

## IRFF UK: August 2024 - Reading Project Inspires Africa's Poorest

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[www.irff-uk.org](http://www.irff-uk.org)



## Reading Project Inspires Africa's Poorest

South Africa's townships are mostly urban residential areas that are severely underdeveloped. The residents suffer from crippling poverty and persistent crime and many are malnourished, illiterate and jobless.

This grim reality prompted IRFF-UK to step up in 2021 and support SHINE, an educational project already underway, in the dirt-poor township of Walmer in Port Elizabeth.

The SHINE Literacy Centre operates within the grounds of the Walmer Lower Primary School, located in a semi-rural community near Port Elizabeth International Airport.

It operates from two bright yellow 20-foot converted shipping containers within a fenced-off area and teaches basic English literacy to pupils from the primary school.

## The Situation

In a recent IRFF UK catch-up on the project, SHINE manager and headteacher Pat Hippert passionately explained the circumstances.



Headteacher Pat Hippert with a pupil at SHINE learning centre.

*"The needs here are enormous. The children are growing up in an incredible level of squalor."*

*Pat Hippert*

South African public schools are overcrowded, lack facilities and have a shortage of trained teachers. Classes are rowdy with 50 pupils to a teacher.

Despite English being the language of commerce and business (and gateway language to the rest of the world), Xhosa, Zulu and Afrikaans are the most widely spoken languages. Thus, a major weakness of the national education curriculum is that English is under-taught.

Children aged between 6-9 (grades 1-3) have English lessons lasting only between 15 minutes to a maximum of 1 hour per day.

However, from grade 4 (age 9 and up) all subjects are taught entirely in English! In addition, national education state policy dictates that no child up to grade 3 can be failed. As a result, children start grade 4 thinking they are smart, only to fail terribly in their end-of-year exams.

*"It's a nightmare and defeats the whole joy of learning. This is a huge stumbling block."*

*Pat Hibbert*

## SHINE's Role

SHINE's programme teaches grade 3 pupils to read English for meaning, so rather than just pronouncing the words they can understand them too. Additionally, the programme aligns with the state school curriculum and operates during school hours.



Teaching is usually delivered on a ratio of one teacher to two pupils.

*"We do the themes they do, and then we blend our SHINE curriculum into it. So it's about reinforcing all the time. We build the curriculum*

*together with the state school."*

*Pat Hibbert*

Teaching is usually given on a ratio of two pupils to one teacher.

*"The children get involved. They are very responsive, and for the first time they feel acknowledged. With the language, the spoken word, comes the building of self-confidence. That makes all the difference."*

*Pat Hibbert*

The ability to speak and understand the English language opens up the children's world. Even the state schoolteachers visit the facility to ask for guidance material and library books.

Pat works with a team of 32 native English-speaking volunteers, many of whom are former teachers and librarians. They all love teaching and have a vision to open up the children's minds.



SHINE pupils learning through play with a native English-speaking volunteer.

## **Barriers for the Children**

*"We cannot understand the trauma that many of these children live*

*with. What they have to cope with at home. For many, school is safer than home."*

*Pat Hibbert*

Many pupils see or suffer violence in their households, so the staff are watchful in case a child needs to be calmly reassured that school is a safe place.

*"The children are hungry when they come to school. Many have a little sugar water for breakfast and for dinner, and they rely on school lunch. You can't teach a hungry stomach, you just cannot."*

*Pat Hibbert*

Pat and her crew have water, fruit, instant soup, tea and biscuits at the ready for the children.

Failing at school ruins the children's confidence and they feel lost.

*"It's so easy to get involved in street gangs. Some become vagabonds and go on to steal and loot. So, we're empowering them with a sense of achievement, of purpose, of well-being. The least amount of effort and energy we put in is so enormously appreciated by the children."*

*Pat Hibbert*



Smart pupils in a photo grab with the teacher at SHINE.

## We know we can do more

SHINE is making a huge difference. With your support, we can help the school embrace even more children with the joy of education, help them feel safe in learning, and keep them off the streets.

If you are able, **please click the donation button** below and help more children SHINE.

IRFF UK currently sends around £300 per month to the SHINE project to help cover the costs of books and school supplies, food and clothing. Yet we want to do more and we know we can.

**Whether your donation is larger or smaller, every child counts.**

With thanks,

The IRFF-UK team

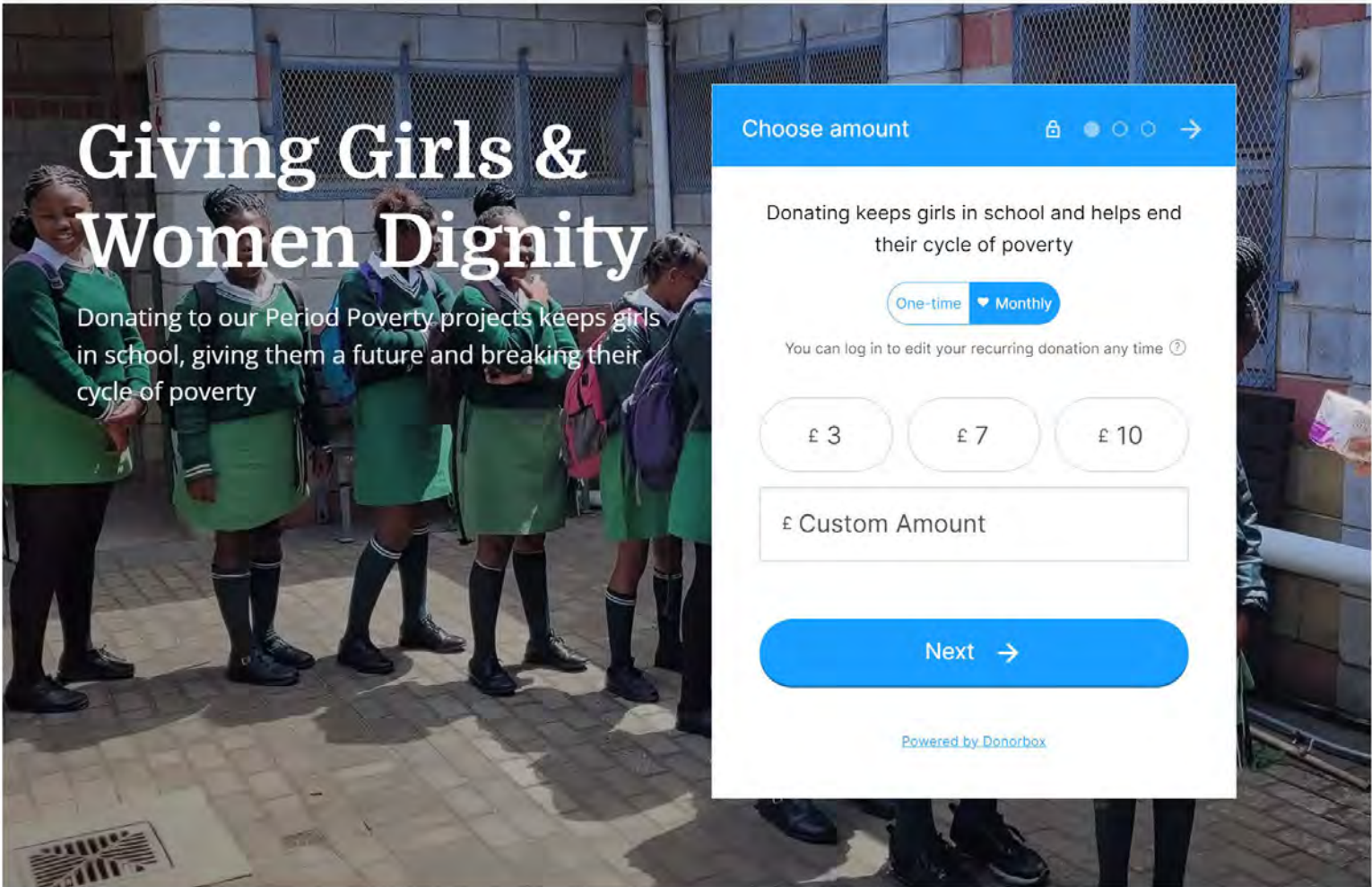
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International Relief Friendship Foundation

Account number: 96497645

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# Giving Girls & Women Dignity

Donating to our Period Poverty projects keeps girls in school, giving them a future and breaking their cycle of poverty

Choose amount 🔒 ● ○ ○ ○ →

Donating keeps girls in school and helps end their cycle of poverty

One-time  Monthly

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**Menstruation should not be a reason to hold anyone back in life. Donating a small amount today helps all girls and women fulfil their potential!**



Supply sanitary pads for girls, ensuring they avoid shame and never miss school.



Equip an entire class of girls with enough sanitary pads, enabling every student to attend school without interruption.



Support IRFF UK in sending our team to schools and projects for comprehensive menstruation education sessions.

||  
Yesterday was truly special as we set out to three communities to donate Reusable Pads. The experience was heartwarming beyond words. The communities of Wute, Logote, and Lawui in Akatsi, Volta Region, opened their doors to us with such warmth and gratitude.





joined by a dedicated seamstress, local leaders, and a compassionate nurse who spoke to the community in their own language, we not only distributed pads but also shared important information on their usage. We managed to distribute 430 pads amongst 3 communities, however, the need is greater than expected and many more communities still need our help! We made a heartfelt promise to return and reach out to those we couldn't help this time.

Vivian  
Period Poverty Director in Ghana



**Vivian**  
IRFF UK Period Poverty Director  
in Ghana

**“Thanks to IRFF UK, I never miss school. My family and I are hopeful for the future ahead.”**

Destiny Junior School Student

**Join Us In Making A  
Tangible Difference In The  
Lives Of Young Girls And  
Women In Need By Donating  
Today**

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Empowering Communities  
and Changing Lives

Charity Number: 281776

98 Dyke Drive, Orpington, BR5  
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A Charity for Africa

# Breaking The Cycle Of Poverty

IRFF UK, a charity for Africa based in the UK, runs projects throughout Africa with a key focus on fighting poverty through education and tackling period poverty.



Help end period poverty. Donate now for girls' education and empowerment.

[Click to Donate to Period Poverty](#)



Your donation helps children access quality education and build brighter futures.

[Click to Donate to Education](#)

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## Supporting African Communities from the UK UK Based Charity for Africa

### Our Charity Is Focused on Period Poverty & Education Support In Africa

IRFF UK is a UK-based charity for Africa operating projects across Africa with a **dual focus on education and addressing period poverty**. We are breaking the cycle of poverty by ensuring access to education for all and **preventing female dropouts through the provision of menstruation products and education**. Through this communities and youth are empowered and Africans are given the best chance for a brighter future.



the best chance for a brighter future.

[Support Us Today](#)



[Come See What We Do](#)

## What Areas Does Our Charity Support In Africa?

[Education](#)

[Period Poverty](#)

[Emergency Relief](#)

### Menstruation Should Not Be An Obstacle In Life

As a charity for Africa, IRFF UK holds a strong promise to help underprivileged African girls facing challenges, especially period poverty, which makes it hard for them to go to school. We are dedicated to breaking down these barriers by making sure these girls have what they need for their periods. By doing this, we empower these young minds, giving them the chance to stay in school, learn, and break free from the cycle of poverty.

[What is Period Poverty?](#) | [Ending Period Poverty](#)



## A Small Glimpse At The Difference IRFF UK Has Made How IRFF UK has helped in Africa so far?

[Destiny Junior School](#)

[Jigger Removal](#)

[Home For Children](#)

Kampala, Uganda

**Destiny Junior School**



**IRFF UK built Destiny Junior School in 2009. The children in the local area have thrived ever since!**

IRFF UK built **Destiny Junior School** in Kampala, Uganda in 2009, and has gone on to see more than 500 students graduates go into further education which otherwise wouldn't have happened. £115,000 has been invested in total, starting from £330 a month and now at £1,150 with 206 students in total



[Why Choose IRFF UK?](#)

## What makes our charity for Africa unique?

What sets IRFF UK apart is our commitment to more than just being intermediaries in fund transfers.

We prioritise a comprehensive approach centred on education and empowerment to uplift individuals from poverty.

Our unique focus is on equipping people with the skills necessary for self-sustainability, fostering independence rather than dependence on Western donations.

We believe in creating lasting change by empowering individuals to build a better future for themselves and their communities.

[How Can You Get Involved?](#)

## How Can You Support Our Charities Work In Africa?

[Making A Donation](#) 

[Spreading Awareness](#) 

[Volunteering Your Time & Skills](#) 

## What Our Donors Are Saying

*Your efforts in the areas of education, health and sustainability are vital in certain countries and truly appreciated. My family will continue to sponsor a child at Destiny Junior School in Uganda, and will endeavour to support other causes that IRFF UK informs us about.*

**Marshall de Souza**  
**Destiny School Sponsor**

*The Women's Federation for World Peace, South London, has been supporting Destiny Junior School through IRFF-UK for more than 12 years. Our ladies sincerely had been helping to provide a better place for the children of Destiny Junior School in Uganda. We believe Education and health are the most important things for the life of the child.*

**Dolores Read**  
**Destiny School Sponsor**

*I have been happy to support projects that IRFF is running in Uganda. In particular, I have donated funds towards the building of a perimeter wall and a library at Destiny School. I really appreciate the good work IRFF has been doing over the years to help people/children in Africa.*

**Joyce Suda**  
**Destiny School Donor**

## Support IRFF UK With A Donation Today

Yes, I'll Donate!

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