



# StudentMedAID for International Need

## End Excess, Stop Shortage



### Why I became a Sustainability Champion

In recent months, our world has turned upside down. On one hand, we've realised how interconnected our world is and how unsustainable our lifestyles are, and on the other, we have seen how single actions from everyday people have the potential to make an impact.

Few people are aware that the NHS is the largest public-sector emitter of greenhouse gases. As doctors, we often focus solely on the health of the patient, forgetting the health of the environment.

Here at Student MedAID we want to change this! We seek not only to improve sustainability in medicine but also to increase awareness amongst individuals, aiming to establish a network of likeminded individuals throughout the world who are passionate about improving our planet- through small individual actions that in coordination, can make a big change.

We stumbled across Sustainability Champions when we were looking for similar endeavours and decided to join as it resonates with our aims. Joining in the network was an amazing opportunity as we gained access to events and newsletters which boost our knowledge of sustainability. We were also able to network, exchange ideas with and support those with similar interest and drive. Furthermore, we were able to gain funding to support our cause as well as invaluable insights and acknowledgement from various department which further fuelled our desire to make an impact.

### My sustainable project or actions

We are a student-run charity which collects unwanted and out of date medical equipment from hospitals in Edinburgh and throughout the UK, and then coordinates its redistribution to under-resourced medical institutions abroad through medical students on electives, humanitarian health workers and other NGOs. We aim not only to increase the accessibility of healthcare in places where it is most needed but increase the sustainability of the NHS.

Over the past year, we have increased the awareness of Student MedAID not only in Edinburgh but throughout the UK. We have coordinated with a range of charities such as the Gambia Volunteers Trust, AlBir-SCIO (Chad), Rock Project Uganda and Project Soweto to deliver equipment throughout the world, and have managed to clear our storeroom several times. We have helped open a new sister organisation in Leeds, and are looking forward to expanding to Oxford and Dundee next year. In Edinburgh, we have coordinated with other societies, such as a workshop at the MSF Conference and even presented a poster at the Aberdeen National Surgical Conference. Our most ambitious goal is to change local and national NHS policy - and we have begun to do this as well! Two of our members, Alba and Shazlin, gave a talk to St John's Anaesthesia Department, and further talks with members of the hospital board were planned before the COVID disruption.

We are looking forward to continue expanding our network, to improve and strengthen our ties with the charities we are currently working with as well as to locate new charities and donors. We are also seeking ways to incorporate technology in aiding our donations and redistributions. Last but not least, we are always looking for new committed individuals to join our committee and our volunteer network. Just taking a few moments of your day can make a huge difference!

### Photo Corner

#### COLLECTION

#### IMPACTS

ReACT (Refugee Action Scotland)

Gambia Volunteer Trust (Gambia)

Project Soweto (South Africa)

Al-Bir Scio (Chad)

#### PROMOTIONAL MATERIALS

**FLYERS**

### Impact Infographics

#### ITEM TYPES

135

Figure 1.1 Item Types

- Gowns
- Gloves and Masks
- Specialist instruments: Craniotomy sets, Bone marrow Biopsy Needles

#### DESTINATIONS

11

Figure 1.4 Donated Destination

#### COLLECTION SOURCE

Figure 1.2 Collection Sources

#### DELIVERY

Figure 1.3 Means of Delivery

#### AWARNNESS

568 followers

Viewers from > 40 countries

#### CONTACT US