

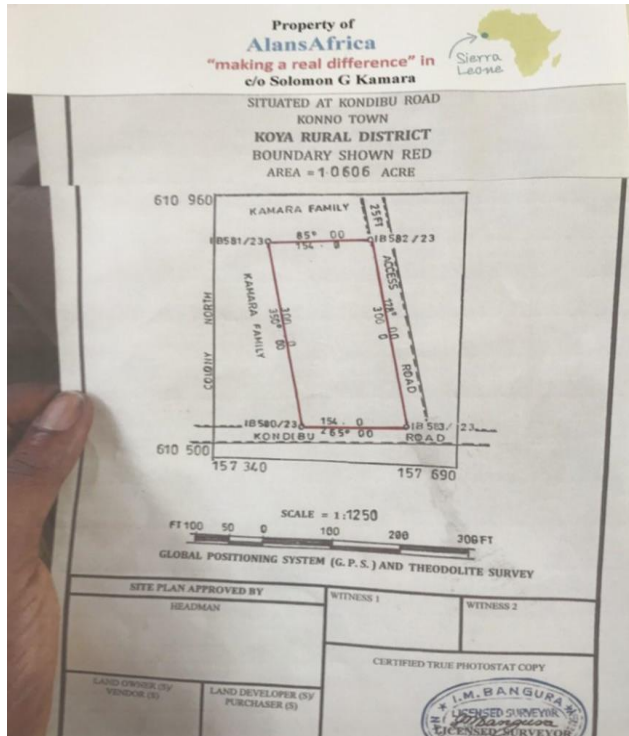


“making a real difference” in

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Westminster International Community School Konno Town Community Crossing

An update regarding the latest project brings some really fantastic news. We've now completed the purchase of half an acre of land and the community have gifted us another half an acre.



This means we have the go-ahead and can start building a new secondary school for Konno Town.

Work to dig the foundation trenches started on Friday. The builders are starting to make concrete blocks, concreting the footings and forming the foundations. Photo updates for you soon!

The school will be developed in 3 initial phases. Phase 1: to build a block containing two classrooms and an office/staffroom. Phase 2: to build a toilet block. Phase 3: to add an additional 2 classrooms.

The build cost for the entire project is **£15,500**. Phase 1 will cost £7,250, but I have already raised £4,100, with immense thanks to The Doris Field Charitable Trust for their very generous £2,000 grant. **£3,150** is needed to complete Phase 1. We have set up a Just Giving page. To read all about the project or to donate, please visit –

<https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/alan-safrica-konno>

The rainy season starts at the end of May and rainfall is significant, so this phase needs to be finished by the middle of May, and if funds were forthcoming it would be very beneficial to also complete the toilet block (£2,500) by then.

Exam Fees

The **West African Senior School Certificate Examination (WASSCE)** is a school-leaving exam similar to our GCSEs. Students sit exams in four main subjects - English, Mathematics, Integrated Science, Social Studies, and four elective subjects.

Community schools don't receive any government funding and students at this type of school therefore have to pay to take the end of year exams, at a cost equivalent to **£19.50**, which may not seem much to us, but for many parents this is a huge amount, especially when they are already paying termly tuition fees.

There are 387 children at my community schools needing to take these exams, but at present 117 of these children are unable to pay the costs. This has only been brought to my attention in the last few days and the deadline for entries is this coming **Friday 31st March**.

I am making a last-minute effort to fund these costs as if the students don't get funding, they will have to re-sit their year or may drop out of school.

I have said previously that my work in Sierra Leone involves juggling priorities and this is certainly the case at the moment, with building the school at Konno Town and now this unexpected issue. I have received a donation for £250 from a couple who support me regularly, had another 2 donations to fund 7 students exams from regular followers and have a further £320 in general funds. As I regard the exam situation as a high priority, I am going to divert £950, which was allocated for the Konno Town school but that still leaves a shortfall of approx. £620 which I hope to be able to cover by Friday. Continued thanks to all for your interest in and support of my projects - with your help, we are “Making a Real Difference” in Sierra Leone.

EVERY £ raised goes directly to the projects