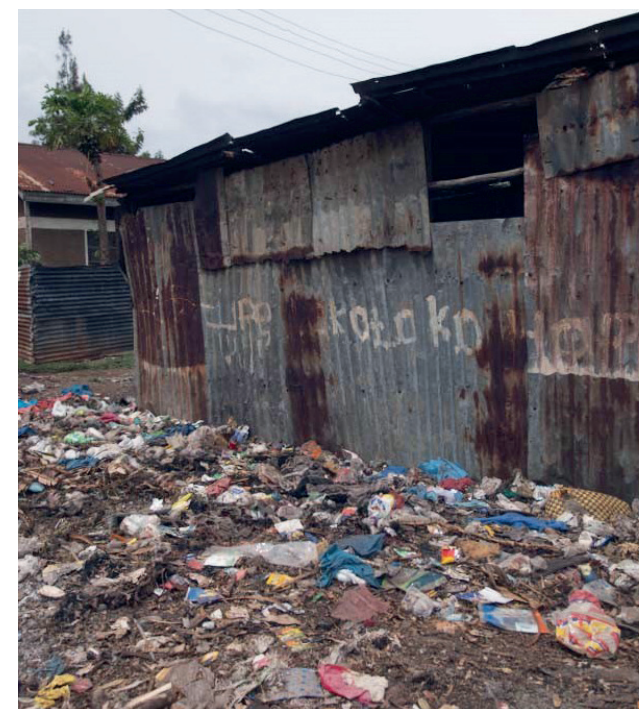
Phil Hullah, Riviera Travel's Chief Executive Officer, said:

“

We are thrilled to support Practical Action's waste management project in Kisumu. Our goal is to enhance the health and well-being of the community and contribute to the region's sustainability.”

By working with Riviera Travel, we can create lasting solutions for waste management in Kisumu. This partnership demonstrates that the travel experience can extend beyond sightseeing and exploration; it can be a force for good.

Learn more about the new project at:
practicalaction.org/smallworld



This new project will make Kisumu city a cleaner, healthier place to live.

Take action and FUNDRAISE

How about setting a New Year's resolution to put your hope for a better future into action?

Have you always wanted to do a fun or challenging fundraising activity, but never really known what to do or how to start? We're here to give you some inspiration and encouragement.

Perhaps you fancy setting yourself a physical challenge, like Henry or Richard on the next page. Or perhaps you want to put your own unique skills to use? Do you want to do something social that brings people together, or do something that's just for you?

Raising money will help fund innovative and lasting real-world solutions, so that people on the frontlines of poverty and climate change can not only survive, but thrive.



Raise funds Bake Off style

Cake is a great way to put a smile on people's faces. How about hosting a cake sale or coffee morning for friends or colleagues?

Raise funds like a quizmaster

Arranging a quiz for friends or family can bring everyone together around a shared cause. Local pubs are often looking for people to host.

Raise funds with a clear-out

You could have a New Year clear-out and sell any unwanted items on eBay or at the local car boot sale.

Raise funds in the classroom

Inspire the next generation by suggesting your local school makes Practical Action their charity of the year. You'll find lots of ingenious schools' resources on our website at: practicalaction.org/schools

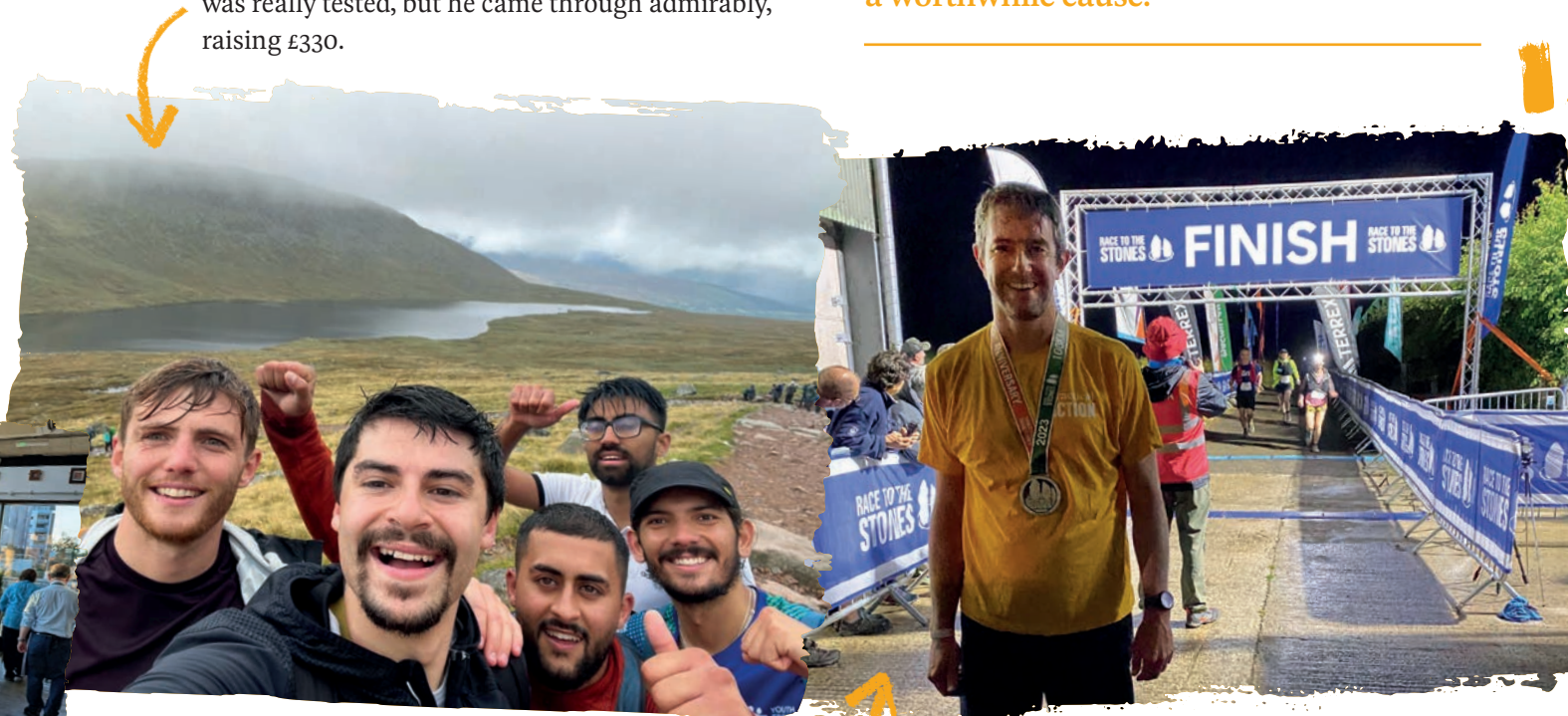
Raise funds and get fit

How good would it feel to set yourself a sponsored fitness goal, raising funds while becoming your best self?

Raise funds with a physical challenge

Henry Pedler took on an exciting physical challenge to raise funds for Practical Action. With his friends, he completed the National Three Peaks Challenge. This 23-mile walk takes in Ben Nevis, Scafell Pike and Snowdon.

When foul weather closed in, his commitment was really tested, but he came through admirably, raising £330.



Raise funds to celebrate a special moment

When Richard Tamblyn and his friend Dave turned 40, they wanted to mark the moment with a personal challenge. Richard initially imagined doing a cycling trip around the Italian Dolomites, but instead they went for something a bit more intense and close to home: The Race to the Stones Ultramarathon. Richard successfully completed the 100km-run around southern England, raising an astonishing £1,500.

"Thanks everyone for all your support! It was incredibly hard, but it is done, and I am suitably smug now. My legs are starting to forgive me too. I'm very grateful for all your generosity..."

Get our new fundraising guide

Our new guide will help you make your next fundraising activity a big success. You'll find everything you need, from practical tips to ideas and encouragement. You'll also discover how to use helpful online tools to get more sponsors and collect their donations, and so much more!



Download your copy now, at: practicalaction.org/fundraising

If you're feeling inspired to begin your own fundraising, do let us know what you're planning. You could also pass this magazine on to a friend or relative to inspire them!

My gift to create hope through action

Giving online is quick, easy and secure 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: _____

☐ If we have your email address we will email you a thank you for this gift. Alternatively we will post a letter of thanks. **Tick here if you're happy to help us save on administration by NOT receiving an acknowledgement for this gift.**

☐ 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

giftaid it

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 charitable 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 (below).

☐ I am not currently a UK taxpayer.

Thank you

My personal contact details:

23/SC-CS002

Title: _____ First name: _____ Surname: _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____

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 take protecting your personal information seriously. We will never sell or swap your details with another organisation. We aim to provide you with a great experience of Practical Action and to communicate with every supporter in the best way possible. To do this, we may analyse your data and obtain further information about interests, preferences and level of potential donations using publicly available sources. We sometimes ask carefully selected companies to do this for us. You can find out more about how we collect and use your personal information by reading our privacy notice at practicalaction.org/privacy. To change how we manage your personal information or opt out of receiving communications from Practical Action call us on **0800 389 1624** or email myprivacy@practicalaction.org.uk

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)

A special opportunity to **MAKE YOUR WILL FOR FREE**

We've teamed up with Will-writing experts Guardian Angel, to offer a limited number of our supporters the opportunity to make or amend your Will for free.

There's no obligation for you to include a gift in your Will to Practical Action, but by doing so, you'll be taking action to create hope for future generations.

To find out more, and to book your free Will, visit:
www.practicalaction.org/free-will

A gift in your Will can help future generations of people like Lourine transform their lives with ingenious solutions.

