



STAND UP FOR AFRICA

MAKE POVERTY HISTORY

SUPPORTER NEWSLETTER

Issue two | August 2005



Dear friends 

Thanks to you, many children could have a brighter future

My name is Louise Wilson. I'm from Oxford and I'm 12 years old. My mother is from Zimbabwe and my father is British. I believe it is

important that I play my part as a young African-Briton to speak up for the 44 million voiceless African children who don't get an education each year.

My family has supported Stand Up For Africa since its early days. I am shocked by the fact that one in six children dies before the age of five and that every year more than 200,000 children are forced to work as slaves. How can I do nothing, knowing that HIV/AIDS has left more than 12 million children without parents?

Recently, just like many of you, I got busy mobilising people around me to join SUFA's Make Poverty History In Africa Petition. I found the whole experience not only inspiring and challenging but, most importantly, educational. It's amazing how much I have learnt in such a short time and I'm forever grateful to SUFA for giving me such a wonderful opportunity.

On 2 July in Edinburgh, it was touching seeing thousands of people campaigning to Make Poverty History (see photos inside). Standing shoulder to shoulder with all of you to call for an end to extreme and dehumanising poverty in Africa made an historic impact; the G8 have taken the first steps on the road to ending injustices that lead to extreme poverty. You should be proud; because of what you did many African children could have the chance of a better future.

But much more needs to be done if we are to see extreme poverty among children wiped from the continent. The first steps are always the hardest to take. SUFA has made its first steps by launching its first Child Sponsorship Scheme project and through the Make Poverty History In Africa campaign (stories inside).

This newsletter gives you a flavour of the wonderful work achieved through your support for the past six months. On behalf of SUFA, thank you for standing up for the children of Africa with your passion, your time, your voice, your money and your energy.

Louise Wilson

SUFA activist, Oxford

G8: PRIME MINISTER RECEIVES YOUR PETITION



▲ SUFA's Petition was accepted by the Secretary of State for International Development, Hilary Benn MP (pictured here with SUFA Founder, Elise Nemlin and two young supporters) on behalf of Prime Minister Tony Blair.

On 28 June, about 60 SUFA supporters, including 50 young African Britons, attended a special event to present our Make Poverty History in Africa Petition at the House of Commons.

In the first six months of 2005, SUFA activists mobilised more than 1,250 people to join our Petition urging UK Prime Minister Tony Blair to convince the G8 leaders to Make Poverty History In Africa. Activists joined us through our online Petition from Africa, Europe, USA and Australia.

More details and photos inside ❖❖❖

G8: SUFA in Scotland

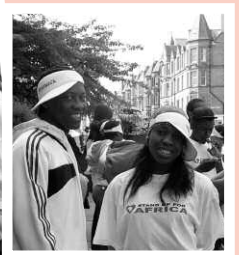
Photos: Jose Carlos

On 2 July, more than 250,000 marchers joined hands in a circle of hope around Edinburgh to urge the G8 leaders to Make Poverty History. And SUFA was part of it.

During the lead up to the G8 summit, SUFA, as a member of the Make Poverty History campaign, worked non-stop for six months to mobilise young African Britons and friends of Africa to stand up and make their voices heard. This was a huge challenge for a small, volunteer-based charity like us. But we couldn't afford to miss the great opportunity that 2005 presents to impact on poverty in Africa, and to help young Africans and our friends in the UK play a full part in the campaign.

For the pre-G8 Rally, two buses loaded with SUFA activists made the long journey from London to Edinburgh. As the leaders of the world's richest countries gathered in Scotland for the G8 summit, SUFA activists joined more than 250,000 others to demand trade justice, debt cancellation, and more and better aid for Africa. The human 'white band' around Edinburgh looked spectacular from the air; as did the giant letters with everyone's messages. A really enjoyable day that carried genuine policy punch.

Our huge thanks to all of you who got involved. And a special mention to Joffe Charitable Trust and UnLtd for their generous grants, which enabled all our young African Briton activists to make their voices heard.



CANADIAN SCHOOL STANDS UP FOR AFRICA

"We were emotionally affected by your goals and values"

Charlie Steele, Lucie Weinberg, Anna Milner and Pavel Ganapolsky are Grade Seven students at Vancouver Talmud Torah High School in Vancouver, Canada. They recently wrote to SUFA about one of their school activities called Tikun Olam Class, which means 'repairing the world'.

As part of the Class, the students decided to raise funds for SUFA. They organised a 'Retro Day', for which students dressed up in clothes from

the 60's, 70's and 80's. During lunch, they played a movie and sold popcorn and drinks. They raised a total of CAN\$411.50 and sent their gift to SUFA with a beautiful note:

"We chose your organisation for a number of reasons, but the most important reason, was that we were emotionally affected by your goals and values. We wanted to make a difference to an organisation.

"The people that you help are mostly the same age group as we are, and we were absolutely heartbroken to hear that they have to work as slave labourers. Since we come from such a rich and profitable country, we have no idea what this is like, and we know how wrong it is for children to be

exploited. We hope this money will help you so you can help children who are less fortunate than us, and help them achieve a more optimistic future."

SUFA is really touched by the care and passion shown by Charlie, Lucie, Anna and Pavel – and all their fellow students. We are so grateful for their fundraising efforts and their gift will be used towards our first child sponsorship program in West Africa.

Would your school like to Stand Up For Africa? Get in touch today and find out how you can make a difference.

A TRUE FRIEND OF AFRICA

No matter how committed and passionate we are, SUFA can only succeed with the generous help from supporters like Londoner Nick Marple. He says, "every time I visit Africa, I always feel that I want to do something to help."

And Nick has done just that – by donating the largest gift that SUFA has ever received from an individual. Nick is already supporting other charities working in Africa but he believes SUFA has the strength to make real and lasting change for Africa. That's why he has made a substantial donation to our core fund, which is a wonderful boost towards helping us meet our annual running costs. A thousand thanks, Nick, for deciding to Stand Up For Africa – and for being so generous and helpful with your support.

Please contact us today if you would like to Stand Up For Africa by making a donation to SUFA's core fund.

RUNNING FOR AFRICA

"At long last I have added up all the donations made in my aborted London Marathon bid and I am pleased to enclose cheques to the value of £290. SUFA is such a deserving cause that people refused to take back their donations even though I was unable to run due to illness. It's their generosity, twice over."

JAMES HOOPER, OXON

These gifts were put towards our Child Sponsorship Scheme (see article in this issue).

MOBILISING YOUNG ACTIVISTS

UnLtd* A big thank you to UnLtd, which donated £5,000 to support more than 50 young Africans to Stand Up For Africa at the pre-G8 Rally in Edinburgh on 2 July.

SUPPORTING THE FUTURE

CAF We are very grateful to Charities Aid Foundation (CAF), which has provided four days of consultancy to help us develop SUFA's five-year strategy.

GETTING OUR MESSAGE OUT THERE



Thank you very much to Awards For All, which donated £5,000 towards the production and printing of our promotional materials.

CHILD SPONSORSHIP SCHEME

On 11 March, our first Child Sponsorship Scheme project was officially launched in Benin before a large audience, including local and national media. The education project is based in Za-kpota, Benin, West Africa. It aims to support children who are at urgent risk from trafficking

In Africa today, thousands of children are trafficked every year. Most end up working as slaves, often in exploitative or dangerous conditions. Some children are forced into begging, drugs, pornography or prostitution. Often, impoverished parents are tricked into selling their children to traffickers, believing they are giving their son or daughter the chance of a better life.



Za-kpota in Benin is a real 'hot spot' for child trafficking. The aim of our project is to enable acutely vulnerable children to get a good education so they can work to support their families, breaking the cycle of poverty that places them at risk of trafficking.

For the initial phase of the project, SUFA is working alongside local partner organisation ESAM to support ten vulnerable children.

As part of the project, ESAM makes a monthly visit to monitor the progress of each child. The first evaluation, in May, showed some commendable results and some learning points for the development of the project. The assessments are complicated by the fact that the children live in three different villages some distance apart. In addition, many of the children live with neglect or abuse that is affecting their health and development. Our aim is to build a special refuge near their school so that they can live in safety and gain the full benefits of sponsorship.

A brighter future for Jeanette, age 11

Jeanette's father is dead and her mother can't afford to feed and clothe her, never mind send her to school. She was at risk from being trafficked, or becoming the victim of an early arranged marriage. With support from the Child Sponsorship Scheme, Jeannette is now going to school every day. She is also getting medical care for her health problems.

The first day at school for Luc, age 9

Luc's father is disabled and his family is destitute. Luc's brothers have been trafficked to a neighbouring country, and most of his sisters have had early arranged marriages. That is how the family have been able to make ends meet. Luc's leg is damaged so he has not been trafficked, but he has suffered severe neglect. Before the Child Sponsorship Scheme, Luc had never stepped foot inside a school. Now he is enrolled in school and enjoying his lessons. He is also receiving health care.

Your support can help change these children's lives: Mélanie, 7, Faustine, 7, Bidossessi, 8, Luc, 9, Jeannette, 11, Geneviève, 11, Sylvie, 11, Sena Laurent, 11, Léopold, 12, and Jérémie, 12.

Each of the children will receive:

- Monthly health checks and all necessary medical care
- Payment of school fees
- School books and pens
- Daily school meal costs
- Clothing

**YOU COULD HELP
SUPPORT THESE KIDS,
AND MANY MORE**



Your gift could help provide children with the education and health care they so badly need. Your gift could also help to build a safe Maison de l'Enfance (shelter) for the most vulnerable kids.

Give monthly

Give monthly to help SUFA plan ahead and reduce admin costs. Download a standing order form at www.standupforafrica.uk or contact us to request a form: phone 0207 2287733, or email admin@standupforafrica.org.uk

Donations

Your support is vital, whether or not you can give monthly. Please send your donation cheque (payable to Stand Up For Africa) to SUFA, PO Box 46815, London SW11 5SF.

Thank you



YOU CAN HELP

G8: SUFA at the House of Commons

Our Make Poverty History In Africa Petition presentation at the House of Commons included a packed schedule of activities. Opening and closing addresses were given by the Petition's sponsor, Dr Ian Gibson MP (pictured), and by Ann McKechin MP (pictured), Chair of the All Party on Heavily Indebted Poor Countries. Francesca Arhin, Trustee, introduced SUFA. Five SUFA activists read messages from supporters and members of the Kori Youth Club told stories.

The highlight of the event was when African Briton schoolgirls Louise Wilson and Toyin Adebisi presented our Petition to the Secretary of State for International Development, Hilary Benn MP, who accepted on behalf of Prime Minister Tony Blair. Louise made an impassioned speech about poverty in Africa. She thanked the Prime Minister for setting up the Commission for Africa and for travelling the world to urge other leaders to stand up for Africa. Toyin beautifully emphasised the point of the Petition by reading the SUFA Make Poverty History in Africa campaign manifesto to the assembled crowd.

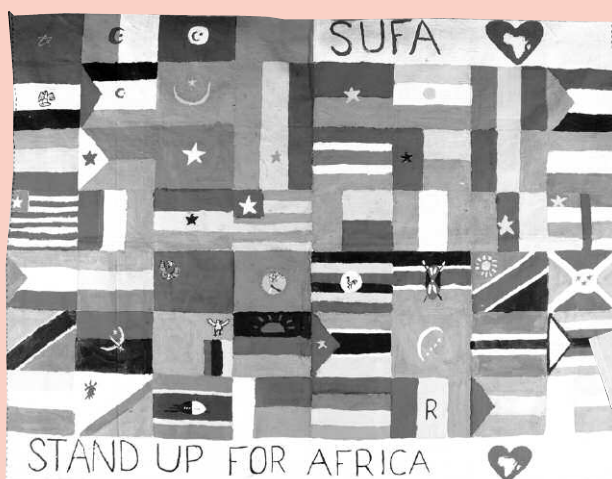
PHOTOS, FROM TOP:

- ▶ Southwark college students with sponsor Dr Ian Gibson MP
- ▶ Anne McKechin MP with Kori Director, Odiri, and Kori student, Toyin
- ▶ SUFA supporters with Anne Snelgrove MP
- ▶ Hilary Benn MP, Elsie Nemlin, SUFA Founder, and Darius Chama, SUFA Trustee
- ▶ Event attendees
- ▶ Louise Wilson handing the SUFA petition over to Hilary Benn MP



Medialeo

Diaspora News



▲ SUFA activists Hollie Johnson and Gina Williams (both aged 13 from Ilkley, UK) mobilised more than 100 people to join our Make Poverty History In Africa Petition. They also created this beautiful artwork, especially for SUFA. Thank you girls!



[T-shirt not available for sale]



SUFA LADIES



On 16 July, SUFA ladies ran simultaneous exhibition stands at the Rise Festival and at the British Museum's Celebrating Africa event (see photos). Yet more important opportunities to raise awareness of poverty and suffering Africa, and to recruit new SUFA supporters. If you would like to join the SUFA ladies and get involved in running our exhibition stands, please contact us. You will be welcomed with open arms!

MESSAGES OF SUPPORT

Make Poverty History has become an unprecedented movement of passion, energy and solidarity. Never before have so many people stood in solidarity with poor people in Africa. Here at SUFA, we received thousands of messages of solidarity and support. We are still reading and appreciating them, and have included as many as possible on our website - www.standupforafrica.org. Thank you.

I'd like to say well done to every one that has worked so hard in setting up and supporting this charity. It is a true course and one that we should all endeavour to fight for.

Jasper Egbobamwonyi-Bedaux,
London, UK

It is really exciting to see Africa on the world agenda this year, and equally encouraging to see Africans standing up and making positive steps to push for progress and development of our beautiful continent.

U. Maduforo, London, UK

WATER SUPPLY FOR THE FRIENDS ORPHANAGE

SUFA granted £883.43 to the Friends Orphanage in Kisugu, Uganda, to help install a clean water supply for the 200 children in its care.

SUPPORT FOR NEW LIFE GLORY CENTRE

SUFA granted £150 towards the work of this community organisation in Kampala, Uganda.

CHILD SPONSORSHIP PROJECT

SUFA volunteer Neil Howard is currently spending three months in Benin to monitor and help with our first Child Sponsorship Scheme project. He will report back in the next issue of this newsletter.

SUFA ON TV

On 6 June, SUFA was invited onto ITV's morning news to talk about the Make Poverty History campaign and our work. We were asked to comment on how we think Africa can be helped and to talk about our future plans.

SUFA ON THE RADIO

On 2 July, SUFA volunteer Joseph Kasaija was a guest speaker on Spectrum International Radio's 'Talking Africa'. He talked about SUFA's contribution to the Make Poverty History campaign, and commented on the pre-G8 activities.

WORKSHOP

On 27 June, SUFA held an awareness-raising workshop for young African Britons at UnLtd in East London. Seventy-one young people attended the workshop to further their understanding of Africa's debt crisis, Fair Trade, aid and the Make Poverty History campaign. One of the workshop's highlights was a lecture by Dapo Oyewole, Executive Director, www.thinkafrica.org.



www.standupforafrica.org.uk

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