Getting young people into business. And out of poverty.

New Beginnings

Introducing new projects in Senegal

MYANMAR APPEAL
Don't think big. Think micro. Start-up new small businesses in Myanmar

Meet our new Chief Executive
Welcome

Welcome to Y Care International’s Summer 2018 supporter magazine. If it looks a bit different, that’s because...

... we listened to you

Thank you to everyone who took the time to complete the survey that went out with our January newsletter. We are still looking for ways to incorporate all the feedback we received where practicable but have made two distinct changes.

We have changed the name of the magazine to ‘startup’ as we feel this name more clearly defines what we do. Our 2020 strategy repositioned Y Care International to focus on employment and enterprise as the most effective and sustainable way of helping young people to escape poverty. With your support we help to start up the businesses and vocations of nearly 60,000 vulnerable young people every year.

We have also repackaged the newsletter so that it is more environmentally friendly and is no longer using plastic. Many of our projects encourage environmental change within communities. We continue to seek ways of reducing our environmental footprint.

We hope that the stories we have included show you how valuable your support continues to be to the young people we work with. Our newsletter will still focus on their successes and challenges. However, going forward we hope also to provide clarity on our structure and ways of working by introducing you to our team and partner staff who implement the projects.

The theme for this issue is New Beginnings. This is a period of considerable change for Y Care International; in June we welcomed our new Chief Executive Leigh Daynes, who will be instrumental as we plan for the future and refine our strategy to expand our work with young people. We have also launched a number of exciting new projects, details of which are included.

We hope you enjoy this magazine, and we continue to welcome any feedback that you would like to share with us which might help us to improve going forward.

As ever, thank you for your time, compassion and generosity.

The team at Y Care International

MEET OUR NEW CHIEF EXECUTIVE

We were delighted to welcome Leigh Daynes as our new Chief Executive in June of this year, to lead us into an exciting new chapter in Y Care International’s story.

Leigh was Executive Director of Doctors of the World UK, part of the Médecins du Monde network, and brings long experience in advocacy and communications from previous roles with Plan International and the British Red Cross. He would like to take this opportunity to introduce himself to you:

“I’m extremely excited to serve alongside a talented team seeking to enable many more vulnerable young people in the poorest parts of the world to help themselves out of poverty and into business.

Our task is urgent. Half the world’s population is under 30 years old, 9 in 10 of whom live in the developing world. As you read this, 500 million young people are trying to survive on less than £1.50 a day. Two-thirds of the world’s youth are out of work or training; young women are twice as likely to be unemployed than young men. We need to move further forward faster to tackle the barriers these young people face to employment so that they can fulfil their potential and realise their rights.

To that end, in the coming year we will set an ambitious new growth plan intended to increase our impact with and for marginalised young people, growing the organisation’s voice and assuring a sustainable future.

We will seek to deepen and extend our partnerships across the YMCA movement of which we are a part, and consider actively how we better articulate the Christian faith basis of our work, inviting more people to join us in seeking a just world, free from poverty. I welcome your views on this. I look forward to sharing updates throughout the year about remarkable young people with whom our work would not be possible.”

Yours sincerely,

Leigh Daynes
Chief Executive
Y Care International

I LOOK FORWARD TO TAKING THIS JOURNEY WITH YOU AND CONTINUING TO SHARE UPDATES AND INFORMATION THROUGHOUT THE YEAR ABOUT THE REMARKABLE YOUNG PEOPLE WITH WHOM WE WORK, AGENTS OF CHANGE IN THEIR OWN DEVELOPMENT OF BODY, MIND AND SPIRIT.

Anja, Madagascar
A New Start for Young Farmers in Senegal

A new project in Casamance, southern Senegal, is set to give the next generation of young rural farmers a fresh start. Y Care International and YMCA Senegal will help young people make a living in a land blighted by poverty after years of conflict.

Compared to the dusty Sub-Saharan plains to the north, hot, humid and tropical Casamance is the 'bread-basket' of Senegal. Yet decades of civil war have left the young rural population struggling to survive. Drawn by the temptations of Senegal’s capital Dakar, they are leaving in droves. Florence Wallemacq, International Programme Coordinator for Y Care International, recently visited Casamance’s regional capital Ziguinchor to learn more. She says:

“What struck me the most was the lack of incentives for young people to create their agricultural small businesses. Rural exodus is an important phenomenon in Senegal and this project tries to tackle it.”

Florence Wallemacq, International Programme Coordinator for Y Care International

Over the next 3 years, supporters like you will help:

• Up to 400 young local people learn skills that will enable them to make a living from the land, and stay in Casamance.
• To establish 90 new youth-led agricultural businesses.
• To train 40 youth trainers at agricultural college, and to support each with a smallholding of newly irrigated farmland.
• In turn, they will recruit more young people to collectively work the land in environmentally friendly ways – and earn a living by selling crops such as rice, corn, soy, cashew and mango into local producers’ groups.

The project builds on the lessons of similar projects in Nicaragua, Madagascar and Haiti, where on average, the income of young people are more than doubled after Y Care International training. It also builds on work YMCA Senegal has been doing in Ziguinchor since 2006 to improve incomes, health outcomes and community cohesion after the war. During her visit, Florence met 29-year-old Assane who plans to apply for the agricultural training programme. He says:

“Young people don’t get involved in agriculture because they don’t want to till the earth after a university education. However, now we realise that development is also based on agriculture. So I am not going to go anywhere else now.”

With thanks to our funders who have helped to get this project started.
A new life for young people

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR MYANMAR APPEAL

Myanmar is at a crossroads. After 40 years of military rule, will it grasp the opportunity of a democratically elected government? Will it develop a new economy, that gives opportunity to all? Support our appeal today and you can help give Myanmar’s young people the future they deserve.

Imagine a country where poverty traps you in low-paid labour with no job security. Imagine having no hope of covering your basic needs, never mind saving for the future. Imagine having your right to a voice and a say in your future denied. Now imagine what it’s like when all that suddenly changes; when you are given an opportunity to take charge of your life. All you need are the skills to grasp that chance.

This is the chance you could give to young people by supporting our Myanmar Appeal. We’ve just launched a new project which will arm 400 young people in rural Myanmar with the skills to set up their own business and play a part in changing their country for the better.

Here’s how your donation today could help:

£50 could help teach skills in literacy and numeracy or trades such as farming or mechanics

£25 could help provide mentoring, equipment or grants to establish their own businesses

£10 could help build resilience through savings clubs and action on community issues

It only takes something small to change lives. With just a spanner and a few other tools you could help support a young man like Zaw, who took up a YMCA mechanics and business training course. Zaw has now set up his own motorbike repair shop. He has gone from having no income, to making at least £50 a month, supporting his family with food and medical costs, and employing other local young people.

Zaw is not alone. 446 young people like him also benefitted from the same project, reducing local unemployment from 27% to just 3% and helping 95% of local young people feel satisfied with their livelihoods.

The good news is that our new project will build on this progress and support many more young people like Zaw. So please make a donation today and help Y Care International reach out to young people in Myanmar, or wherever the need is greatest.

MYANMAR IS ONE OF THE WORLD’S POOREST COUNTRIES, RANKING 150 OUT OF 187 OF THE LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES (UNDP HUMAN DEVELOPMENT INDEX 2015)

70% OF MYANMAR’S POPULATION LIVE IN THE RURAL AREAS WE PLAN TO WORK IN

50% OF THIS RURAL POPULATION LIVE BELOW THE NATIONAL POVERTY LINE

DON’T THINK BIG. THINK MICRO.
Give more young people like Zaw a new start in a new Myanmar
Simply complete the form enclosed or give online at ycareinternational.org/myanmarappeal

Because I learnt bike mechanics, I now run my own business and employ two people

For Zaw it started with a spanner. But each small intervention starts new wheels turning.
MEET THE TEAM

Hur Hussnain
Impact, Results and Learning Manager
Y Care International, London

Hur joined Y Care International in January 2018 from Oxfam as our Impact, Results and Learning Manager. He leads on the impact and evaluation of our international projects, providing specialist advice to both Y Care International and our partners and recommendations for future programmes. Hur recently visited our project in Pakistan, “IMPROVING FINANCIAL RESILIENCE AND PROMOTING GENDER EQUITY IN RURAL PAKISTAN.”

Community World Service Asia
Partner, Pakistan

Y Care International has been working in partnership with Community World Service Asia to deliver projects in Pakistan for six years. At the close of our project there, a workshop was done with the project staff in Umerkot to check their perception of the changes in the community and in their personal life because of this project. Here is some of their feedback:

“DUE TO THE GENDER COMPONENT OF THIS PROJECT, I REALISED THAT I MYSELF DISCRIMINATE WITH THE WOMEN AND GIRLS AT HOME. I PROUDLY HELP MY WIFE IN HOUSEHOLD CHORES NOW.”
Male community mobiliser

“I REALLY ENJOYED SEEING THE SMILES ON THE FACES OF LOCAL WOMEN ARTISANS WALKING ON THE RAMPS WITH MODELS.”
Community mobiliser

Sangeeta, 17, lives with her two brothers and parents in a remote village of Umerkot. In 2016, their father, the only breadwinner of the family had a head injury and is now unable to work.

Sangeeta started sewing clothes to earn an income, but the real change came when she joined the Women Enterprise Group (WEG), established by this project. Through the WEG, Sangeeta learned various handicraft skills, such as different stitches and colour combinations. The project team then helped link the women to urban markets from which they received orders with fair profits.

Sangeeta was the first one in her WEG to take and deliver orders for embroidery on very thin fabrics. Inspired by her, other artisans have now also started taking orders on fabric and material that’s new to them. She has learnt to produce new products like cushions, trousers and stationery pouches.

“I have generated PKR 30,000 in the last three months for my family. I have used this money on my brother’s education, household expenses, and on my father’s treatment. Thankfully, my father is beginning to feel better now.”

Sangeeta feels, and rightly so, that this is only the start. She plans to continue practicing her skills and teach other girls in her village as well.

“This embroidery work is my passion and I enjoy doing it while listening to music. I also like to master in sewing and stitching so I could start making Lehengas, (Pakistani wedding dress).”

“My Baba (father) says that I am more than a son and have supported him and the family in difficult times. I want all the girls in my village to engage in income generating activities and support their families.”

You can listen to our 5-part podcast series, ‘Stitching up poverty’ on our website now.

I FEEL HAPPY TO SEE THE WOMEN ARTISANS’ INCOME INCREASING YEAR BY YEAR
CWSA staff member

“STITCHING UP POVERTY IN PAKISTAN”

STITCHING UP POVERTY IN PAKISTAN

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FUNDRAISING
CHAMPIONS

In this issue we would like to start celebrating our fundraising champions!

To kickstart this feature we thought who better to thank than John Fernandes from KKR. John took part in the Vitality 10,000 for Y Care International in May, and not only did he complete it, but he raised:

15x his target of £250, bringing in an amazing
£3,755!

A massive thank you to John for all his hard work on behalf of the young people that Y Care International are working with.

If you are interested in completing a challenge event or other fundraising activity for Y Care International, please contact Olaoluwa Oguntula on 0207 549 3163 or via email Olaoluwa.Oguntula@ycareinternational.org. You can also let us know you are interested 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.

11. FOCUS ON LEGACIES

YOUR WILL. THEIR FUTURE.
A MESSAGE FROM TERRY WAITE.

Dear Supporter,

In the three decades since we formed Y Care International, I have seen and heard for myself countless times the positive difference it has made to the futures of young people.

Young people like Morris, in Liberia. Morris was forced to drop out of school because his learning difficulties meant he couldn’t keep up. His future was uncertain until he started training as a carpenter with YMCA Liberia and Y Care International. Now he has been able to take control of his future and sell furniture to pay his keep.

It would be wonderful to imagine Y Care International won’t be needed in another thirty years’ time, but the reality is very different. For many young people the future looks bleaker than ever. This is where you could help immensely by considering leaving a gift in your Will.

Legacies are a vital source of income for Y Care International, which allow us to securely plan for the years ahead.

Of course, making sure our families are well provided for when we are no longer here is a priority, but it is also vital to leave something enduring that reflects our own passions and the causes closest to our hearts. And Y Care International certainly is close to my heart, as I’m sure it is yours.

By including Y Care International in our Wills we know that the foundations are being laid for new beginnings that can grow after we’ve gone and create stronger communities in the future. There aren’t many gifts you can make that last beyond a lifetime, but a charitable bequest to Y Care International can make a difference for generations to come.

Thank you so much for your ongoing support of our wonderful organisation.

With very best wishes,

Terry Waite, CBE
President, Y Care International

If you would like to learn more about how to support Y Care International with a legacy gift please e-mail legacies@ycareinternational.org or call 020 7548 3175 to talk to someone in confidence.
Brutal cyclones and a crippled economy mean young people in Madagascar face a daily struggle to survive. The International Monetary Fund’s (IMF) in-country representative, Patrick Imam, recently confirmed that approximately 80% of the population live on less than £1.50 a day. A plague outbreak killed 200 people just last year. And on top of all this, political unrest is rife.

Madagascar has experienced a particularly difficult time recently. Our partner organisation, YMCA Madagascar, has been working with communities who were affected by two cyclones that hit in March – Dumazile and Eliakim – which fell within two weeks of each other and caused widespread flooding, to make them more resilient and prepare them for future bad weather.

At the time of writing, political unrest continues in the capital of Antananarivo. On Monday 11 June, President Rajaonarimampianina announced the formation of a new consensus government. By the next day anti-government protestors had gathered in the capital to demonstrate and call on the President to step down. With elections not scheduled to take place until October of this year, it is likely that unrest will continue for many months to come.

In the coming months we will continue to work closely with YMCA Madagascar to support young people through this difficult time. We will keep you updated of our progress there.

Thank you to everyone who has responded to our Madagascar appeal. Your support is very much appreciated by Y Care International, YMCA Madagascar and the young people in Madagascar who are part of our project.