



**IN THE HOSPITAL. AT THE CLINIC.
WITH THE COMMUNITY.
AROUND THE WORLD,
HEALTH WORKERS ARE THERE
WHEN WE NEED THEM MOST.**

Your support matters. A gift today can help us support health workers around the world, providing them with crucial training and resources.

From mental health to maternal health, COVID-19 has stopped the provision of essential healthcare in its tracks.

Countries have had to make difficult decisions to balance healthcare demands and, in many cases, already limited resources have been diverted to respond to the pandemic, meaning other life-saving services have been suspended or reduced. With communities unable to access the care they need, mortality from preventable and treatable conditions has escalated, reversing decades of progress made in healthcare.

Against this mounting pressure, THET launched the COVID Response Fund in 2021, supporting health workers to overcome the shocks caused by the pandemic.

From the Democratic Republic of Congo to Bangladesh and from Malawi to Somaliland, the Fund has enabled health workers to deliver essential care whilst preventing and treating COVID-19. Through entirely virtual means, partnerships between health workers in the UK and low- and middle-income countries have provided mentoring, support and training, built lasting connections and improved patient care.

696 health workers trained | 1242 training days delivered | 172 health centres reached in 7 countries

In this appeal you will hear directly from some of the individuals who received training through the programme as they share insights on the challenges overcome, the knowledge gained, and the power of partnership during crises.

**COVID-19 HAS DISRUPTED
ESSENTIAL HEALTH SERVICES IN
90% OF COUNTRIES**





“When I was in class six, one of my classmate’s mothers died while giving birth. I was very surprised at that age knowing how difficult it could be for a mother to give birth. It made me realise how important healthcare services are for women and helped me to determine what I want to do rest of my life: I wanted to become a healthcare provider. My dream has been always to provide services to mankind but specifically to serve the women of my country.

Our centre is very busy, and we provide pre-natal, post-natal, post-abortion care services 24/7. We do not have any off days. 365 days per year we are working in three shifts: morning, evening, and night. Per day, 20-30 women visit us for pregnancy-related services. Women arrive from remote islands and for me, the most challenging part is to motivate them for further treatment. Midwifery is still new to the community but because of our continual work, women are now more aware of health care services.

From the very beginning of COVID-19, we maintained triage and provided services to every mother. All of us were affected by the virus but once we tested negative, we returned to work immediately. It is still a battle for us, but we never stop giving services. The BSM E-learning platform has been highly crucial for me and my colleagues. We have learned about critical cases, built our capacity and developed skills. This has highly impacted inpatient care because we are now more confident handling cases. Our connection with colleagues in the UK has also impacted us a lot. They shared cases in the UK context or African contexts which we were able to connect to our own practice. This inspired us tremendously. Our best achievement is gaining confidence and willpower to serve for the better.

At the personal level, I believe I have grown tremendously. My enhanced leadership skills and experiences, together with knowledge from the E-learning platform, have helped me to perform my duty better.

We want to continue having this partnership with THET. It would help us all to build an international midwifery community together. If we can get further learning tools for capacity building, it will help women in this vulnerable community. I dream to continue working for women and as a midwife, I want to assist them best.”

Sanjida Khatun, Midwife
Kazipur Upazila Health Complex, Sirajganj, Bangladesh

“When I was younger, I was very interested in new-born babies and that is when my passion for nursing started. I worked hard in secondary school, then I went to Kamuzu College of Nursing, where I did my Bachelor of Science in Nursing and Midwifery. After graduating, I went to Nkhoma Mission Hospital and I loved the Obstetrics and Gynaecology Department, so I worked for some time there. I then started working at Kamuzu Central Hospital for some months, before moving to Queen Elizabeth Central Hospital, where I asked to be relocated to the Labour Ward because I really want to save new-borns’ lives, together with their mums.

COVID has affected everyone – including healthcare workers. It has meant few health workers on the ground doing the job. We already had a crisis; the number of healthcare workers was already inadequate. The pandemic has meant that, out of the already few health workers that were doing their jobs in the ward, some were sick with COVID. Due to this shortage, we have been working really hard. We are working to the extreme, we are very tired because of the workload. It has had impact on our mental state because we haven’t had time to rest.

Through virtual maternal health meetings, we have been learning new ideas on a weekly basis on how to provide care to pregnant women or to postnatal mums who have COVID. We have been hearing experiences from different hospitals and sharing our knowledge on how we can help the patients. During education sessions, we have been helping one another and learning from different angles. We have really learnt a lot about infection prevention measures: how we can handle our soiled linen, how we can handle our waste, how we can now keep our COVID ward free from infection. It has really helped.

Patient care has also improved because during the first wave of COVID, a lot of healthcare workers were afraid to provide care to COVID patients. But with the Zoom meetings and the local education sessions, when we were approaching the second wave, people had knowledge on how best to take care of a patient with COVID.”

Pilirani Makungwa, Nursing Officer
Queen Elizabeth Central Hospital, Malawi



**HEALTH WORKERS ARE THE
BACKBONE OF EFFECTIVE
HEALTH SYSTEMS**



BETWEEN 2020-2021
WE TRAINED OVER
6,200 HEALTH WORKERS
IN LOW & MIDDLE-INCOME COUNTRIES

“Health workers around the world have faced remarkable challenges over the last two years. The resilience and adaptability demonstrated has been astonishing. We feel privileged to have supported some of the innovative projects between Health Partnerships to provide health care to communities during this time. The experiences shared by Sanjida and Pilirani give a sense of what can be achieved when health workers work together to find solutions to some of the challenges which threaten the future of health.”

- Louise McGrath, Director of Programmes, THET



Your support makes our work possible. Thank you!

At the forefront of healthcare delivery, health workers are the first and often only link to health services for communities across the world.

By supporting THET today, you are standing with health workers across Africa and Asia as they work to provide health for all. Whether saving mothers at delivery, or providing palliative care, they are there for patients when they are needed most.

If you decide to make a one-off donation or give a regular gift, we promise that the donation you make to THET will be used to train and support health workers as they tackle the challenges that threaten the future of health across the world. If you would like to support our work, please donate through one of following methods:



Set up a Direct Debit by downloading our form [here](#) and returning to fundraise@thet.org.



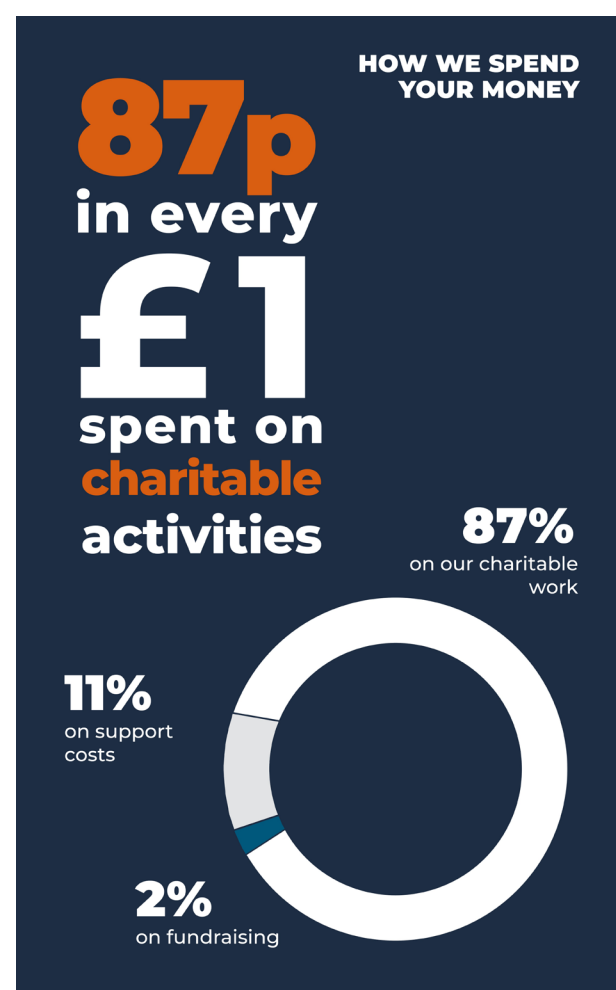
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