



16 November 2017

*Dear SMOAT supporter*

For our Christmas Appeal this year, we are supporting two projects, one an African Water Enterprises project in The Gambia, supporting a proposal for solar water installation and sustainable maintenance; and the other a Kaloko Trust project in Zambia, supporting a third age agricultural support and cash transfers project.

### **African Water Enterprises (AWE) – Solar Water Installation and Sustainable Maintenance**

Nema Kuta is a small village in The Gambia, with approximately 180 people, most of whom are children. Their only source of water is an open well, 300 metres from most houses. This water source is dirty and riddled with microbes and bacteria. The closest town with a clean water source is Pakali Ba, which is over one kilometre walk away and the water is not reliable and only available for a few hours a day. Earlier this year SMOAT supported AWE and donated £1,000, which paid for the drilling of the borehole in the village. It was tested and it now remains for the installation of the solar pumped water system with one tap which will serve the community and provide all the clean water they need.



In The Gambia and Senegal mobile phone coverage is almost 100% with most households having access to a mobile phone. AWE is embracing solar and mobile phone technology to provide the solutions. They take over broken existing water systems and carry out the repairs and then install eWATERtaps, an innovative new technology using NFC contactless pay, mobile money and the Internet of Things to allow people to buy affordable, clean water. This money is transferred to a local maintenance provider electronically which prevents the need for water committees to handle cash and so reduces corruption. Locally trained technicians oversee the regular maintenance of the system and

are accountable if the system breaks down.

AWE and the eWATERpay technology was founded in 2015, with a vision of ensuring that 1.6 billion people always have access to clean water. The company's mission is to use mobile phone technology for the transparent collection of user fees to pay for the maintenance of water supply systems in Africa.



In sub-Saharan Africa, more people have access to a mobile phone than to clean water. 65% of installed water supply systems break within the first two years because no method exists for maintaining them. **2,300 people die every day** because of poor water and sanitation.

Research has shown that, in villages using eWater technology, each household is saving five hours per day by not having to collect their water. As this task normally falls to women and children, this means that children can use that time for education. Water wastage drops 99% because people don't want to spill water if they are paying for it! Taps are never left running and this has an effect on the cases of malaria as there are no pools of stagnant water. It also has profound implications for climate change in drought prone countries.

## **Kaloko Trust – Luansobe Third Age Agricultural Support and Cash Transfers Project**

In sub-Saharan Africa, 40-60 percent of the estimated 13 million AIDS orphans live with their grandmothers. Instead of enjoying a restful retirement, these elderly women are now struggling to care for AIDS-afflicted family members and their grandchildren on meagre incomes, often with little or no external support.

At a time in life when perhaps they were expecting their own children to be taking care of them, sadly, many of those adult children have died leaving behind grandchildren too young to look after themselves. With limited means and little or no understanding of the disease, grandmothers are now having to act as guardians, providing shelter and food to their grandchildren. In so many cases life for both grandmothers and grandchildren can be very, very difficult.

For many of those grandmothers looking after AIDS orphans, the crops they can produce themselves may be the only food the family have to eat as they have no other income with which to buy food from the shops.

For many years, poverty alleviation programs such as Kaloko's have focused on delivering goods or services, building infrastructure, providing training, and more recently, providing financial services, like microloans.



Experience has shown that these programmes are more successful than handing out cash. However, increasingly NGOs like Kaloko are experimenting with providing poor people with cash grants on the condition that they use the money in a certain way or follow through on a commitment. Furthermore, some organisations are now utilising unconditional cash transfers, with no requirements attached.

Cash transfers have arguably the strongest existing evidence base among anti-poverty tools, with many high-quality evaluations of cash transfer programmes spanning Africa, Asia, and Latin America and including both unconditional and conditional cash transfers.

Consistent themes from the research findings show that cash transfers have positive impacts on the families, including the children, and particularly the health of these children; recipients often save or invest a large proportion of cash transfers, generating increases in future income.

As you can see, two completely different projects but both equally important in providing basic needs to some of the poorest people in the world. I hope you feel that you can support our Christmas Appeal this year and make a difference to the lives of these people in Zambia and Gambia.

On behalf of the SMOAT Committee, I wish you a very Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

*Barbara Perkins (Chair)*

SMOAT Christmas Appeal 2017: I enclose a gift of £ ..... towards SMOAT's work in Africa.

Title ..... First Name or initials ..... Surname .....

Cheques, payable to **SMOAT** should be sent to: SMOAT Treasurer, c/o 49 Redstone Hill, Redhill RH1 4BG

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**As from 25 May 2018 SMOAT will need to maintain evidence that people have agreed to us holding their personal contact information.** Since our contacts list goes back many decades, and we have no details of why and when you made the request to be included on our mailing list, **to enable us to continue to send our newsletters to you** we'd kindly ask you to complete and return this form.

You may alternatively [sign up online](#) or email [contact@smoat.org.uk](mailto:contact@smoat.org.uk) - please also use this email to notify any changes.

We do not plan to change the way we distribute information about SMOAT, and we will not share your information with any other organisation.

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