

Your Impact

2025-26

LONDON SCHOOL of HYGIENE &TROPICAL MEDICINE

Thank you for your support



Welcome to this year's edition of Your Impact where we are pleased to share some examples of what your support has made possible over the past 12 months.

We are deeply grateful to the individuals, companies, charitable trusts and foundations, donors, and volunteers whose generosity and commitment make a lasting difference to our students, researchers and wider communities. Whether through philanthropy, sharing expertise, opening doors for others, championing LSHTM, or giving up your time, together, your support has a transformative impact on our vital work.

There have been many highlights during the year, but one of my personal favourites was playing in the charity football tournament for the LSHTM Financial Support Fund. With the high cost of living and studying in London, an increasing number of students face unexpected financial challenges. It was fantastic to see so many come together and get behind this important cause.

I hope you find these stories inspiring and enjoy seeing the difference you have made.

If you would like to learn more about supporting the School, please contact: development@lshtm.ac.uk

Thank you for your support.

Lee Rodwell
Director of Development & Alumni Relations



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Investing in future health leaders



Above: LSHTM Fund Scholars Therese (left) and Benedicta (right)

Thanks to the generosity of our donors, talented students from low- and middle-income countries can access a life-changing education at LSHTM and equip them with the skills, confidence and connections to tackle some of the world's most pressing health challenges.

For LSHTM Fund Scholars Benedicta An-Mwaaba, MSc Demography & Health 2026 and Therese Nzayisenga, MSc Climate Change & Planetary Health 2026, donor support has provided access to education that was difficult to obtain in their home countries. While their areas of study are very different, they share a common goal: creating positive change.

Benedicta came to the School from Ghana, where her work in demographic and health research revealed the importance of understanding the population patterns that shape health outcomes. She saw a need for stronger demographic expertise and wanted

to develop the analytical skills needed to generate evidence that can inform policy and improve health.

“The more I worked with data on births, deaths and migration, the more I wanted to understand the reasons behind the patterns we were seeing.”

Benedicta’s ambitions extend beyond research. She is passionate about encouraging girls in her community to remain in education.

> “A girl I tutored told me: ‘You have shown me that my dreams are not too big’.”

For Therese, a medical doctor from Zambia, the scholarship has enabled her to study an emerging field that remains underdeveloped in her country: climate change and health. As a child of refugees, access to opportunities has not always been straightforward, making the support she received through the LSHTM Scholarship Fund particularly significant.

Through her work during the COVID-19 and cholera responses, Therese became increasingly aware that many of the factors influencing health occur long before a patient reaches a hospital. She wanted to understand how policy, environmental systems and public health can work together to create healthier and more resilient communities.

> “This opportunity changed more than my education. It changed what I believed was possible for my future.”

“Climate change and health is still a very new field in my country. We can see the impacts, but there are very few people addressing it. I wanted to learn what others are doing elsewhere.”

Today, Therese hopes to help build understanding of climate and health in Zambia and contribute to solutions that protect communities from climate-related challenges.

Both scholars describe their time at LSHTM as life-changing, not only because of the academic knowledge they have gained, but because of the people they have met.

“Being able to interact with my professors one-on-one, share my challenges and hear their insights is something I really valued. That openness is something I want to carry forward in how I interact with people at all levels.”

Therese added: “Being exposed to such a breadth of experience has created a strong desire in me to implement what I have learnt.” Benedicta shared “I have learnt so much from the people around me.”

Together, Benedicta and Therese demonstrate the real impact of donor support.

Scholarships do more than fund a year of study. They help talented students develop the expertise, confidence and determination needed to improve health, and contribute to a healthier, more sustainable and equitable world.

Thank you for making a difference

"The scholarship has given me the freedom to make the most of both the academic and social opportunities at LSHTM"

Matthew McNeill,
MSc Control of Infectious Disease 2026

"MentorMe helped me clarify and envision what my career could look like after my master's degree. The guidance and encouragement I received from my alumni mentor gave me greater confidence as I planned my next steps."

Elbethel Alemaw
MSc Climate Change & Planetary Health 2026

"I had no idea how meaningful the phone campaign would be. Speaking to alumni, hearing their stories and representing LSHTM made me feel connected to a much bigger community."

Shreyasi Halder
PhD Food & Nutrition

A year of generosity at LSHTM



£10.9m
raised together



100
students given new opportunities



31
supporters have pledged a gift to LSHTM in their will



415
alumni shared their experiences and advice in the phone campaign



597
alumni, friends and supporters inspired to give



Dozens of projects
advancing global health research and capital work



766
hours volunteered by alumni

Supporting summer projects

When Munira Bello received the 2025/26 Dr Toritse Orubu Scholarship, it felt like a full circle moment. Earlier in the year, the MSc Health Policy, Planning and Financing student had spoken with alumnus and donor Dr Orubu during LSHTM's student telephone fundraising campaign. Months later, she learned that his generosity would help fund her research in Nigeria.

Established by Dr Orubu (MSc Immunology of Infectious Diseases, 2006) in 2022, the scholarship provides travel and hardship support for Nigerian students. Dr Orubu, a global vaccine leader with expertise spanning vaccine research and development and public health, founded the scholarship to help ensure financial challenges do not prevent talented students from succeeding at LSHTM.

The connection is particularly fitting. While Dr Orubu's career has focused on advancing vaccines and immunisation, Munira's research explores the barriers that determine whether essential medicines reach the people who need them most.

The award enabled Munira to to conduct fieldwork for her dissertation, which examines the price, availability and affordability of essential medicines across Nigeria's Federal Capital Territory (FCT) Abuja.

She visited public hospitals, private pharmacies and local medicine vendors across Abuja, collecting data on medicine availability and interviewing healthcare stakeholders.



Above: Munira Bello

"The scholarship enabled me to undertake this fieldwork, which would otherwise have been diffjcult to manage."

Munira hopes to publish her findings: "I hope they will contribute to the body of knowledge on essential medicine availability across the FCT and inform policy making."

Thanks to the generosity of alumni like Dr Toritse Orubu, students such as Munira can undertake research that has the potential to improve health outcomes and inform future policy in their home countries.

“Why I give”



Above: Hannah McCall

“It is with a deep sense of gratitude that I can now pay the way for someone else, and I want to encourage others to make the same choice.”

Hannah McCall (Professional Diploma in Tropical Nursing, 2011), PhD fellow and nurse researcher, shares her motivation behind giving to LSHTM.

“Back in 2011, I was lucky enough to receive a grant to cover the course fees for my postgraduate diploma at LSHTM. Now in 2026, I’m in a financial position where I can pay back that kindness and support another student with their course fees.

The Professional Diploma in Tropical Nursing was a life changing learning opportunity for me. I gained new knowledge, skills and friends, and I found a career path in nursing that has taken me to meaningful roles in the NHS, the UK civil service, with international charities and in academia.

I feel so incredibly fortunate that someone, somewhere paid my course fees when I couldn’t afford them myself, and in doing so, they made the last 15 years of opportunities possible for me.”

A legacy supporting healthier futures for children

We are deeply grateful to have received a legacy gift from Reverend Peter Simpson (PGDip Public Health, 2014).

Peter trained as a health economist before pursuing a career as an economics teacher. He maintained a lifelong interest in public health and, conducted research into school meals.

Peter’s legacy will support research into the health and nutrition of school age children. His generosity reflects his long-standing commitment to public health.

If you would like more information about leaving a legacy gift, please get in touch at development@lshtm.ac.uk.

The freedom to focus



Above: Next Generation Scholar, Niamh

Thanks to donor support, Next Generation Scholarships are helping students from underrepresented backgrounds access postgraduate education at LSHTM. Niamh shares what that support meant to her.

“Before joining LSHTM, I studied Biology at Liverpool John Moores University, and it was during my research project, which explored public health issues within women’s health, that I found real direction and discovered where I wanted my career to go. I am most passionate about women’s health and health education, and about empowering people to make informed decisions about their own health, which is ultimately what drew me to public health.

Receiving the scholarship came at such a crucial time, right as I was navigating what postgraduate study would even look like for me, and how I would balance work, commuting, and studying all at once. As a first-generation university student managing that largely on my own, the scholarship meant I did not have to work alongside my full-time studies or live at home just to make it possible, and instead I could commit myself fully to my Master’s, without financial burdens sitting underneath everything else.

One moment that has stayed with me is the end of year boat party, looking around at people who, less than a year ago, were strangers, and realising we had shared this entire Master’s experience together in London, meeting people from all over the world who I know will be friends for life.”

“To donors, I would say that your support does not just cover costs, it gives students the room, and the community, to fully commit to work that matters to them.”

Support from across our community

The Student Financial Support Fund (SFSF) provides assistance to students facing unexpected hardship that could otherwise disrupt their studies. The fund is supported in several ways by the LSHTM community.

A lifetime of commitment to students

When Emeritus Professor of Communicable Disease Epidemiology Paul Fine retired, he asked colleagues and friends to donate to the fund in lieu of a retirement gift.

In response, a fantastic £1,435 was raised, enabling students facing financial emergencies to continue their studies. Paul first came to the School as a Medical Parasitology master's student in 1970 and joined the staff in 1976. A legendary member of our community and founding member of the John Snow Society, Paul has taught and inspired generations of students.

He concluded his retirement lecture by sharing a map detailing where students travel from to study at LSHTM, reflecting on one of the things he values most about the School:

"It's been a privilege to work with bright motivated people from across the globe."



Above: Emeritus Professor Paul Fine

"When I see students in the refectory interacting, getting along, making contacts, forming friendships that are going to last for their lives, I wish the whole world could be like that."



Above: LSHTM Football Tournament, Friday 15 May 2026

Building community through football

The charity football tournament is fast becoming an LSHTM tradition. While it raises valuable funds, a key motivation behind the tournament is inclusion: it is open to everyone, regardless of age or ability.

The tournament brought together people across the School community - students, staff, alumni, and contractors, for a friendly game, followed by refreshments in the Pumphandle Bar.

Together, players and supporters raised £942 for the Student Financial Support Fund.

Adding to the occasion was the Tournament shield, crafted from wood salvaged from the original Pumphandle Bar before its refurbishment.

> "Football is a great way of bringing people together. Students, staff, as well as our builders all enjoyed a bit of friendly competition while raising money for a really important cause."
>
> Peter Laws, Building Service Engineer

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