



S · M · O · A · T

REIGATE'S OVERSEAS AID TRUST

REGISTERED CHARITY No. 280091

13 November 2023

Dear SMOAT Supporter

This year we are supporting projects from Our Moon and Project Uganda. Both projects come under the heading of 'Education' but are entirely different. However, they both aim for the same objective – lifting young people out of poverty and giving them the best possible chance in life.

Our Moon Education

In 2019, Our Moon acquired some land from the local Chief in Chibombo, in Zambia's Central Province. Since then, they have been developing Our Moon as a learning centre. The current build is an IT room, a small library and classrooms.

The main users of the facility will be students attending a Young Leaders Programme. Our Moon works with intellectually gifted young people who come from severely disadvantaged homes and they help them to become Zambia's changemakers. Carefully selected young people are offered an 18 month holistic university and life preparation programme. These young people would not otherwise have the opportunity to go to University in Zambia, but through the programme, and with the support given to them at the centre, they gain admission to some of the top-ranked Universities in the world. The students are required to volunteer within their communities, returning home later to implement projects. This can include educating local children, agricultural, environmental and waste management projects. This enhances their understanding of education in their everyday lives so that they can use their experiences as tools to shape and redefine society today and tomorrow.

The site of the learning centre is rural and they are not on the national grid. Currently, they are dependent on an old solar system to provide limited electricity. They are building a new, additional, learning forum and through the Christmas Appeal, we are hoping to raise £4,000 of the £7,000 cost for new solar energy system for this learning forum.



A picture of the new learning centre painted by one of the students.

The learning forum is the yellow building on the left. The four buildings on the right are student accommodation.



Our Moon students graduating!

Project Uganda

You may be familiar with Project Uganda, as we have supported them many times in the past. They became a registered charity in 2000, as part of a village millennium project and in 2002 Matt Goddard, a civil engineer, and his wife, Emma, went over to Rukungiri to begin their first building project. As with many charitable organisations, their efforts were hampered by Covid and they have only recently been able to start again.

Their current project is at Katwekamwe Primary School in the Rukungiri District, Uganda. The school has 755 students and no safe water supply. Students have to walk 3 kilometers to the nearest sink hole, which is shared with local villages and animals. The water is contaminated, leading to illness, dehydration and disease. As you can imagine, walking 6km each day, and half of that distance carrying 20kg of water on their heads, leads to long absences in their education – don't forget also that these children are primary school age.



A trip to the sink hole – 3km each way.

Project Uganda's aim is to construct a rain water harvesting system by building two 15,000 litre water tanks, which will provide water for at least ten years. This will not only provide drinking water but will also provide clean water for washing, so important for prevention of disease.

In addition, the team employed to construct the water tanks are all local people, providing an employment opportunity for many people.

SMOAT'S aim is to raise £3,250, which will cover the entire cost of the construction.



A water tank SMOAT provided to another school

I think we can understand the importance of education in the developing world. If children are provided with a good education, and those with the greatest potential are given the means to capitalise on their talent, they can get jobs and help their families, communities and even countries pave their futures out of poverty. Every child in the world deserves an education and these two projects can give many children an opportunity to flourish.

On behalf of the SMOAT Committee, I wish you all a very Happy and Peaceful Christmas and a New Year filled with hope.

Barbara Perkins
Chair

CHRISTMAS APPEAL LAUNCH

8AM AND 10AM ON

SUNDAY 26 NOVEMBER 2023

**HELEN LEALE-GREEN, FOUNDER AND CEO
OF OUR MOON EDUCATION WILL BE
SPEAKING AT THE 10AM SERVICE**

SMOAT Christmas Appeal 2023

I enclose £ towards SMOAT's work in with Our Moon and Project Uganda, or have donated £ by Bank Transfer, or Donate online at <https://cafdonate.cafonline.org/22010>

Title First Name or initials Surname

Cheques, payable to **SMOAT** should be sent to: SMOAT Treasurer, 12 Ifield Close, Redhill, RH1 6SW

Bank Transfer: Account Name: St Marks Overseas Aid Trust - Sort Code: 40-38-10, Account Number: 93027767

To enable us to reclaim the Gift Aid, please ensure we have a completed Gift Aid form, and that Bank Transfers are identified with your name. Gift Aid forms may be emailed (without signature) to treasurer@smoat.org.uk

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Data Protection. SMOAT will not share your information with any other organisation. If you wish to update your contact information, or be removed from our contact list, please contact us at any time.

Email contact@smoat.org.uk or write c/o 49 Redstone Hill, Redhill, RH1 4BG

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