

125
YEARS
1898 - 2023

LSTM
LIVERPOOL SCHOOL
OF TROPICAL MEDICINE

OPEN LETTER

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One year ago today (21st January 2021) Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine launched the Bump It Forward campaign. At this time, the UK was starting the mass rollout of the COVID-19 vaccine, but the story elsewhere was very different.

In Malawi, a second wave of COVID-19 was having a devastating impact on an already under-resourced health system. Many healthcare workers were off sick, and sadly some died. There were major shortages of PPE and basic equipment, and cases were continuing to rise. Similar reports were coming from colleagues and partners around the world, where delivery of vaccines was still a long way off.

There was no doubt in my mind that LSTM should do everything it could to help. Throughout the pandemic, our teams had risen to the challenge in any way possible and this was no exception. We suspended routine activity to develop and prioritise the *Bump it Forward* campaign which was launched one year ago today.

Donors were asked to give the equivalent of the cost of their vaccine (c£25) to protect health workers in African countries until the vaccine reached them, and they responded with enthusiasm and generosity. Every penny raised, including Gift Aid, was used to purchase PPE and equipment. Our network of overseas programmes and partners meant that funds were put to work quickly and transparently. To date, *Bump it Forward* has distributed more than 1.3million items of PPE to 164 facilities in seven countries. This is a huge achievement and I would like to personally thank everyone who has supported the campaign over the last 12 months.

Sadly, the inequities in access to vaccines still persist, and the world is a long way from providing adequate protection for health workers and the communities they serve. At LSTM, whilst we will keep *Bump it Forward* running for as long as its support is needed, we are working more broadly to address the major health challenges facing humanity, and towards a healthier, more resilient and equitable future for all.

As we look towards our 125th Anniversary in 2023, I would encourage anyone who is passionate about making a positive impact on the health of the world's most vulnerable to join us in this mission. [Count me in!](#)

Best wishes

David

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