

SAMSON

SAFAD MEMBERS' SOURCE OF NEWS

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ABOUT SAFAD

Silsoe Aid for Appropriate Development (SAFAD) is a British charity run by students of Cranfield University. Since 1969, SAFAD has sent over 340 graduate and post-graduate volunteers to almost 40 different countries in the developing world. Each year, a student volunteers to work with local organisations on existing and new projects. Every SAFAD volunteer has been a Cranfield graduate or post-graduate student in disciplines such as water, soil and environmental sciences, engineering management and health. SAFAD aims to help relieve poverty by promoting appropriate development, community participation and capacity building to create sustainable livelihoods. The volunteers, in turn, gain experience through their work.

UPDATE – February 2021

Project Partner: CAMINOS DE AGUA

Camino De Agua is based in San Miguel de Allende, Mexico. Their mission is to improve human health and community well-being through adequate and affordable access to clean water. Groundwater is the main source of water for communities in the region, yet it is often of poor quality.

Camino De Agua work in partnership with local communities, leading research institutions, and other diverse actors to innovate and implement water solutions that create access to safe, adequate drinking water. Camino De Agua also act as a 'finishing school' for aspiring engineers, scientists and other young professionals looking to make social and environmental impacts in their work.

Two SAFAD Volunteers - Johanna and Cristina - completed projects with Camino De Agua in 2020. Johanna's project involved designing and building a groundwater treatment system that removes arsenic and fluoride, including procuring the materials and community awareness and participation. Johanna was also involved in the water quality testing and reporting for Spirulina farmers in the area.



Johanna involved in the design and construction of a groundwater treatment system



Caminos De Agua team in Mexico

Cristina was involved in a project focusing on water quality in the area. One solution to poor drinking water quality at a household level is using ceramic filters and Cristina's project was to ensure the new improved ceramic filters complied with the requirements.

Project Partner: GOAL Global

Founded in 1977, GOAL works to promote the realisation of the fundamental rights of the poor, the vulnerable, and those affected by humanitarian crisis. GOAL has been operational in Sierra Leone since 1998, and their Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) programme focusses on access to safe water sources, improved sanitation services and hygiene behaviours. GOAL works to address key challenges in operations and maintenance of water supply, sanitation marketing and faecal sludge management (FSM) with the overarching goal of improving people's health.

Chloe, a SAFAD volunteer, started her placement with GOAL in January 2021 and tells us what she has been up to.

“My work in this NGO is in the WASH (Water Sanitation & Hygiene) sector and focuses on the implementation of an innovative Faecal Sludge Management (FSM) system using Geobags for the sludge dewatering process. We are currently working on the construction finishes, and operation of this Faecal Sludge Treatment plant. The civil work is completed, and we will start the operation in a few weeks. The project brings together many different aspects such as business models, water engineering, community social engagement, political relations with local authorities, donor management and the pilot composting programme. The purpose of this project is to improve the quality of life and therefore public health through the safe and effective management of faecal sludge.”



Faecal Sludge Treatment Plant, Freetown



Remodelling of drying beds to install Geobags

Word from the President

SAFAD President 2020 – 2021: Lucy Whitley

"2020 has been a year like no other. Touching almost every country in the world, the impact of COVID-19 has become the biggest challenge for humanitarian and development organisations.

With travel restrictions, national lockdowns, and re-directed funds, SAFAD's work, as well as many other organisations, has been restricted. However, we are very happy that two volunteers returned safely from their projects and one SAFAD volunteer is already supporting GOAL on her placement in Sierra Leone. Fingers crossed that when restrictions start to lift, two more volunteers will be able to take up their placements in Kenya and Nigeria.

With the United Nations setting out a 'Decade of Action' calling to accelerate sustainable solutions to all the world's biggest challenges by 2030, SAFAD will continue to strive and align projects that will support the global community to reach Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. We are optimistic that SAFAD will continue as normal this year and will be able to support organisations with volunteers, to work on development projects and continue to leave positive impact on the lives of beneficiaries across the world."



Word from SAFAD's Patron

Sir Graham Fry

"It is great news that in spite of all the restrictions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, SAFAD is continuing to fulfil its purpose and has been able to send a volunteer, Chloe, to Sierra Leone, as well as having two other placements lined up. Unfortunately, the need for help is even greater than before because the poorest people are likely to be hardest hit by the economic consequences of the pandemic, and so SAFAD's contribution will continue to be important. I am impressed by the efforts which the committee, volunteers and supporters are making, and I have already signed up to make donations via Amazon Smile."



SUPPORTING SAFAD

How can you support SAFAD?

SAFAD is a student run charity and is a 100% volunteer-based committee. Our overheads are very low, and donations go exclusively to funding project volunteers. SAFAD relies on public donations and on-going support and generosity from charitable trusts and companies to continue supporting communities across the globe.

There are a few simple ways in which you can support SAFAD:

- ❖ *Donate with Amazon Smile* – we are delighted to announce that SAFAD is now part of Amazon Smile's charity list. This means that your everyday purchases could help increase the number of volunteers SAFAD is able to support. Your shopping experience stays the same; the only difference is that every time you shop on AmazonSmile, Amazon donates to your chosen charity. Simply follow the link and search 'Silsoe Aid for Appropriate Development' to get started. Link to [Amazon Smile](#)
- ❖ *Give as you Live *Online* – not only Amazon, but you can also raise FREE funds for SAFAD when you shop at over 4000 online stores. Simply follow the link to get started. Link to [Give as You Live](#)
- ❖ If you wish to make a direct donation, please get in touch with the SAFAD committee at fundraising.safad@cranfield.ac.uk

With thanks

Special thanks to the Cranfield's Student Association (CSA) and their staff for their continued support of SAFAD.

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