



# Footsteps

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*Our goal is to establish a grassroots connection locally but also with communities around the world to build resilience and resourcefulness, with a focus on sustainability and education.*

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**Welcome to the July 2020 Global Footsteps newsletter- a summary of our hard work and continued commitment to empowering others. It is a bit longer due to the stories we have to tell, we hope that they inspire you.**

## **Content**

- Our latest news
- Food Loose and Plastic free update
- Stories from Kenya
- How you can get involved

## **Our latest news**

We are delighted to announce that in June we were featured twice on BBC Radio Gloucestershire recently. Benter, who represents our charity partners, The Aniga Women Initiative spoke on the show regarding their efforts and what life is like in Kisumu, Kenya. She explored the devastating impact that flooding and coronavirus has had on the community, and her stories will be featured below. The second interview was with our charity trustee, Alison Crane who introduced our charity and urgent appeal in depth and how you can help us to continue to support vulnerable families affected by the issues above.

We are also excited to say that we have created and launched a brand-new website for you to visit for information about our services and about us. There are still some tweaks required here and there, but if you would like to see more, here is the link to the site below.

<https://global-footsteps.org>

## **Food Loose and plastic free update**

We have just re-opened the shop for walk in customers on the 4<sup>th</sup> July. This will be on Saturdays only, 10AM- 3PM. We are still running the click and collect service on the brand-new website the hours are Tuesday-Friday 10.00-17.30, and Saturday as above. Delivery available for vulnerable and self-isolating customers. New products every week until they have all 395 products! Please regularly check the website, link below.

Website: <https://foodloose.co.uk> or email [shop@foodloose.co.uk](mailto:shop@foodloose.co.uk) to enquire.

## Stories from Kenya

We have some amazing stories which has come out of the work we have done in partnership with our charity partners, the Aniga Women Initiative that we would love to share with you. Names have been changed to protect their identities, and these stories may be upsetting for some.

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*On the right, Valerie (blue dress) enjoying a meal with her children and Benter (striped dress) after receiving food parcels .*

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Valerie's story; after suffering an abusive relationship and finally finding the courage to leave her husband, Valerie took her 8 children to live in a run-down house on a sugar plantation. They weren't safe for long, with the heavy rains, water came into the house and it became in danger of collapsing. The children pictured here, 2 of which are twins who were conceived as a result of marital rape by her abusive husband. Finally, the family was moved to a safe house where the Aniga Women initiative - with your donations, have brought them essential supplies which include food including the beans, pods and leaves in the pictures which will be boiled for their dinner, and clothing. They now have support and Valerie and her eldest daughter receive counselling.

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*On the right, Benter giving Sarah the shawl from her back to swaddle the baby in.*

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Sarah's story; the Aniga Women Initiative found Sarah who had just given birth the day before, in a house which had almost been swept away following the flooding. Sarah had wrapped the baby in scraps of clothing and Benter from the Initiative, gave her the shawl from her back to swaddle the baby. We are still raising money to help Sarah and her 5 children with essential blankets and supplies.

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*On the right, the house that the Aniga Women Initiative found Sarah in.*

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*On the right, the sheets being used to divide the space between the 14 families living in the church.*

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This church has become a massive 14 families' home after theirs were destroyed in the flooding. They are all living together in close quarters with no privacy, and are using ripped up sheets to create semblance of dignity. These are the harsh living conditions that is now where they call home.

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*The Aniga Women Initiative wading through flood water to deliver supplies. Benter is wearing the white Global Footsteps top with our logo.*

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See above the Aniga Women Initiative wading through flood water to get essential food and other essential supplies to the families. If you look closely, you can see a motorbike carrying those supplies making its way through after roads have been swept away.

After getting to know the families, the initiative found out where they used to live. They had to take a boat in order to reach their destination. As you can see from the photo, where their family homes used to be has been completely destroyed and is now a lake filled with water.

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*Where some of the families' homes used to be.*

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*The Kilwanda women receiving food parcels.*

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The Kilwanda women are a community of people who have each been in situations many of us can only imagine. They are made up of single teen mothers, widows with dependents, and parental guardians to teenagers. See our images of them, receiving food parcels at their shelter due to the donations that have been made.

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*The Kilwanda women getting trained on how to use the water tanks for handwashing correctly.*

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They are struggling with period poverty, a lack of access to education and job opportunities and live in a country where HIV infection is soaring. The Aniga Women Initiative provides them with vocational training, such as dressmaking or hairdressing and sanitary products. This mentoring partnership they have includes safe sex education. See pictured, the donations we have received being put to good use, providing a hand washing tank and the Kilwanda women being trained how to use it.

Finally, please see Benter with the first shipment of water tanks- there is about 20 there which will service hundreds of people, but we still need more.



If you would like to help us continue to support people like Valerie, Sarah and the Kilwanda women, amongst many others, please consider a donation via the below link, and even a small amount can make a huge difference, please give what you can;

[virginmoneygiving.com/fund/covid-19/floods](https://virginmoneygiving.com/fund/covid-19/floods)

### How can you get involved?

If you would like to get more deeply involved in our cause, please contact us via the details on the left- we are always looking for volunteers.

We also welcome your suggestions, comments and any stories you have for us, please do not hesitate to get in contact with us.

Please also follow us on your preferred social network, just click on the symbols below and click 'like' or 'follow'.




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*Please pick up your goods  
from 16 Portland Street  
Cheltenham,  
Gloucestershire GL52  
2PB or to just stay in  
touch, you can email  
globalfootstep@gmail.com*

**Thank you for reading our newsletter- we hope it was informative and we will be back in October. We hope you and your families stay safe and well in the coming months.**

**You have received this email because you are on our mailing list – if you would like to no longer receive these, please email the address on the left with the wording ‘ please unsubscribe me from emails’.**