start up
Getting young people into work. And out of poverty.

OUR 2018 IMPACT
All thanks to you

OUR NEW STRATEGY
1 million into work by 2030

EMERGENCY FUND APPEAL
Hope from disaster

Y CARE INTERNATIONAL
JANUARY 2019
Welcome to Y Care International’s first newsletter of 2019. We want to take this opportunity to wish you a Happy New Year, and we hope you had a very pleasant Christmas spent with family and friends.

We would like to thank each and every one of you for your support of Y Care International over the past year, and over the many previous years that so many of you have been with us. It is an honour and a privilege to have such loyal supporters – partners on our journey to get young people into work. And out of poverty.

We’d also like to highlight the impact that your support has had. In this issue of StartUp we want to share with you the results of our work, but more importantly the impact that your generosity has had, which in 2017-18 enabled almost 60,000 people to benefit from our programmes.

We want to share our bold and ambitious new strategy with you, as we prepare to further our impact and create 1 million decent work opportunities for young people by 2030. We hope that you continue to share our vision – with your support we can create a brighter future for young people around the world.

Please enjoy this magazine. As always, we would welcome any feedback that you would like to share with us. Our contact details can be found on the back cover.

Once again, we thank you for your kindness and support.

The team at Y Care International
THANKS TO YOU
MORE YOUNG PEOPLE THAN EVER ARE GETTING INTO WORK AND OUT OF POVERTY

2018 was another year in which our focus on enterprise and employment showed real and tangible results, thanks to your kindness and generosity.

You helped thousands of young people get into work, stay in work and stand up for their rights. You enabled thousands more to learn essential technical, business and life skills. And they shared the benefits of this training with a wider group of almost 60,000 others. The help we give to young people continues to grow year on year, but much, much more needs to be done. We know that our partnerships with YMCAs around the world can and do much more. Much more needs to be done. We need to help even more.

In Sierra Leone over half of the adult population has no formal education. Mohamed was just one of them, struggling to take care of his mother and two younger brothers. Now he’s completed a YMCA training programme in electrical installation, gained full time employment and is a youth leader in his community.

In the Occupied Palestinian Territory, many disadvantaged young people, especially young women, are isolated within their communities. Too often discrimination prevents them from participating in family decisions, with men usually deciding how money is spent. That’s why we’re helping young women like Chandra from Pakistan to gain a foothold in the local market to help grow her business and independence.

The world’s poorest communities suffer most from natural disasters, political instability and civil unrest. These unexpected shocks can stop young people from working and their businesses from thriving. This year, our disaster risk management training helped 1,185 young people like Marisol from Nicaragua plan for the unexpected and support their families through setbacks.

You helped thousands of young people get into work, stay in work and stand up for their rights.

GETTING YOUNG PEOPLE INTO WORK AND OUT OF POVERTY

IN 2018 YOUR GIFTS HELPED YOUNG PEOPLE IN LIBERIA, SENEGAL, SIERRA LEONE, TOGO, MADAGASCAR, ZAMBIA, HAITI, COLOMBIA, NICARAGUA, OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORY (OPT), PAKISTAN AND BANGLADESH GET INTO WORK, STAY IN WORK AND STAND UP FOR THEIR RIGHTS.

3X INCOME

THE YOUNG PEOPLE WE WORK WITH SEE THEIR AVERAGE MONTHLY INCOME INCREASE THREEFOLD WITHIN 6-12 MONTHS OF COMPLETING TRAINING AND FINDING STABLE EMPLOYMENT.

3,700

IN BUSINESS OR EMPLOYMENT

LAST YEAR WE HELPED THOUSANDS OF YOUNG PEOPLE TO EITHER SET UP THEIR OWN BUSINESS OR FIND EMPLOYMENT.

6,000

EQUIPPED WITH SKILLS

LAST YEAR WE HELPED THOUSANDS MORE YOUNG PEOPLE TO LEARN VOCATIONAL OR LIFE SKILLS TO HELP THEM FIND WORK.

59,163

FAMILY, FRIENDS AND NEIGHBOURS

SHARED THE BENEFIT OF THE INCREASED INCOME, SKILLS AND EDUCATION YOUR GIFTS GAVE TO YOUNG PEOPLE.

20 PROJECTS IN 2018

12 COUNTRIES

OVER 50% OF WHOM WERE YOUNG WOMEN.

“I HIGHLY APPRECIATE THE OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE THIS REMARKABLE TRANSFORMATION.”
Mohamed, aged 24

“WE ARE SUFFERING STRONG DROUGHTS. OUR TRAINING HELPED US TO IMPROVE ACCESS TO SAFE AND CLEAN WATER.”
Marisol, aged 21

“WE PROMISE TO KEEP CREATING OPPORTUNITIES AND TRANSFORM THE LIVES OF YOUNG PEOPLE AROUND THE WORLD.”
Terry Waite, Co-founder and President

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All thanks to you

The young people I encounter continue to inspire me. They are proud to create a sustainable future for themselves and their families. Many now have the confidence to speak about issues that affect them. Increasingly, too, they are listened to by their communities and leaders. But this work simply would not be possible without your continued generosity. Thank you.
Growing up in the shadow of one of the South America’s most active volcanoes makes every day a risk. Last summer almost 300 people died, hundreds more went missing and 3,400 people lost their homes after Guatemala’s Volcán de Fuego – literally, volcano of fire - suddenly produced its most powerful eruption since 1974. Growing up in Guatemala, can be fraught with danger. A brutal civil war left 200,000 people dead, 45,000 disappeared and 1 million displaced. Following the eruption, communities unraveled before vulnerable young people’s eyes. Guatemala YMCA and YCI have growing concerns about young people with the rise of gang violence and crime, increasing school drop-out rates, and young girls falling into sex work. As is sadly often the case in an emergency, young people living in the shadow of the Fuego volcano were some of Guatemala’s most vulnerable. They had little other choice after being displaced by war. That’s why Y Care International were already working with YMCA Guatemala on the ground to bring young people together through sport and helping them learn new ways to rebuild their society and be prepared in the event of a disaster. Thankfully this meant that when the volcano exploded, they could ask us for emergency funds to help. Our emergency funds are a sum of money we make available to our partner YMCAs if they find themselves struck by disaster or an emergency. In this case we were able to send YMCA Guatemala money to help tackle the aftermath of the eruption. But now we urgently need to replace these funds and continue our disaster resilience work. Could you help us to prepare communities and be prepared for an emergency response? With your help we can be ready in case of another disaster in Guatemala, or around the world.

- Your £50 could help provide first aid and personal hygiene kits to fight infections and halt the danger of diarrhoea and disease spreading
- Your £25 could help support psychological health through play thanks to regular weekly sports and arts activities for young people in the temporary housing hostels
- Your £10 could help provide disaster resilience training for young people to help them identify and assess risks.

We are painfully aware that we could be called on at any time for emergency help by our friends in Guatemala or any of our other partners around the world. Please give all you can today, so we stand by to help young people, wherever the next emergency strikes.

HELP US PREPARE FOR EMERGENCIES TODAY
Simply complete the form enclosed or give online at ycareinternational.org/appeal/emergency

WHEN PEOPLE ARE LEFT HOMELESS, HUNGRY OR VULNERABLE TO DISEASE AFTER A DISASTER OUR EMERGENCY FUND HELPS OUR YMCA PARTNERS RESPOND RIGHT AWAY.
MEET THE TEAM

David French
Chair of the Board of Trustees
Y Care International, London

David has been Chair of the Board of Trustees for Y Care International since July 2016.

He has considerable and varied senior executive and non-executive experience. He has led and transformed a range of public benefit organisations including the Commonwealth Institute, the Westminster Foundation for Democracy and Relate.

David is passionate about our cause and is steering us through an exciting and ambitious time at Y Care International, as we look to implement our new strategy and create 1 million work opportunities for young people by 2030.

East Jerusalem YMCA

We are proud to count the YMCA of East Jerusalem (EJY) as one of our longest-standing partners, working together to support young women and men across the Occupied Palestinian Territory since 1987.

The EJY works with highly marginalised groups of young people across the West Bank who are suffering from the impacts of injustice and conflict experienced under occupation.

They support young people with disabilities to access decent work and set up businesses. To help empower young women living in remote, marginalised villages, they help them take the lead in community development. Another vital strand of their work is to provide vocational training and employment opportunities for young people living in refugee camps. Meanwhile in everything EJY does, they help young people develop leadership skills so they can call for justice and peace.

Harriet Knox,
Director of International Programmes,
Y Care International

ON THE GROUND IN PALESTINE

Think Palestine and we are all likely to imagine a country on the brink of conflict, characterised by mounting despair in the absence of a peace process. Yes, that image has too much truth in it; but I found another story on a recent visit to the West Bank, much less commonly heard in the West. It was summed up by a Palestinian business leader I met and rings in my memory:

"It is a truism to those who know it well that the defining characteristics of Palestine and its people today are as much about resilience and hope amid cruel adversity as they are about despair and hopelessness."

I saw this very clearly through the work of Y Care International’s partner, East Jerusalem YMCA (EJ-Y). It was an energising week, seeing how highly regarded EJ-Y is across Palestine and meeting some of its many beneficiaries - especially those finding their way into work, often recovering from situations of great challenge and disadvantage.

I met Khalil at a vocational training centre near Bethlehem. Aged 17, he had been injured in crossfire during a demonstration against the military occupation - with the repercussions for his family compounding his own physical and psychological damage. From a very low point it was wonderful to see a young man with light in his eyes working hard to qualify as a chef - a good choice, the West Bank has a burgeoning restaurant sector.

I went on to meet Nadim, a disabled graduate of the same college who was establishing a corner shop in his home village. All the evidence of his success came in the steady flow of customers into the store. Here is Harriet Knox, Y Care International’s Director of International Programmes, making her own purchase.

And I met a group of young men and women going through EJ-Y’s assessment centre which was helping them work out which of their skills and aptitudes would serve them best in the jobs market. Working in Palestine brings its own very particular challenges with the occupation an ever-present reality. It was an inspiration to see such resilience and real hope among the young people we serve there.

Harriet Knox,
Director of International Programmes,
Y Care International

9. FOCUS ON ENTERPRISE

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Harriet Knox,
Director of International Programmes,
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79% of youth in Gaza and 70% of youth in the West Bank believe their future is not safe.

95% of new Palestinian detainees in Israeli prisons are youth.

33% of the Palestinian population is youth, yet less than 1% of young people work in decision-making positions.


NEARLY FIVE MILLION PALESTINIANS AWAKE EVERY MORNING UNDER MILITARY OCCUPATION WITH A STUBBORN DETERMINATION TO SURVIVE.

Read David’s blog ‘The Challenges of 21st Century to Charity’ Visit ycareinternational.org/news
Our Fundraising Hero for this issue is Simrath. Simrath took part in our International Citizen Service volunteer programme and spent three months in Togo. Like many of Y Care International’s young volunteers she is energetic, ambitious and full of compassion.

When she came back from her trip, she wanted to do something at her university, University of Bristol, to raise money in support of our cause. She put Y Care International forward to be supported by the activities of her Junior Common Room – Orchard Heights and Unite JCR – of which she was a committee member. The eight-strong committee organised a series of events including a Valentine’s Day ball, with a third of the proceeds coming to Y Care International.

Thank you to Simrath and all eight committee members for this stunning team effort to support other young people around the world.

Feeling inspired by Simrath and her friends? Could you host a coffee morning, quiz night or other event in support of Y Care International? Please contact Olaoluwa Oguntola on 020 7549 3175 or via email fundraising@ycareinternational.org to discuss your ideas.

Need inspiration? You can request a copy of our brand-new Fundraising Guide by ticking the box on your response form.

Y Care International is now registered with Amazon Smile. Want to donate to us while you shop at no extra cost to you? Visit www.smile.amazon.co.uk and select Y Care International as your chosen charity. Amazon will then give 0.5% of the net purchase price of eligible AmazonSmile purchases to us.

WRITE YUSUF INTO YOUR WILL

Leave your legacy in good hands
Like me, I’m sure you have provided for your children and grandchildren in your Will so they can build their future. But once you’ve looked after your family, could you do the same for a young person like Yusuf?

The future belongs to young people
Yusuf grew up in civil war. He came of age during the tragedy of Ebola. Lost his slum home to coastal erosion. Yet today he shines with the resilience, ambition and optimism of the young. With the help of Y Care International and YMCA Liberia, Yusuf has become a tailor. He’s set up a shop away from the slum. He’s supporting his family, saving for his future and teaching his trade to three other young people. And he’s done it all by his own hard work.

The gift of opportunity lies with you
What better gift to leave to the next generation than the chance to shape their own future; their own way in life; make the most of their potential? So after you’ve provided for your own family, please consider leaving a legacy gift to young people around the world. Your kindness and generosity will live on and make a lasting difference to generations to come. No-one could leave a better gift behind. So please, find out more about how you can write someone like Yusuf into your Will. Thank you.

“I’m proud, because I’m a young person who has earned respect.”
Yusuf, 24, Tailor, Monrovia, Liberia
Thank you to everyone who has responded to our Christmas appeal since November. Your generosity and heartfelt messages have been warmly received by both the staff at Y Care International and the young people that you are supporting.

We are thrilled to say that our ‘double your donation’ campaign has received tremendous support, helping us to raise an amazing £22,257 before Christmas, with donations still coming in.

The final total will be matched by a charitable trust that supports Y Care International but has asked to remain anonymous, meaning that a grand total of at least £44,514 can now be put to good use getting young people around the world into work and out of poverty.

Y Care International creates opportunities for vulnerable young people across the globe to change their lives for the better. Inspired by and faithful to our Christian values, we work with people of all faiths and none to build a more just world, free from poverty.