

# PLANET AID UK NEWSLETTER

## Spring 2015

### *'1,000 Trees Planted in Our Community'*



*A member of Humana People to People*

[www.planetaid-uk.org](http://www.planetaid-uk.org)



As many farmers worldwide will tell you, and as the great majority of scientists tell us, there is no doubt that we need to prepare for more difficult times ahead regarding our climate.

This means that we need to adapt to a warmer climate with increasingly unpredictable weather and a world where many people will have less freshwater available and more difficulties growing food for their communities.

To mitigate Global Warming means to reduce the amounts of greenhouse gases that reach our atmosphere – and thereby the impact and speed of the resulting warming.

It is becoming clear to more and more people that we cannot wait for governments and large businesses to take the initiative and provide the funds needed to turn this trend around.

People all over the world, seeing the need, are starting to act.

One of the most efficient ways to store carbon and thus reduce the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere is by **planting trees** and ensuring that degraded natural areas are protected from being cut down or burned and

In November last year, we held a 'Tree Planting Action day' in Corby, close to where our Head Office is based. 52 volunteers participated and 1,000 trees were planted. People from all walks of life were there including the Zimwomen of Northampton and African Youth Arise, Ahmadiyya Muslim Youth Association, local business partners and friends, the Oakley Rangers and volunteers from CICD (who will be going to work in Humana's aid projects in Africa). Everyone there felt the community spirit and recognised that they were doing something important. We would like to thank the landowner of the Bulwick Estates and the management of ISIS Forestry, for giving us this opportunity and guiding us through the day, ensuring that we got all 1,000 trees planted.



Andy Sawford, the local MP joined our volunteer day



Family members of the Bulwick Estates also took part



# *Over 12 Million Trees Planted in 2014*

Climate change is an enormous and daunting threat, but it is a reality that we must face and one that we can and must do something about. Our fear and frustration can be turned into positive and sustainable change and together, we can make our world better for ourselves and for future generations. By working in developing countries where the effects of Climate Change are felt much more, Humana People to People has planted 12 million trees during the rainy season of 2014. More than 1 million people participated in a big contribution to make our planet a better place to live for future generations.



**ZAMBIA 1,122,000 trees planted:** The Forestry Department donated many of the trees that DAPP Zambia planted during their actions, but thousands of seedlings were also produced at the projects and by families. A number of Zambian farmers have planted msangu trees which can be grown in the fields and at the same time increases the yield of the crops.



**INDIA 809,000 trees planted:** Humana People to People India projects planted trees together with more than 100,000 people in 6 states – at teacher training colleges, in Farmers Clubs, Community Development Projects, together with women's self-help groups and many more.



**BELIZE 26,000 trees planted:** The projects in Belize collected some of the seeds for their actions from trees in the forests. Other trees were not local, but of use anyway such as moringa trees grown for their highly nutritious leaves. Above a group of children are being instructed in how to grow these from cuttings.



**DR CONGO 554,000 trees planted:** The farmers club and students from Humana's teacher training college collected acacia seeds locally and many were planted directly into the ground. The trees will provide much needed firewood and the people have also learned how to make firewood saving stoves.



# *The EBOLA Team in Guinea Bissau*



## **EBOLA**

The Ebola epidemic has now taken more than 9,000 lives in West Africa : Liberia, Sierra Leone and Senegal are hardest hit . The Ebola Virus is not airborne, but is spread via human fluid. As many people in urban areas of West Africa live closely together the epidemic is spreading fast. The right precautions have to be established to stop the Ebola epidemic escalating.

### **How has it got so bad?**

Lack of experience: Ebola was first detected in the seventies, but this is the first time it has appeared in West Africa, and it took several months before recognising the Ebola virus, which was mistaken for other fever diseases such as Malaria.

Poor health systems: The countries affected by Ebola are some of the poorest in the World, with very inadequate health systems. There is a lack of doctors, nurses, hospital beds, medicine, and diagnosing equipment – in fact everything.

Aid provision took far too long: For several months ‘doctors without borders’ asked the international community to send personnel as quickly as possible along with material resources to West Africa. It took a very long time before it was taken seriously, and this gave the virus a head start. Spreading information and preventing false rumours is crucial to combatting the spread of the virus.

### **What does Humana People to People do?**

For many years ADPP (a member of Humana People to People like Planet Aid UK) has worked improving people’s lives in Guinea Bissau. ADPP wants to stop the Ebola Epidemic from crossing the border to Guinea Bissau. ADPP has held meetings with the country’s health ministry and UNICEF who have been encouraged to focus on some of the most vulnerable border areas where 275,000 people are living.

A team of 50 people have started their work. Divided into groups of three each group will cover an area with 20,000 inhabitants. The goal is to reach every single individual at least twice over a six month period. Each group will travel from village to village, introducing methods to prevent the Ebola virus from spreading using posters, performance and presentations. The campaign focuses on spreading information from door to door and arranging meetings at which the whole village can meet. Local volunteers are asked to participate so that everyone in the area can be reached in a very short space of time. The STOP EBOLA campaign builds on many years of experience mobilising local communities to take control of their own lives. Humana’s TCE program combating the spread of AIDS reaching out to more than 20 million people is a good example.

# Humana People to People in Europe



## Europe



### European Member Countries:

Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Holland, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Rumania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, UK, Ukraine. The main part of the clothes collection takes place in Western Europe from more than 20,000 banks. The sorting and the second hand shops are biggest in numbers in the East.

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Humana People to People is a worldwide federation of members operating over 400 projects within education, health, food security and environment. In Europe the 26 membership associations main activities are to raise funds for aid projects in the poorer parts of the world. (Africa, Asia and Latin America). Since the federation started in the early seventies the collection and selling of second hand clothes has been at the heart of our activities. Today the organisation receives a large part of it's funds from donors like UNICEF, UNESCO, Global Funds, USAID, European Commission, The Kellogg Foundation and many governments like DFID in the UK to name just a few.

However, the funds raised from donated clothes are very important for our organisation. Often these funds are used to start programmes in new countries, or to help develop new types of projects before they are implemented. Read more at [www.humana.org](http://www.humana.org)



Planet Aid UK's bigger bank at supermarkets



Our community bank at local shops



Our new theft-proof bank