



**S • M • O • A • T**

**40 YEARS OF OVERSEAS AID**

# Newsletter - Winter 2022

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## Launch of our Christmas Appeal: **Sunday 20 November**

The launch will take place during the 8am and 10am services at St. Mark's Reigate, and include a video presentation introducing the two projects we are supporting. More information is included in the letter which accompanies this newsletter.

The appeal and video will also be available on our web site

[www.SMOAT.org.uk](http://www.SMOAT.org.uk)

where you can also make online donations. You can also follow the appeal via our Facebook page.

## Future events

We are planning a Beetle Drive in March, another SMOAT@Home delivered event in the summer, and our musical SMOATathon in September. You can check dates and details, and find links to purchase tickets via our web site and via Facebook..

## Online giving (including Gift Aid)

We are using **CAF donate**, through the Charities Aid Foundation.

In addition to contributing to our work through the Christmas Appeal, this now enables you to make a regular contributions to SMOAT by standing order. Links to give online via **CAF donate** are available via our website.

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[SMOAT.org.uk/facebook](http://SMOAT.org.uk/facebook)

REGISTERED CHARITY No.280091



# How quickly the concerns for the developing world get forgotten during crises

Turning on the news these days is getting harder and harder. Do you remember those heady days when there was some *good* news reported? It's such a distant memory that I can hardly recall it. Indeed, a recent survey showed that around 38% of people avoid watching the news at all as it is so depressing.

There seems to be one crisis after another. Who would have thought that the nation would tire of arguing about Brexit? Then along came the Pandemic and that was the only thing reported for months, it was all anyone could think of. However, as soon as numbers started to reduce and the world opened up again, Russia invaded Ukraine. And then, of course, in the background is the ongoing and frightening debate around climate change. All in all, it is enough to fill all of our heads with statistics and worries.

Unfortunately, this does take all of our minds off the ongoing and critical difficulties faced by the millions of people living in poverty on a day-to-day basis around the world. You will have seen in the news that the UK Government has slashed humanitarian aid by a staggering 51%. Separate figures published in the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) annual report last year revealed direct UK aid and planned aid to Ethiopia fell from £241m in 2020/21 to £108m in 2021/22, a cut of 55%; aid to Kenya fell from £67m to £41m, a cut of 39%; and aid to Somalia fell from £121m to £71m, a cut of 41%.

It is entirely understandable of course that people in this country and in other countries around the world are preoccupied by their own money worries. The economy worldwide is in a terrible mess. The number of people using food banks has risen significantly over the last eight years and, according to statistics, nearly 2.2 million people in the UK had to use food banks during 2021/2022.

However, and I know I have made this point before, at least we have food banks for people to turn to. Poverty in this country, however awful it is, is not as bad as it is in developing countries. It makes me feel guilty saying that, because I know that my life is nowhere near poverty and I apologise to those people in the UK who struggle every single day. But having said that, I don't think many people in this country would swap their lives for the lives of millions of people struggling in the developing world. It is beyond shocking that people anywhere in this world are still dying from malnutrition.

I'm not an economist, a politician or a world leader but SURELY there must be something to be done about wealth distribution around the world? It is truly sickening that there are some people with billions of pounds and some people with nothing. My cage gets well and truly rattled when I hear about footballers' salaries. The highest paid footballer in 2022, Kylian Mbappe, earns \$62m per year. For kicking around a football.

### **So, what can we do, you and me?**

It is regular giving that makes a massive and consistent difference. If an organisation knows that it is going to receive money on a regular basis it can plan accordingly. From a SMOAT point of view, for instance, during the pandemic when we couldn't hold ordinary fund-raising events, we relied almost entirely on our regular givers to ensure that we could continue supporting projects. However, I know that is not possible for everyone.

It is not necessary to give monthly, some of our regular givers give quarterly. Also, don't forget that money generally goes a lot further in the developing world. I guess I'm saying that giving something, whatever you can afford, is better than not giving anything. If the big boys in this world can't distribute wealth more evenly, then perhaps it is down to us little people to try to distribute our own wealth a little more evenly.

We can make provision in our Wills. Again, it doesn't have to be an enormous amount to make a significant difference. How wonderful to know that even when we're not here we can make a huge impact on the lives of so many people!

We can alert other people to the needs of our friends in other countries. Part of the remit of SMOAT is to educate people about those needs. That is why we always insist that, when we give money to organisations for a project, they must report to us on the progress and outcome of that project. It is so important to be informed.

So, you see, there are things that we can do to help. If you are able, please consider giving on a regular basis and then, next time there is a world crisis, we will still be able to help the people who are the first to be forgotten but who really need and rely on the kindness and generosity of other people to survive.

BARBARA PERKINS, *Chairman*

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Our apologies that circumstances prevented us producing a newsletter earlier this year, but we hope you enjoy this bumper edition.

## Finally ... the end of the gap years

Two and a quarter years. That's one hundred and seventeen weeks, or eight hundred and nineteen days. It feels safe to make the claim - in the absence of definitive research - that in the 40+ years of SMOAT's history there has never previously been such a lengthy gap between the dates of consecutive "live" fundraising events.

It was just one effect of the Covid-19 pandemic, as, initially, Government regulations and, latterly, a desire to proceed with caution and pragmatism prevented any events from going ahead that involved crowds gathering - particularly in indoor spaces.

There was therefore something of a celebratory feel to the Bingo Afternoon held in St Mark's Church Centre on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> April: a sense that, for SMOAT, things were at last beginning to return to normal, with the opportunity to greet and thank our band of loyal supporters face-to-face. That as many as 80 people attended seemed to speak for itself.

It felt particularly appropriate that the "comeback" event was a Bingo Afternoon, as the final fundraiser held before the pandemic took hold had been ... yes, a Bingo Afternoon. Two and a quarter years of relative

inactivity bookended by two full houses: who, on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2020, could possibly have foreseen that?

While the very youngest to attend in April 2022 had not been born in January 2020, the rest of us were all two and a quarter years older. But some things remained reassuringly constant. Graham Humphries, undertaking the calling role in his own inimitable style, displayed commendable stamina while using the "number" element of Bingo to keep us up to speed on prime numbers, square roots etc .

Tea and cakes were thoroughly enjoyed. The tombola did such good business that it was at risk of running out of prizes. And, in keeping with the celebratory vibe, we all sang "Happy Birthday" to SMOAT's Chair, Barbara, who was enjoying a landmark birthday on that very day.

In fundraising terms, the event was a resounding success, generating almost £530. The Bingo Afternoon was held in support of the charitable organisation Britain Nepal Otology Service (BRINOS). Because of the very high altitudes at which much of Nepal's population lives, deafness and hearing difficulties are rife. BRINOS works to help alleviate these problems through surgery

carried out at “ear camps”, normally held annually but of course paused during the Covid pandemic.

BRINOS needed funds to facilitate the purchase of essential surgical equipment. Using the proceeds of the Bingo Afternoon and money generously donated by its regular givers, SMOAT has been able to send a cheque for

£1,250, which has been gratefully received.

The SMOAT Committee is extremely thankful to all who supported the event in any way, and also to those who give on a regular basis. We look forward to further fundraising gatherings in what we earnestly hope will be the new post-pandemic era.

DAVID LEAR

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## Wells in Lunga, Zambia.

We were delighted to raise £5,020 in our 2020 Christmas Appeal for our partner, Afrinspire who are working in Lunga Island, Zambia.

This was a region hugely affected by devastating floods and in desperate need of wells for clean water.

A cheque was issued in April 2021 and things moved quickly to start construction. Penelope Machipi, a local Zambian, has been instrumental in facilitating the planning and building of several wells which are now up and running. The team has worked hard to build 2 new wells, and repair an additional two in Chibulu, Chibondo, Kasoma and Kansenga. Additional work has been completed to drill bore holes.



Orphaned as a young teenager, Penelope benefitted from a sponsorship programme which supported her and enabled her to finish her education. This incredible woman now works tirelessly in her local



community and is a true “agent of change”. We are absolutely delighted to support her in providing sanitation support to a whole community which will undoubtedly save lives.

NAOMI FLOOD

*The photos show the casting of concrete caissons, their sinking into the ground to form the well-head, and the pump nearly finished.*



# Treasurer's Report – Autumn 2022

This report covers the year end accounts for 2021 and the activities to date for 2022.

Before I start with the review I would like to make you aware that our bank, HSBC, has started charging fees for banking activities, particularly paying in cheques and paying in cash. If you are thinking about making a donation and have access to online banking, please consider making a transfer as these are not charged.

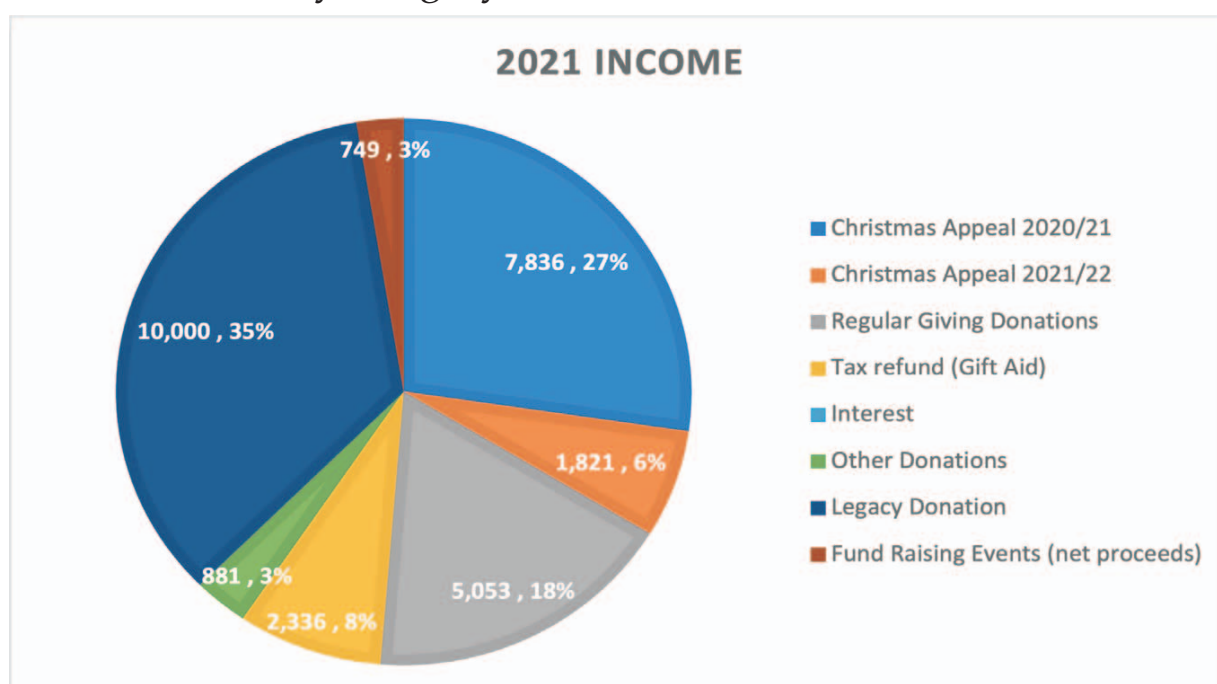
## SMOAT Financial Review of 2021

Our total income for 2021 was £28,677. Our expenditure during the year was £271, covering our liability insurance and newsletter printing costs, giving a net income of £28,406.

The results compared to 2020 are shown in this table:

	2021	2020
Total Income	£28,677	£16,514
Total Expenditure	£271	£236
Net Receipts	£28,406	£16,278
Gifts Made	£19,830	£17,360
Excess of Income over Gifts	£8,576	-£1,082

Our income increased by 74% compared to 2021. This includes a legacy of £10,000. If the legacy is excluded our income increased by 13%. The breakdown by category is shown below:



In 2021 Covid continued to impact on our events. We were unable to hold any face to face events. In spring we held our Sunflowers at home event. We made and delivered 108 sunflower packs and raised £750 for Bees for Development.

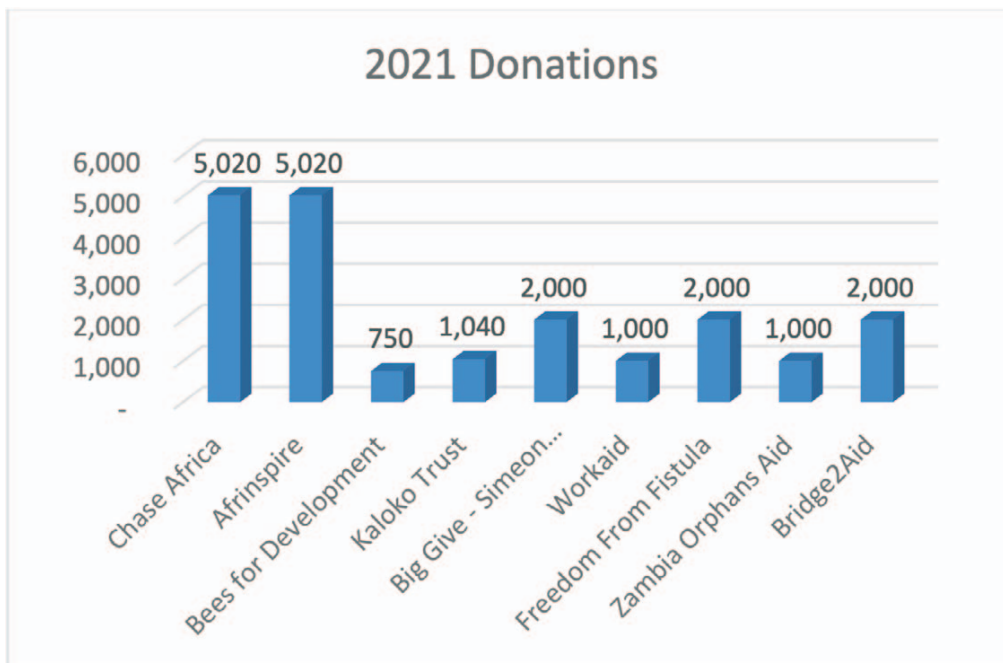
We received a very generous legacy of £10,000 that helped uplift our income significantly.

Our Christmas Appeal raised £8,443 in donations – this includes donations received prior to 2020 year end. With Gift Aid we raised £10,098. This is our best ever result – thank you to everyone for your incredible support. This enabled us to give significant donations to Afrinspire and Chase Africa.

This year the income from our Regular Givers has been critical to enabling us to continue to provide support. Thank you so much to all our regular givers. If you aren't a regular giver but feel you could make a regular donation please contact me by email on [treasurer@smoat.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@smoat.org.uk) and I'll send you a standing order form.

We received £2,336 in Gift Aid from HMRC. If you are a tax payer and are not currently registered for gift aid please consider completing the gift aid form so we can claim the tax back on it – this will increase the value of your donation by 25%.

In total we made gifts of £19,830. The donations made during the year are summarised below:



Again it has been a challenging year for us and our supporters. Thank you so much for continuing to support us.



## 2022 Activities to Date

2022 has had a good start. At the beginning of the year we were able to make generous donations to Advantage Africa and Village Water of £4,500 each as a result of the fantastic response to our 2021 Christmas Appeal.

For our SMOAT at Home activity this year we delivered chocolate brownies for Mother's day. This raised £390 for the Wonder Foundation to establish a mentoring project for young women. As we feel their work is so important we used other funds to make a donation of £1,500.

We also held our first face to face event for two years with our Bingo event in April. The event raised £530 and we hope you all had a great afternoon of bingo and cakes. We made a donation of £1,250 to BRINOS.

In September we held our very successful Barbecue Brunch event. The weather was kind and we all had a great time. The event raised £838. We made a donation of £2,500 to Hope Health Action.

In addition to the donations identified above we have made additional donations to Educaid, Doctors for Nepal and Empathy International.

A huge "Thank You" again to you all for continuing to support us through your donations and by attending our events.

JEAN WALLER, *Treasurer*

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## A new monarch and two new prime ministers later ...

In the distant past - actually in December 2020 - the SMOAT Committee made plans to hold a Barbecue Brunch, this fundraising event to be staged in May 2021.

As the spring of 2021 blossomed, Covid was still very much with us, and the date of the Brunch was put back to July. It was possibly "lockdown fatigue" that caused the event to prove very popular. More than 30 bookings had

already been taken when it sadly became clear that such constraints and restrictions would have to be put in place as to render the Brunch extremely difficult to manage.

Quite late in the day, we bowed to the inevitable and reluctantly agreed upon a postponement. Once Covid had been banished, we told ourselves, the idea could be revived.

What seems a fairly long time ago - actually in September 2021 - the Brunch idea was revisited, with the intention of holding the event during what became the long, hot summer that we enjoyed this year.

As it turned out, a multitude of reasons conspired to prevent us from finding a date for the Brunch during our preferred period - June or early July. The Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations were a significant factor, creating



knock-on effects which resulted in us eventually having to abandon the notion of a summer event. Early autumn it would have to be, and finally, on Saturday 24 September, the Brunch did indeed take place, a full 21 months after the idea was first mooted.

Reflecting upon the length of this process brought home to me how much change we had witnessed during those months, much of it driven by the Covid pandemic and its aftermath. Working from home and its hybrid sister, part-working from home, seem here to stay, while the trend to shop online, rather than in actual shops, appears irreversible - for better or worse.

And there have been other major changes. The loss of our Queen of 70 years went some way towards uniting the country in

remembrance, the removal of her 14<sup>th</sup> Prime Minister earlier in the summer less so. The downfall of Prime Minister no. 15, between the date of the Brunch and the time of writing, only served to

emphasise the transitory nature of success and high office.

And what of the Brunch? Splendidly hosted by Louise and Ken Packer in their delightful garden (and equally delightful kitchen), it was thoroughly enjoyed by 50 or so brunchers on an unexpectedly warm and sunny morning. Full English breakfasts were produced to individual order, washed down with Prosecco, juice and gallons (or litres if you prefer) of tea and coffee. On the day, the efforts of the SMOAT Committee were augmented by those of Graham Humphries, Chris Flood and Sheridan Bowers, whose help was invaluable and greatly appreciated.

Conversation flowed, and, most importantly, more than £860 was raised for Hope Health Action

(Haiti), enabling SMOAT to make a donation of £2,500 to the charity. A separate item about Hope Health Action and the project supported by SMOAT can be found elsewhere in this newsletter.

All in all, it was a successful, enjoyable and productive event, and only the second “live” SMOAT fundraising activity to

take place since the easing of Covid-induced restrictions. The SMOAT Committee, as always, is hugely grateful to all who supported it in any way, and also to those whose generous regular giving allowed us to donate such a significant sum to Hope Health Action (see more details in the following article).

DAVID LEAR



We are delighted to have forged a partnership with Hope Health Action, a 15-year-old organisation providing life-saving health and disability care across Haiti and East

Africa. Hope Health Action started their work in Haiti, the third largest country in the Caribbean by area. Historically poor and politically unstable, Haiti has the lowest Human Development Index in the Americas, as well as widespread slavery. Haiti’s history is heart-breaking; it has endured a coup d’État, catastrophic earthquake, and a socioeconomic and political crisis marked by riots, widespread hunger and increased gang activity.

Hope Health Action, co-founded Hospital Convention Baptiste d’Haiti (HCBH), one of the leading hospitals in northern Haiti, which includes a 25-bed maternity facility, 30+ bed paediatric and neonatal unit, and a 15-bed A&E department as well as other internal services and community health services.

In our conversations with the charity, they were very clear from the outset that what was most urgently needed was access to reliable power. Ongoing instability in Haiti’s capital, and rising global fuel costs has proved a constant challenge in 2022. Over the summer, caused a new critical fuel shortage leaving health facilities at risk of reducing services or closing. At one point, the hospital was at risk of closing, with only 2 days of fuel remaining before an emergency supply arrived.

Hope Health Action has already invested in solar energy for the hospital and had costed a much-needed upgrade to the solar capacity, including panels and specialist fuel saving batteries. This includes a PowerCube technology, reducing the need for diesel generators, and is a game changer in the fight against fuel insecurity and inflation. As part of a £7,000 appeal, Hope Health Action asked SMOAT to fund £2,500 which will fully fund 16 batteries which form part of this solar technology.

NAOMI FLOOD

# Supporting family planning in Kenya

In our 2020 Christmas Appeal, SMOAT was delighted to fund a series of mobile health clinics in the Kakamega region of Kenya facilitated by Chase Africa. Delivered by a local Kenyan organisation called CHV (Community Health Volunteers), one of the main services they provide is based on family planning education and distribution of contraception.

Following receipt of our donation of £4,500 in April 2021, Chase Africa moved quickly to mobilise CHV and get the clinics back on the road in the aftermath of COVID. They have recently sent us some wonderful updates. In addition, reading their 2021 annual impact report, I was moved by the words of their UK Director, Henry Pomeroy who reflected on the importance of family planning in East Africa:

“On my first visit to CHASE Africa’s partners in January 2013, I saw a rural mobile clinic in operation and started to understand just how important family planning is.

"We met a woman who wanted a 3-year subcutaneous implant. She was given a standard test to establish she was not pregnant before the implant was inserted. To her shock, the test came back positive. Amid tears and confusion, she left. The nurse explained to me that she would in all likelihood seek an abortion, which is illegal in Kenya and would probably be unsafe, possibly causing serious health complications.

“That incident made me understand the devastating impacts of being unable to access timely information and contraceptive services, which we take for granted in the UK. This is the awful reality for so many women in rural East Africa.

“Many years later, it remains a great inspiration to see the very significant contributions our partners make to the communities they serve.”

It was also wonderful to see the actual impact of the clinics we have directly funded. So in Q2 of their project (July-September 2021) CHV reported:

“We have managed to reach **2,625** clients for family planning and 1,334 of the same being first time users, last quarter we had 5 CHVs working on the referral project. But in addition **7,190** patients were reached with other related general information on reproductive health and 23 people living with disabilities were reached too with general information on reproductive health.



*CHV mobile health clinic team*

“Despite the fact that corona virus is still being reported in Kenya, women and young girls are still coming out in large numbers to receive different methods of family planning services in different health facilities.

“From the date above **2,625** women have been protected from unintended pregnancy, this is a big step for most of the families’ future development”.

Everlyine Otieno is 34 years old from Shidodo Village from Kakamega County got married at the age of 20 years, she has four children last born being one year old girl, she come to attend one of the outreaches at Shidodo health centre and requested a contraceptive implant.

“I want my four children to have good education and good life, life is so hard and am only earning enough to take care of my family.”



She was very excited when she received the implanon device which will prevent unwanted pregnancy.

NAOMI FLOOD

## Could you help us?

Might you be interested in giving us a hand at our events? We could usefully have a couple more people able to help us at our occasional fundraising events, maybe helping run the Tombola, putting out tables and chairs, folding napkins, helping with cooking, or welcoming people as they arrive.

If you could be persuaded, or just to find out more of what it involves, do drop Barbara an email at [chair@smoat.org.uk](mailto:chair@smoat.org.uk) – it has to be said that we enjoy running these events just as much as those who attend, but spreading the load across a few more hands would allow us to put on even better events in the future.

# “SMOAT at Home”

## Mothering Sunday bake off!

Being part of the SMOAT committee often involves members undertaking a veritable medley of roles. From fundraising, to researching. From canvassing support, to writing and editing newsletters and presentations. We draw upon the pool of talent and experience amongst our small, but perfectly formed, super team. And whilst we each have designated specialisms, sometimes it’s literally a case of all hands on deck!

On a bright spring morning, back in March, the SMOAT committee gathered in my kitchen to form a bakery assembly line. Their mission - to bake multiple trays of perfect salted caramel brownies to meet the online orders that had piled in over previous weeks

It was a “SMOAT at Home” event for Mothering Sunday, where we pledged to deliver homemade brownies, delicately wrapped alongside origami butterflies, to households in the Reigate & Redhill catchment who had placed a pre-order.

With precision accuracy (?!) ingredients were weighed, whisked and whipped, and within a few hours the kitchen bellowed chocolatey deliciousness.



After a short tea break, while things cooled, the trays of brownies were sliced and wrapped and carefully labelled for distribution. And by late afternoon a majority of over 180 brownies had been hand delivered.

It’s extremely rewarding to be part of such a fun group of like-minded individuals, who are all prepared to give up their time, and muck in, to simply make things happen.



We always have such fun in the process. And what makes it even sweeter is knowing the money raised will make such a difference, as we've all been involved in the process by which the projects supported have been identified, scrutinised and chosen.

The £1,500 we were able to donate to the Wonder Foundation in Cameroon as a result of this particular event, is a perfect case in point. This grant will help establish a mentoring programme at Sorawell Professional Training College, Yaounde, Cameroon. The goal of this

project is to provide 50 young women with accredited training, so they will have the opportunity to leave poverty for good, benefit their local community, and progress in the hospitality industry. A perfect synergy with our baking event!

Mentoring empowers women and girls so that over time they acquire the resources and skills, and sustained behavioural changes to act independently and make their own choices. Many females in Cameroon have suffered stress due to bereavement, poverty and displacement. In the most extreme cases violence and assault. Cameroon is considered a dangerous place for women to live.

The Wonder Foundation's strength lies in supporting and building the capacity with their local partners to support sustainable poverty reduction, and maximising their voice. We greatly look forward to hearing the feedback and positive outcomes from this project, and will keep you abreast of the progress.

In the meantime if you fancy getting involved with our committee, volunteering your skills or time, please drop us a line. We'd love to hear from you. Many hands make light work.

CLAIRE BOWERS



# Bees for Development

SMOAT were delighted to donate £750 last year following our sunflower growing competition which is funding bee keeping training and equipment in Ethiopia. Below is a letter we received reporting progress with the project.

## Bees for Development

1 Agincourt Street, Monmouth NP25 3DZ, UK Tel +44 (0)1600 714848  
info@beesfordevelopment.org www.beesfordevelopment.org



11 May 2021

**St Mark's Overseas Aid Trust**  
Dear Naomi

Please convey our sincere thanks to the **St Mark's Overseas Aid Trust** for their kind donation to **Bees for Development**. We are delighted to be the recipients of the funds you raised through the sunflower growing initiative and impressed by the children raising funds through their bake sale.

The people we work with are being particularly hard hit by COVID-19 and the interventions enforced to curtail its spread, yet we are encouraged to see how beekeeping is helping. In Ghana, people have lost jobs in towns and returned to rural areas, where they have been eager to join our beekeeping programme to make a new livelihood.

In Ethiopia, the income provided by bees is providing a shield against the reduced availability of jobs near the urban area of Bahir Dar.

In Uganda, many farmers are struggling to sell their produce where transport has stopped, however while fresh produce rapidly loses value, honey and beeswax can be stored and retain their value.

We continue our work with renewed understanding of the vital importance of bees. Beekeeping income enables families to afford schooling, clothes and medicine for their children and bees create a determination amongst their keepers, to nurture their habitat – and in doing so maintain precious biodiversity, vital for sustainable life on earth.

Your donation is helping us to make life better for some of the poorest people, and we are most grateful to you.

**Nicola Bradbear**  
Director, Bees for Development

### Bees for Development Trust

President: HRH The Duchess of Cornwall

Trust Patrons: Monty Don, Baroness Anita Gale, Martha Kearney  
Professor Tom Seeley, Sting (Gordon Sumner), Bill Turnbull

Registered Office: 1 Agincourt Street Monmouth NP25 3DZ, UK

**Bees for Development Trust** is the working title of The Troy Trust UK Charity 188803



# 2022 Project news and new partners!

## Empathy (Laos) £1,600

SMOAT are delighted to donate £1,600 to our new partner, Empathy. Started by a Scottish fisherman in 2010, Empathy has been working alongside the marginalised rural poor of Northern Laos in South East Asia. Starting with income-generating fish and mushroom projects, the team has expanded into a number of new livelihood projects for the vulnerable and disadvantaged.



Empathy asked SMOAT to fund a cohort of 8 girls to participate in their established 'Dignity' young women skills programme. This provides intensive high skill residential training over 2 months to young village women so they are able to make and repair clothes. On completion, each woman is gifted a foot-powered 'singer' sewing machine along with items needed to start a business in their own village.

## Wonder Foundation (Cameroon) £1,500

SMOAT have donated £1,500 to our new partner, Wonder Foundation, a British-founded charity which works to empower women and girls through access to education and vocational training.

Wonder Foundation asked us to fund a roll-out of a mentoring programme in Sorawell Professional Training College in Yaounde, Cameroon. The college provides hospitality and catering courses. In Cameroon, the female literacy rate is less than 30%, and 31% of girls are married before they are 18. This impacts their economic, social, family and personal wellbeing and fulfilment. Many of the students have suffered stress due to parental bereavement (40% have lost both parents, 60% have lost one), poverty, displacement, and in some cases violence and assault.

The programme will provide training for 50 young women and empowers women and girls so that over time they acquire the resources, skills and sustained behaviour changes needed to act independently.

The goal of the project is that women are able to capitalise on their vocational training more effectively, with quality mentoring helped to support them to complete their courses, access good work and progress both professionally and personally.

## **BRINOS, (Nepal) £1,250**

SMOAT has a long standing relationship with Neil Weir at Brinos. The charity provides ear surgery and audiology services in rural Nepal and runs camps sending UK surgeons and staff to provide life-changing surgery.

We asked Neil whether there was any urgently needed equipment at his clinics. SMOAT have been able to fund some specialist but essential equipment which will equip two of their community ear assistants in the field - a portable suction machine, and portable audio meters.



## **Educaid, (Sierra Leone) £2,200**

Those of you who attended our launch for the 2019 Christmas Appeal, will remember the wonderful Erin Northey from Educaid.

We funded classroom refurbishment for Lumley School in Freetown for the 'Strong Girl Incubator' - girls returning to education following birth trauma.

When I called Erin in July, she spoke to her local team who came back unanimously with the request for funding for a generator for the Rolal secondary school. "I appreciate this might not seem glamorous, but it is an urgent need for us" she wrote. Educaid have been working to upgrade the solar systems at all of their schools, but a back up generator is still essential for the rainy season and also for devices that have a heavier burden to protect the solar supply. The school has 260 students, of which 224 are residential, including 47 girls in the Strong Girl Incubator programme.

Erin was delighted when we offered to pay for the generator in full which will help the solar power not to be overburdened, and therefore more reliable, and cost-effective.

NAOMI FLOOD

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We are now making tickets for some SMOAT events available online through TicketSource. For event details, see **[www.SMOAT.org.uk](http://www.SMOAT.org.uk)**

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*For more information please contact any of the committee, listed below. To join our mailing list, or to switch to receiving an electronic (rather than a paper) copy of the Newsletter, e-mail [richard@smoat.org.uk](mailto:richard@smoat.org.uk)*

Barbara Perkins (Chairman)

e-mail: [chair@smoat.org.uk](mailto:chair@smoat.org.uk)

Jean Waller (Treasurer)

e-mail: [treasurer@smoat.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@smoat.org.uk)

Richard Salmon

Claire Bowers

David Lear

Naomi Flood

Louise Barr