

Development Works

52 WEEKS A YEAR

INTRODUCTION

Every day, every week, every year DFID, the Department for International Development, is fighting poverty on behalf of the UK public.

This little book of successes highlights 52 case studies, one a week for a year, to show the range of work that DFID supports and the real impact that it is making on the lives of real people around the world.

There is still much to do but we hope that this book presents a convincing collection of stories to prove that real change is possible.

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LITERACY RATES SOAR IN ZAMBIA



Davison Mtonga has reason to celebrate. He's the head teacher at Chingwere School in Lusaka, Zambia's capital.

In his school, literacy rates among 5-11 year olds have dramatically improved. As a result, pupils are enjoying school more and absenteeism is almost unheard of.

It's all down to the Primary Reading Programme (PRP), funded by DFID and piloted by Chingwere and 44 other schools. Unlike Zambia's traditional teaching approach, in which pupils are taught to read and write in English, PRP requires pupils to be taught to read and write in Cinyja – the language they use at home and for play. They start to learn English a year later.

The results have been remarkable, with pupils achieving results typical of children a full two years older. Teachers are so impressed that they now apply the techniques they learned during PRP training to other subjects, and the school is planning to use PRP for adult literacy lessons.

Parents are also enthusiastic, which particularly pleases Mr Mtonga: "At the beginning some parents took their children out of the school because they wanted them to learn in English right away. Now they are desperate to bring their children back to Chingwele. They can see the difference that the PRP has made." Many parents are now raising money to equip classrooms.

After the success of the pilot, 6,000 schools across Zambia have started using PRP. The Permanent Secretary of Zambia's Ministry of Education has described it as the single most effective way of improving education.

- Concern about illiteracy led the Zambian government to adapt the Primary Reading Programme from a successful South African programme.
- About 1.6 million Zambian children have already benefited from the Primary Reading Programme, with reading and writing scores improving by 485% between 1999 and 2002.
- DFID has contributed £32 million to the programme, and in November 2005 the Zambian Ministry of Education took over its funding.

02 SHELTERS FOR SRI LANKA'S TSUNAMI-HIT MUSLIM COMMUNITIES



When the Asian tsunami struck Sri Lanka, 35,000 people were killed. Of those that survived, half a million lost their homes and many lost their livelihoods.

Among them were Mohiden and Asiya, an elderly couple from the village of Ninthavur on the east coast, whose home and thriving grocery shop were washed away.

Incredibly, the couple were able to open a new grocery store only six months later. "Business is slow but we won't be defeated," says Mohiden. "We're thankful that we've got somewhere to live and that we're back in business."

The swift revival of their business is testament to the couple's hard work and determination. It is also thanks to the £600,000 that DFID gave to Islamic Relief, an international charity, to build 900 temporary wooden shelters in Ninthavur and other villages nearby.

The shelters are built on concrete foundations, and each has a tin roof, two rooms and basic furnishings. Mohiden and Asiya used the front room of theirs to set up their new grocery shop, and business has been going well enough for them to get a loan to buy new stock.

Sathaviya and Sabir, who live nearby, have also adapted their shelter, by building an outside kitchen. This has made the place more homely and has created space for their new baby. Sathaviya says, "It's not easy losing everything you own. But having somewhere to keep our two lovely children safe makes it easier for us to begin to rebuild our lives."

- Islamic Relief works to alleviate the suffering of the world's poorest people.
- DFID has committed £2.8 million to helping Sri Lanka recover from the tsunami, in addition to the £75 million it contributed to the international appeal for all affected countries.
- Sri Lanka has been added to the list of countries eligible for the UK's new multilateral debt relief initiative. The UK will pay 10% of Sri Lanka's debt service costs until 2015.



The pineapple has become one of Ghana's best exports, with shipments to Europe increasing from 2,000 tonnes per year in the early 1980s to over 50,000 tonnes last year.

Sammy Ankoma is a pineapple farmer whose livelihood has been transformed by this growth. "I've built a lovely house, and was the first farmer in the village to buy a car," he proudly declares.

Like other farmers, Sammy owns a small plot of land and sells at an agreed price to an exporter. The exporter supplies him with finance, training, fertiliser and even building materials for his home.

But this comfortable arrangement was recently challenged by a new pineapple variety – the MD2. This is favoured by European supermarkets for its sweeter flavour and higher fibre content, meaning less demand for Ghanaian varieties.

So in 2004 the Ghanaian government launched a \$2m programme to introduce the MD2 to Ghana. The trials were successful, and showed that Ghana had a favourable climate, giving it an advantage over established MD2 producers.

But to start growing the MD2, Sammy and other farmers needed a loan to replace their existing plants – a costly business, especially since interest rates in Ghana are high.

To help them get access to cheaper finance, and to improve the business environment in general, Ghana's government, with DFID's support, has launched a Private Sector Development Strategy and Action Plan. This will cut red tape, improve transport and storage facilities, and ultimately help farmers like Sammy compete with producers from other countries.

- Agriculture accounts for 60% of Ghana's workforce and over 30% of its GDP, but most of its agricultural activity is subsistence farming.
- Over 80% of poverty in Ghana is concentrated in the rural areas where subsistence farmers live, so the modernisation of agriculture is essential for economic development.
- Ghana's' Private Sector Development Strategy is designed to reduce poverty, partly by addressing the constraints on small businesses in rural areas.

04 REDUCING AFRICAN POVERTY – WITH MOBILE PHONES



Few people have heard of Dr Mohamed Ibrahim, but he is responsible for bringing mobile communications to a staggering 30% of Africa's population.

Many phone operators saw Africa as too risky an investment, but Dr Ibrahim saw potential. "There is a big gap between perception and reality," he says. "When you ask people what they think of Africa, they think of AIDS, genocide, disasters, famine. But Africa has 53 countries. There are really peaceful parts of the continent."

Since Dr Ibrahim founded Celtel in 1998, the continent has achieved the world's fastest growth in mobile-phone

ownership. This has played an important role in reducing poverty. A London Business School study shows that, in developing countries, an increase of ten mobile phones per hundred people boosts the economy's growth rate by 0.6%.

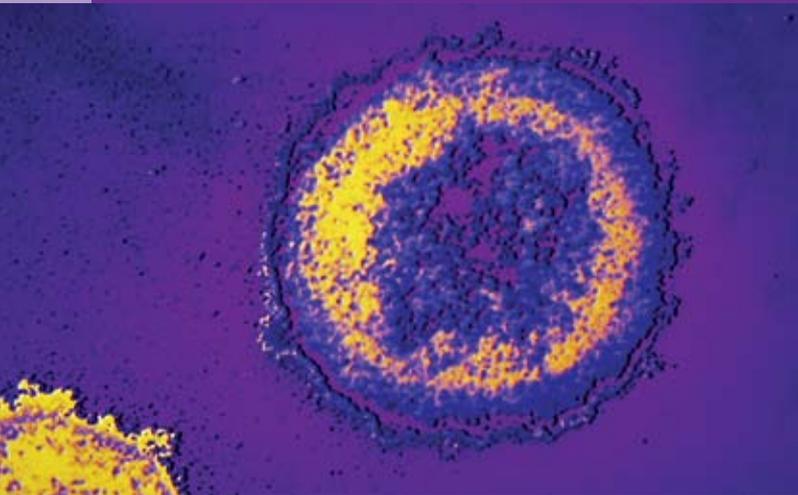
At its simplest, a mobile phone allows farmers and fishermen to find out the prices in various markets, and allows a handyman to travel to nearby villages only when he is told by phone that there is a job available. In Kenya and Tanzania mobile phones are improving healthcare provision, where doctors use them to diagnose patients living in remote communities.

Celtel's second-largest investor was DFID's private-sector development arm, CDC, which gave Celtel management advice, encouraged it to apply good employment practices, and paved the way for other organisations to invest in the company.

When MTC of Kuwait bought Celtel in 2005, CDC received a 500% return on its investment – money that will be spent on new development initiatives.

- Celtel operates in Malawi, Zambia, Sierra Leone, Egypt, Gabon, Chad, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Guinea, Burkina Faso, Niger, Sudan, Tanzania and Kenya.
- CDC Group was founded in 1948. It is the British government's instrument for investing in the private sector of developing economies, and is wholly owned by DFID.
- Between 2001 and 2004, CDC invested £650 million in private businesses in Africa, Asia and South America.

05 NEW WEAPONS IN THE WAR AGAINST HIV AND AIDS IN AFRICA



HIV and AIDS is spreading faster among women in sub-Saharan Africa than among any other group in the world.

Lucinda Julia Ngomane, from Maputo in Mozambique, is one of those who have contracted the virus. She is just 18 years old.

Many women, particularly in developing countries, have become HIV-positive because they are unable to persuade their partners to wear condoms. To protect women in this position, scientists are striving to develop a microbicide – a substance that kills microbes – which can be applied as a cream or gel before sex, creating a barrier that prevents the virus from entering the body.

It is estimated that if all women who are currently unable to use condoms applied a microbicide, even a 60%-effective product could prevent 3.7 million infections within three years. This would transform the fight against AIDS.

About 60 microbicides are now in development, with 14 in clinical trials. DFID has provided £16 million of funding for the Medical Research Council's Microbicide Development Programme. This programme has developed two microbicides which it will shortly put through final trials involving 12,000 women throughout sub-Saharan Africa. The products are expected to be on the market before the end of the decade.

Jonathan Weber, professor of genito-urinary medicine and communicable diseases at Imperial College London, says, "As we have still not been able to develop an effective HIV vaccine, vaginal microbicides are now the most promising biomedical intervention for the prevention of HIV infection."

- The Medical Research Council's Microbicide Development Programme aims to develop vaginal microbicides for the prevention of HIV transmission. The programme is funded by DFID and administered by the Council's Clinical Trials Unit and Imperial College London.
- DFID is the world's second-largest bilateral AIDS donor, and is working in 40 countries around the world.
- Between 2004 and 2007, DFID is providing £1.5 billion of funding worldwide for the fight against HIV and AIDS.

FLYING EMERGENCY AID TO EARTHQUAKE-HIT PAKISTAN



Jacqui Gavin was at the front line of relief operations in Pakistan's earthquake-hit areas. She specialises in logistics and food procurement, and is part of DFID's conflict and humanitarian operations team.

It's a role for which her experience stands her in good stead: she spent 18 years in the British Army before completing a degree in conflict resolution.

The task facing Jacqui and her colleagues was made particularly challenging by region's remoteness. She explains: "A lot of the higher areas can actually be inaccessible for about four months of the year because of snow."

Jacqui's team had three Chinook helicopters and an RAF attachment at its disposal. Each helicopter can transport six tonnes of aid, and return with 24 casualties. Between them the helicopters could carry 280 tonnes of aid each week. DFID has also provided four smaller helicopters to operate in restricted areas during the winter.

"It's very much this effort to get what we can to the people that need it," says Jacqui, "things like shelter, health kits, cooking utensils, food ... as well as bringing out the sick and injured."

DFID reacted swiftly to the earthquake, working with international partners and the UK's Disasters Emergency Committee, an alliance of 13 leading aid agencies. It funded and coordinated aid delivery, provided emergency relief and trawled the world for helicopters that could be used once the RAF had completed the most urgent tasks. This work allowed relief organisations to dedicate their funds to providing aid, rather than transport.

- DFID assisted the Disasters Emergency Committee by organising and funding 69 air sorties to Pakistan, delivering 1,800 tonnes of aid on behalf of its 13 member organisations.
- DFID also sent its own aid directly to Pakistan, including 9,000 tents, 200,000 blankets and 100,000 tarpaulins, as well as vehicles and communications equipment.
- In all, DFID contributed £58m to the relief effort, and has pledged a further £70 million for longer-term reconstruction.

07 IMPROVING AIDS AWARENESS IN ZAMBIA



Juliet Mweetwa is 27 years old, and plays an active role in educating people about HIV and AIDS in her town in southern Zambia.

She runs awareness workshops, helps those who are HIV positive live healthy lives and supports people suffering from AIDS.

She has a particularly important contribution to make: she tested positive for HIV in 2003. Like many other volunteers in the country, she receives support from the International HIV/AIDS Alliance.

In Zambia, over 15% of people are HIV positive. Yet people are afraid to be tested in case the results are positive. “They fear divorce,” says Juliet. “They fear that their families will abandon them and that they will die immediately.”

With DFID funding and the commitment of volunteers like Juliet, the HIV/AIDS Alliance runs a variety of programmes to overcome this stigma, to improve sexual health services, and to increase access to prevention advice and treatment.

The programmes help to break down barriers between generations, to identify the underlying causes of problems and to educate and empower young people. Community health workers provide training in sexuality and life skills, covering issues such as self-esteem, communication skills and family planning. They encourage community leaders to replace traditional practices and public ceremonies with supportive discussions about hygiene, sexual feelings and assertiveness.

In the areas in which the programmes operate there are now lower rates of early pregnancy, sexually transmitted infections and incidents of rape. Most importantly, people have a greater understanding of HIV and AIDS and how it can be prevented.

- In April 2005, DFID entered into a six-year agreement with the HIV/AIDS Alliance.
- The agreement involved guaranteed funding of £2.75 million each year for the first three years.
- The Alliance believes that teaching people about their sexual and reproductive rights improves health in this area. The DFID funding enables the Alliance to demonstrate this link, building its evidence base and sharing the results with partners and supporters.

TOMATOES BRING HOPE FOR GHANAIAN FARMERS



Kofi is a tomato farmer in the Brong Ahafo region of Ghana. Like many Ghanaian farmers, the market for his crops has been flooded with subsidised imports from Europe and the US, leaving him struggling.

“We need to produce a high yield of good-quality tomatoes per acre, so that we can compete,” he says. But that’s no easy task, and many farmers have been priced out of the market, their incomes destroyed.

However, things are looking up, and Kofi and 500 other farmers are now being trained in the most efficient growing techniques. Since the start of the DFID-funded project in 2002, the farmers’ annual yields have increased dramatically – from 1.5 to 5 tonnes per acre. Their ultimate aim is to reach 20 tonnes per acre.

DFID has persuaded two private-sector companies, Afrique Link and Unilever, to help. Afrique Link will process and market the tomatoes, and Unilever will distribute them to bulk buyers for use in Ghanaian hotels and restaurants.

The plan is to sell the tomatoes at the equivalent of 47 pence a can. That’s still more expensive than the imported cans, but the locally produced tomatoes are of a higher quality, without the artificial additives found in many imported tomatoes.

All this support is a huge boost to Kofi and his fellow farmers: at last they can begin to compete with the subsidised imports. The playing field isn’t level, but it’s much flatter than it was.

- Brong Ahafo is a tomato-growing region of Ghana, home to 500 farmers and over 200 canning factory workers – and their families.
- DFID has provided £220,000 of funding for this project through its Business Linkages Challenge Fund (BLCF).
- BLCF makes grants for the development of business linkages that improve competitiveness and benefit the poor.



Milon Char is an island in the turbulent Gomani River in mid-west Bangladesh – an inhospitable area, which until recently was uninhabited.

But, for the neglected people at the margins of Bangladeshi society, it provides an opportunity to own land and build a future.

With the help of an organisation called Samata, thousands of poor families have moved to Milon Char. Samata, meaning “Equality”, is a DFID-supported organisation that is helping the poor to organise themselves and is fighting to establish their land rights.

Bilkis Khatun and her husband Abdul Razzaque are among those who have settled on Milon Char. They are busy establishing a home, and meet their daily needs by selling poultry, eggs and goat’s milk. “Since coming here we are much better off,” says Bilkis. “We have a roof over our heads and something to eat.”

But there’s a threat. Until their small piece of land is formally registered in their names, they, and many thousands of other settlers, risk losing their property to illegal land grabbers who prey on poor communities. They’ve applied to the government for a lease, but until they receive approval, life is precarious. Bilkis says, “We live in constant fear of forcible up-rooting.”

However, Bilkis, Abdul and their fellow settlers have strength in numbers, and with Samata’s help, they are well organised. “We are united in our fight,” says Bilkis, who has become the leader of the campaigning women’s action group in Milon Char, determined to establish their legal right to the land.

- Samata has organised over 100,000 people into more than 6,500 community groups.
- There are about 3.3 million acres of unleased land available in Bangladesh, but 57% of the population is still landless.
- The 93,000 acres of government land that Samata has helped distribute still accounts for less than 3% of the land available for settlement.
- Between 2001 and 2008, DFID’s contribution to Samata will amount to £6.6 million.

10 TANZANIAN WINEMAKER TRADES ON TROPICAL TASTES



East Africa's love of tropical-fruit wine has brought much-needed cheer to Bonitha Komba and her children.

Bonitha's husband was killed in a road accident, and she lost her job when the state-owned company she worked for was privatised. She needed a new income – quickly.

Because Bonitha is a trained chemist, she decided to try wine and pickle making. She contacted the Small-scale Industrial Development Organisation (SIDO), a local counterpart of the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO). On one of SIDO's courses for small food-producers, she learned how to set up a business.

Bonitha now makes wines from pineapple, banana, pawpaw and hibiscus, as well as using Mbilimbi fruit to make pickle. "My ambition is to make wines for export," says Bonitha. "If I can raise enough capital I can make wine and pickles in quantity and comply with the food regulations."

To help her expand, Bonitha has turned to a neighbour, Innocent Mzene, who runs an import-export company. He knows how tough it is to build a business in Tanzania, and how hard it is to get credit.

"The banks won't lend unless the loan is secured, and most properties have no title deeds, so people can't borrow against their houses," he says. "But now the government has launched a scheme to register all houses so their owners will have the necessary collateral."

Bonitha hopes to benefit, but in the meantime she continues to produce excellent wine and pickle for a growing number of loyal customers.

- DFID contributes £4.2 million a year to UNIDO to promote sustainable industrial development in poor countries.
- SIDO runs training courses to help female food-producers develop their entrepreneurial skills and learn about food technology and hygiene.
- As a result, 320 new jobs have been created in six Tanzanian provinces.
- Of the women who have been trained by SIDO, 70% run their own businesses, earning a regular living from food processing.

RESTORING LIVELIHOODS IN NIGERIA'S WETLANDS



Malam Auwalu Adamu and Alhaji Audu are farmers who live about 50km apart in Nigeria's Wetlands.

Until recently, they both had problems with water: one had too much, the other not enough.

As a result of poor water-management, the Burum Gana channel had become blocked and dried up, preventing Auwalu and his fellow farmers in the village of Latifya from getting enough water. Auwalu says, "We could no longer grow our crops. The young men left for work elsewhere, and the village became like a ghost town."

Meanwhile the blockage caused flooding in the adjoining Marma channel, causing huge problems for Alhaji and the villagers of Sabon Gari. Alhaji lost his farm, as did many others, and the villagers had to resettle on higher land. "The Marma just kept on swelling," Alhaji says, "and with it came typha grass and quelea birds." Typha is an invasive grass which blocks channels, and quelea birds can decimate small grain crops.

That's when local people decided to act. With support from Joint Wetlands Livelihoods (JWL), Auwalu and others cleared a 30km stretch of the channel. This galvanised the local authorities, who provided mechanical excavators and made a financial contribution. The authorities are now planning to install a flow-proportioning weir at the fork of the channels.

The result? Farmers are growing crops once again. "Now the channel has been cleared, I can grow peppers, tomatoes and onions," enthuses Auwalu. "The excavation has been a lifeline."

- The Nigerian government and the administrations in the affected states contributed £24,000 to this project between 2004 and 2005, and will contribute £80,000 in 2006.
- The ministry of water resources has allocated £1.5 million for typha-cutting machines. In 2006 the Nigerian government awarded £2.5 million for water flow management and flood control in the Hadejia Nguru Wetlands.
- The Joint Wetlands Livelihoods (JWL) project received £2.9 million from DFID for the period between 2002 and 2007.

BRINGING FRESH WATER TO GHANA'S COCOA WORKERS



Nana Kofi Okyere is chief of a Ghanaian village called Akim Koforidua, and he is delighted by how much better life in the village has become.

He points at his new village well: "This well has brought a lot of improvement. We do not have to form long queues, and children and adults do not suffer from water-borne diseases." The availability of fresh water also means the children now spend less time collecting water for their families, giving them more time to attend school.

The new well is the result of a joint initiative between three organisations: Cadbury Schweppes, WaterAid (supported by DFID) and the Ghanaian farmers' co-operative, Kuapa Kokoo. Over the last few years this initiative has built 260 village wells in Ghana's cocoa-growing region, bringing fresh water to more than 50,000 farmers and their families. The wells have been a lifeline, giving year-round access to clean drinking water.

That's in stark contrast to many other areas of Ghana, where children spend about a quarter of their waking hours fetching water for their families. Many villages only have small, muddy pools to draw from, so people have to wait in long queues for the water to seep up through the mud.

Around the world more than one billion people lack access to the safe water supplies that are essential for improvements in health, education and livelihoods. That's why DFID continues to work closely with WaterAid to influence government policy and spending.

- Improving water supplies is a key part of Millennium Development Goal number seven: "Ensure environmental sustainability".
- DFID provides £1.46m a year in funding to WaterAid as part of its commitment to improving water supplies, sanitation and management of water resources.
- DFID's funding of water and sanitation improvements in Africa will double in the next three years, from £47.5m to £95m.



Elizabeth Masalelo is clear about the importance of a good education: “My children go to school so that later they can be more self-reliant, as well as able to look after their families.”

Education is vital for reducing ignorance and, in turn, poverty. Yet, until recently, a primary school education was a privilege granted to only a minority of Tanzanian children. In 2001 the government abolished primary-school fees and provided more teachers, better materials, more classrooms and other facilities. Since then one and a half million children have enrolled in primary schools.

Improvements on this scale cost a lot, and large influxes of money provide opportunities for corruption – especially when funds are granted project by project. To reduce the scope for corruption, DFID now provides most of its donations directly to the Tanzanian government in the form of “budget support”.

Budget support means that the money forms part of the government’s regular budget, and of its systems for monitoring, managing and accounting for it. As a result of the funds being provided in the form of budget support, the government has more money for its poverty reduction strategy, and local people can hold to account the officials who spend it.

Schools are using the extra money to benefit pupils. Zakayo Mlenduka, a primary school head teacher, is impressed: “We have had good assistance through budget support. We’ve had new buildings and enrolment has increased. To meet demand we have introduced two teacher shifts per day.”

- The Tanzanian government’s abolition of primary school fees led to a dramatic increase in the enrolment rate. By 2005, 95% of children aged between 7 and 13 were attending school.
- DFID recently announced that it would provide £85 million to further reduce poverty in Tanzania.
- This money will be given directly to the Tanzanian government as budget support. It will be spent on the priorities in the country’s poverty reduction strategy, including health and education.

14 MIDWIVES IN GHANA HELPING TO PREVENT MALARIA



Women attending antenatal clinics in south-eastern Ghana are learning to protect themselves against malaria – a particular danger during pregnancy, when immunity is reduced.

A pilot project, funded by DFID and USAID, is using the skills and influence of midwives to tackle this problem. Rejoice Amegbe is a midwife at a district health centre in Ghana's Volta region. She and her colleagues issue vouchers to pregnant women for half-price insecticide-treated nets (ITNs), and also take the opportunity to give the women information about malaria, and how to use ITNs to prevent it.

Rejoice explains that the scheme has become an integral part of her work, and that it has the added benefit of encouraging women to attend antenatal clinics. "We tell them to buy the nets at all costs, and we teach them how to prepare and use them," she says. "The women are more comfortable at night knowing that the nets are there".

Initial results are encouraging. In the year to March 2005, 1,800 vouchers were given out at Ho's district hospital, of which about two-thirds were used to buy nets at local retailers, where information and demonstrations are also available.

Bernice Bansah is one of the women who bought her net using a voucher. She says: "The net gives us some peace of mind, knowing that mosquitoes are far less likely to attack".

- ➔ Malaria increases the risk of illness, severe anaemia and death among pregnant women, and the risk of spontaneous abortion, stillbirth, premature delivery and low birth weight.
- ➔ In sub-Saharan Africa, malaria causes 400,000 cases of severe anaemia in pregnant women each year, and up to 200,000 infant deaths.
- ➔ The World Health Organisation recommends using insecticide-treated nets (ITNs) on beds to prevent malaria.
- ➔ DFID has contributed \$215,000 to the voucher project in Volta.
- ➔ DFID spends more than £53 million a year on fighting malaria and other diseases worldwide.

15 FIGHTING TUBERCULOSIS IN NEPAL



Pampha Khan is a 27-year-old Nepalese housewife. A year ago, she nearly died. "I developed a cough for a couple of months with bloody sputum and loss of weight," she explains.

"I was seriously ill for a week and had to have a blood transfusion. When the doctor told me that I had TB, I thought I would not live for long."

The fact that Pampha is here to tell her story is testimony to Nepal's National TB Programme (NTP), and its Directly Observed Treatment Short-Course programme, known as

DOTS. The programme, which is recommended by the World Health Organisation, involves giving patients an uninterrupted supply of drugs, and rigorously monitoring their progress.

Nepal introduced DOTS in 1996, implementing the programme through 2,500 treatment centres. Since then, the detection rate for tuberculosis has risen by 71%, and the success rate has increased from 40% to 85%. As a result, the number of deaths from TB has fallen from nearly 18,000 per year in the early 90s to less than 11,000 now.

The National TB Programme now aims to extend DOTS to cover the entire population by ensuring that there is a treatment centre for every 100,000 people. For Pampha, it has already proved its worth: "One of my friends told me about the nearby DOTS centre," she says. "I took uninterrupted treatment for eight months and now I am free of TB. I am able to do my normal household duties and, above all, my family life has improved."

- Nearly half the Nepalese population is infected with TB, and 40,000 people develop its active strain each year.
- It is estimated that the DOTS programme will prevent 60,000 deaths from TB during the next five years.
- Between 2001 and 2005, DFID donated £5.4 million to Nepal's National TB Programme – about 60% of the programme's total budget.
- DFID has also provided the National TB Programme with an international advisor and three national support officers.

HELPING BANGLADESH'S HOMELESS WOMEN



Two years ago, Ayesha and her family were left homeless and hungry when their home in the village of Sadullah in north-west Bangladesh was swept away by a flood.

Ayesha lost her home and her livelihood on the same day: "The river destroyed the whole village. I could not save anything except my little children and sick husband. We lost everything we had." With a sick husband, she struggled to feed her family.

Today Ayesha has her own nursery-garden business, and has earned enough money to move her family from their makeshift hut to a new home. She is even enjoying a few luxuries: "I can now afford to have three meals a day and better clothes for my family."

Ayesha acquired the land for the nursery – and the practical know-how to make it work – through the Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee (BRAC), which receives financial support from DFID and other agencies. BRAC aims to help the poorest households in Bangladesh to build a livelihood for themselves.

Ayesha received 3.3 acres of land through BRAC, and was shown how to rear saplings and grow healthy plants. Every month she attended a one-day course to top up her knowledge.

The nursery is now Ayesha's main source of income: "It is my dream. I have already earned 6,000 Takas from the sale of 1,200 saplings. By next year we will have better food and shelter, the children will be educated, and my husband will receive better medical treatment."

- BRAC helped Ayesha through a project called "Challenging the Frontiers of Poverty Reduction: Targeting the Ultra Poor".
- Between 2001 and 2006 the project, supported by DFID, will have helped 70,000 women from the poorest households in Bangladesh.
- Its nursery-garden initiative has already helped 500 destitute women in the Ulipur district where Ayesha lives.

17 TURNING A POND INTO PROFIT IN INDIA



For as long as anyone can remember, there's been a pond in Gopalpur village in the Maharashtra region of India.

It used to be a breeding ground for mosquitoes, and children would throw stones at its algae-covered surface.

Today, the pond provides an income for 14 women, who formed a self-help group with the aid of the Poorest Areas Civil Society (PACS) programme. The women started saving, and when they had 6,000 rupees (about £71), they cleaned the pond and introduced fish and eggs. Within a few months, they were earning 16,000 rupees (£190) from each catch.

But some of the male villagers resented their success. Sarjerao Revankar, the project manager who helped the women form their group, explains: "The profit was too huge to escape notice. Everyone felt that this had been easy money."

Because the pond belonged to the council, its leader demanded a share of the profit. So the women bought electric bulbs, poles and wires to set up streetlights in the village. This forced him to back down, because the women became popular among other villagers.

The business is now doing very nicely. The women employ a professional fisherman to place nets every few months, and they sell each catch to an agent who distributes it to local retailers.

The women's only fear is that the council may try to take over the business again. But Sarjerao doesn't think this will happen. "The women now have enough self-confidence to tackle any such situation," he says admiringly.

- DFID is providing up to £27 million over seven years to support PACS.
- PACS supports civil society organisations that help people in India's poorest districts.
- In Gopalpur PACS provided help through a civil society organisation called Gramin Vikas Mandal (GVM).

HELPING DISABLED CHILDREN BACK INTO SCHOOL



Shikuku Obosi is a Kenyan charity worker who knows only too well the problems that disabled people face: he is disabled himself.

"Access to education is a real challenge where schools are quite a distance," he says. "It's hard to get there if you can't walk. That was my problem – one leg paralysed due to polio and the school five kilometres away. I actually used to stay at school to save my family the trouble of getting me there every day."

But times have moved on, and a project funded by DFID and run by Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO) has helped 1,900

disabled children in Kenya to attend school. It's called the Special Needs Education Support Project (SNESP), and plays a vital role in safeguarding their education.

The project helps 250 schools to improve the way they teach disabled children, promoting a more supportive approach and enabling teachers to feel more confident about working with disabled students. It also supports Education Assessment and Resource Centres, which refer disabled children to schools that can provide them with a good-quality education. The result is that many more disabled children now attend school, and people's attitudes have changed beyond recognition – in schools and in communities.

Kenya's Ministry of Education was so impressed by SNESP that it has adopted it as the template for national policy. And thanks to campaigning by VSO and its partners, Kenya's new constitution now recognises the rights of disabled people.

- Using its Disability Knowledge and Research fund, DFID provided £48,000 for the initial phase of the Special Needs Education Support Project.
- The Special Needs Education Support Project initially focused on ten districts, and has now expanded to 20.
- Between 2000 and 2003 the number of disabled children enrolling in Kenyan primary schools increased from 900 to 1,400 a year.
- VSO aims to support disabled people in exercising their rights, and to promote their inclusion and active participation as equal members of their families, communities and societies.

CREATING HOPE FOR PEACE IN THE NUBA MOUNTAINS



Since 1947, more than eight million Africans have died as a result of conflict – the vast majority of them civilians.

One of the continent's most troubled regions has been the Nuba Mountains in the Sudan (an area the size of Austria). The area is fertile, but has a history of suffering, slavery and religious conflict.

Between 1992 and 2001 the Mountains were a battleground in the war between the Sudanese government and Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA). Estimates suggest that, of the two million people living there, up to 300,000 were killed. But then the prospect of negotiations began to rise as government forces and the SPLA fought to a standstill. On 19 January 2002 the Nuba

Mountains ceasefire was signed, followed in 2004 by a power-sharing agreement. After years of persecution and war, the Nuba Mountains have now enjoyed four years of peace – a tribute to the way in which opponents and international organisations have worked together to establish a workable solution.

The ceasefire was managed and monitored by a Joint Military Commission (JMC) an unarmed mission comprising representatives from the government, the SPLA and international monitors. A British government review, carried out in 2004, concluded that the JMC had achieved its objectives: both sides observing the ceasefire agreement, an international presence established, outstanding issues dealt with, and humanitarian organisations providing aid. It is estimated that 300,000 internally displaced people returned during the JMC's deployment.

The challenges in the Sudan are immense and the continuing crisis in Darfur indicates the country's fragility, but the ceasefire in the Nuba Mountains has demonstrated how progress can be made when all parties work together. This in turn created a climate that led to the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement on 9 January 2005. The journey to peace has begun.

- In 2001, in partnership with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the Ministry of Defence, DFID established the Africa Conflict Prevention Pool (ACPP) to bring a more integrated approach to conflict prevention.
- The British government has donated over £3 million to the Joint Military Commission (JMC) through the ACPP.
- The ACPP began with an annual budget of £50 million. This rose to £60 million in 2004 and is projected to rise to £64.5 million by 2008.

BOOSTING BUSINESS FOR CARIBBEAN FARMERS



Manuel is a 75-year-old cocoa farmer from the Dominican Republic. He started growing cocoa in the 1950s, because it offered a prosperous future.

But it hasn't been an easy ride, and when Hurricane George swept by in 1998, roof panels from his house were scattered all over the countryside.

But things for Manuel are now much more stable, and he is able to contemplate rebuilding his house with concrete walls. He is one of 6,000 cocoa farmers who belong to the Conacado co-operative, which aims to generate work and income for its members.

Conacado gives the farmers interest-free loans to tide them over till harvest time, and helps them buy fertiliser and new cocoa plants. Even more importantly, Conacado takes part in a matchmaking initiative set up by DFID's Business Linkages Challenge Fund (BLCF).

BLCF aims to reduce poverty in Africa and the Caribbean by promoting private-sector growth. Its matchmaking initiative enabled Conacado to link up with a large Swiss chocolate processor, so that it could sell organic chocolate to the European market.

As a result, demand for Conacado's products has grown, and farmers like Manuel are better off. Manuel is grateful for this improvement, but points out that it wouldn't have happened if his cocoa hadn't been as good as it is. His message to consumers is simple: *"We work hard at the cocoa. My prayer is you consider the work we've put into it."*

- Businesses can apply for grants of up to £1 million from BLCF, provided they can show that their new partnerships will increase their competitiveness and improve opportunities for the poor.
- DFID contributed £1.84 million to BLCF during the three years to 2005. This funding is part of the British government's Trade-Related Capacity Building (TRCB) programme, which helps poorer countries to trade their way out of poverty.
- The UK has committed £174 million to TRCB since 1998.



For 30 years Aouspudi Chak went through the daily grind of fetching water from distant streams for her family.

Each time, it was a 90-minute walk to and from her village of Sapchari in south-east Bangladesh.

“During the dry season I had to go even further, visiting hand-dug wells,” she recalls. “To avoid queuing I would even leave home before the sunrise. It was really a hard work.”

Lack of access to safe water and sanitation is a major problem in Bangladesh, particularly in the highlands. Without toilets, people sometimes use platforms hanging over a river or pond

– the same river or pond that provides their water supply. Not surprisingly, many villages are plagued with illness, and 100,000 young children die of diarrhoea each year.

But today Aouspudi and many thousands of others have safe water at their doorsteps. That’s because of a “gravity flow system” installed by the Green Hill organisation, which is supported by WaterAid and DFID. The system collects surface water from an uphill stream or spring, filters it and then supplies it to villagers through a reservoir tank, junction box and tap stands.

Women like Aouspudi no longer have to spend hours each day fetching water, and they don’t have to search for somewhere secluded to go to the toilet. They have more time to work – to improve their homes or earn money – learn, or simply relax. Most importantly, hygiene has been improved, so fewer children are dying. And that, says Aouspudi, is *“an absolute blessing”*.

- DFID recently gave £15.5 million to WaterAid to support its work in Bangladesh.
- Diarrhoea and dysentery have been reduced by a third in the villages that have taken part in WaterAid’s programme.
- WaterAid’s approach is to generate demand for water and sanitation first. Once communities learn the link between bad hygiene and disease, they improve their practices and establish water and sanitation facilities themselves. WaterAid helps to provide material, money and know-how for these facilities.

WINNING THE WAR AGAINST COUNTERFEIT MEDICINES IN NIGERIA



Dora Akunyili is determined not to be intimidated, though there are many criminals and corrupt officials who want her dead.

Since becoming leader of Nigeria's National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC) she has survived three assassination attempts. Of the most recent, a shooting in 2003, she says, *"God indeed saved my life."*

Ms Akunyili's determination stems partly from personal experience: in 1987 her diabetic sister died at the age of 23, after injecting herself with insulin that proved to be fake. Before becoming head of NAFDAC, Ms Akunyili was a distinguished

pharmacologist, and this also contributes to her desire to stamp out the trade in counterfeit medicines and the corruption that supports it.

The size of the task that faced Ms Akunyili when she took office in 2001 is difficult to overstate. Over half Nigeria's pharmaceutical drugs were counterfeit, causing thousands of deaths each year. The lack of proper regulation and monitoring meant that import licences were too readily issued and drug regulations were flouted with impunity.

Since then Ms Akunyili and her colleagues have transformed the situation. Through mass-education campaigns and a rigorous testing and enforcement regime, they have achieved an astonishing 80% reduction in counterfeit drugs.

The future now looks bleak for those who seek to make their fortune by endangering the lives of others. As Okechukwu Ogbonna, deputy director of NAFDAC's testing labs, says: *"When the leadership is dynamic and positive, the people can't help but shape up."*

- The World Health Organisation defines counterfeit medicines as those that are "deliberately and fraudulently mislabelled with respect to identity and/or source."
- Counterfeit products may contain little or none of the necessary active ingredients, the ingredients may be wrong, and their packaging may be fake.
- DFID is one of NAFDAC's leading donors, and has provided £140,000 for consumer education, laboratory testing of drugs, training for NAFDAC's senior managers, and a study on quality assurance.

23 SHARING KNOWLEDGE TO BEAT HIV AND AIDS IN LATIN AMERICA



There are 1.8 million Latin Americans who are HIV-positive. And the number is growing, despite the death of 66,000 each year from AIDS-related diseases.

But there is hope for a brighter future. Brazil, the most populous country in the region, has had great success in tackling the issue. In the mid-1990s it was on the verge of an AIDS epidemic: the UN predicted that there would be 1.2 million HIV-positive Brazilians by 2000. Brazil's response was to work in partnership with a range of organisations to create public awareness campaigns, to encourage condom use, and to prevent transmission by blood transfusions and

from mother to child. This was so successful that by 2000 only 600,000 Brazilians were HIV-positive – half the number the UN had predicted.

Now, through DFID's HIV and AIDS programme for Latin America, Brazil's experience is being shared with other countries, such as Peru, Bolivia and Ecuador. Brazil provides life-saving anti-retroviral drugs, and DFID provides technical support and training so that the drugs are used properly and patients are given adequate support. The programme also enables senior staff from each country to visit Brazil to learn about prevention, testing, treatment and counselling.

Brazil is now seeking to share its experience beyond its own region. Dr Mariangela Simao, deputy head of Brazil's national HIV and AIDS programme, said, "It is very important that Brazil has a regional leadership on HIV and AIDS. We are working strongly with Portuguese-speaking countries in Africa on technical co-operation."

- Phase one of DFID's HIV and AIDS programme for Latin America, worth £1m, was intended to last until 2007. However, demand for services has been so strong that phase two may start in early 2006, with DFID donating an additional £1.25m.
- Phase two will also be funded by UNAIDS, the German Development Co-operation Agency (GTZ) and the Brazilian government. Their funds will help the programme expand into Central America and establish an International Centre for Technical Cooperation in Brasilia.

24 BRINGING DEMOCRACY TO THE STREETS IN THE UKRAINE



For decades the people of the Ukraine had every aspect of their lives controlled by their government.

Now things are changing: the country has embarked on a rapid democratisation process, and ordinary citizens have the opportunity to make a difference.

One is Andriy Dovzhko, a 21-year-old from Drohobych, who cares passionately about his local community. When he became concerned about the quality of the drinking water in his street he turned for help to an organisation called Democratising Ukraine (DU), which aims to ensure that

democratisation happens at the local as well as the national level. DU believes that democratic participation is a skill that can be learnt, and that, by changing attitudes and giving a voice to the vulnerable, it can relieve suffering.

The organisation arranged for experts to visit Andriy's street, and they discovered that oil from a nearby refinery was seeping into the water. DU then mobilised local people, encouraging them to lobby the oil refinery and the local council, and to appeal to local officials to check water quality. This pressure persuaded the refinery to install new filters to prevent the oil from seeping into the water. As a result, the water in Drohobych is now safe to drink.

A few years ago it would have been unthinkable for ordinary Ukrainians to take responsibility for this small but important improvement in their lives. Now, with the encouragement of organisations like DU, Ukrainians are beginning to change their lives for the better.

- The Democratising Ukraine (DU) Programme is the result of collaboration between three Ukrainian organisations: the Counterpart Creative Centre, the Committee of Voters of Ukraine and the Ukrainian Centre for Independent Political Research.
- The DU programme creates and tests innovative models of democratic participation. It provides training, consultations and publications to support local communities in developing and implementing projects.
- DFID finances the DU programme, and has committed to contributing £1.5m between 2003 and 2007.



Lazaro is 65 years old, and has retired from his career as a teacher and civil servant. But he is busier than ever.

He invested his pension in a few hectares of land near the town of Tukuyu, and planted it with tea. The farm was successful, and in 2001 he was elected chairman of the Rungwe Small Tea Grower Association (RSTGA), which represents 14,000 farmers.

Lazaro is proud of his achievements, and he is even more delighted that the tea business in general has prospered. "People are now getting regular income from it", he says.

One of the reasons for this improvement is the enlightened attitude of Tatepa, Tanzania's leading tea company. Tatepa was set up in 1994 with the support of CDC Group, an autonomous body wholly owned by DFID. Tatepa's goal is to establish a successful business while alleviating poverty among the 15,000 smallholders who grow tea on its estates.

The company advises the smallholders on how to improve yields and use fertilisers and herbicides, and it channels surplus funds into social projects that benefit the community. It also worked to gain Fairtrade accreditation, and now has an agreement with Cafédirect to supply tea for its Teadirect brand.

Thanks to all this work, smallholders receive a fair price for the tea they sell to Tatepa. RSTGA's members are delighted, as Lazaro explains: "Tea has become a pension for us after retirement and it means a lot to me and the Rungwe communities."

- Cafédirect was formed in 1991 after a worldwide collapse in coffee prices. The company guarantees always to pay growers above the world market price for their tea and coffee.
- The Fairtrade Mark is an independent consumer label which appears on products as a guarantee that disadvantaged producers in developing countries are getting a better deal.



Wadi Al-Hubaishi is one of Yemen's poorest villages, and most of its people make a living growing crops and raising goats.

The younger adults travel to the cities for jobs, while young children look after the animals and haul water.

It's the sort of place that doesn't expect any attention, so its people were surprised when Yemen's Social Fund for Development (SFD) took an interest. "We thought that only ministers could contact the SFD, until the SFD team came to inform us that we have access to it," says Ali Juhari Al-Shumari, director of the village school.

The SFD was concerned that, despite its pressing need, Wadi Al-Hubaishi had not submitted any requests for help. The SFD's researchers found that there was an urgent need for a new school building – the existing one had only one classroom, and most classes had to be conducted outside. Even worse, the lack of separate facilities for girls was making parents withdraw older girls from school, because in Yemeni society older boys and girls do not socialise together.

The SFD built a new school with four classrooms, an administration room and a dormitory for teachers. This led to a substantial increase in enrolment, particularly among the girls, and has helped, over time, to reduce the number of girls marrying very young.

Ali Juhari Al-Shumari is grateful: "Now the SFD's branch manager is my friend," he says. "I stop in Amran to visit him and check on the status of our other requests."

- Yemen is the only low-income country in the Middle East, with 10% of the population living on under \$1 a day and 45% on under \$2 a day.
- Yemen's Social Fund for Development (SFD) works to reduce poverty and improve the living conditions of poor people. It is running a pilot programme in five rural areas to raise the average enrolment of girls by 20%.
- DFID has donated £12m to SFD, for use between 2004 and 2008.

27 MAKING CHOCOLATE TASTE SWEETER FOR GHANAIAN FARMERS



Lucy Mansa grows and sells cocoa beans in the village of Fenaso Domeabra in Ghana. She's doing very well, but that hasn't always been the case.

She and the other farmers used to have to sell their cocoa to the Ghanaian government. They earned little money for their work, and they were often cheated.

In the early 1990s the farmers decided – with DFID's support – to form their own company to sell their produce, instead of relying on the government's agents. They called the company Kuapa Kokoo, which means "good cocoa farmer".

The new company was so successful that by the late 1990s it was in a position to launch its own brand of chocolate bar. DFID helped again, guaranteeing a £400,000 loan that enabled Day Chocolate Company to market the chocolate, called Divine. The guarantee included an innovative provision that gave the farmers a 33% share in Day Chocolate, so that they would have a say in how Divine was sold, and receive a share of the profits.

Because Divine is a Fairtrade product, the farmers get a decent price for their cocoa, and their communities receive a "social premium", which they use to improve living and working conditions.

Kuapa Kokoo's turnover has increased dramatically since the launch of Divine, justifying the company's motto: "pa pa paa" or "best of the best". Lucy and the other farmers are delighted with their success. "I am very happy," says Lucy. "I can afford to send my children to school."

- Two million Ghanaians depend on cocoa for their livelihoods.
- Kuapa Kokoo has over 45,000 members in 1,200 village societies.
- Divine chocolate was developed to appeal to the British public's palate, and it tests favourably against the market leaders.
- Fairtrade labelling began in the Netherlands in the late 1980s. DFID's Development Awareness Fund is donating almost £100,000 to the Fairtrade Foundation between 2004 and 2006.



When poor people in Tajikistan get involved in land disputes, they often suffer.

Paying legal fees is out of the question, so they don't usually have access to the law courts, and without legal support their land and assets are unprotected.

However, since the introduction in February 2004 of Tajikistan's Third Party Arbitration Courts (TPACs) – in which a third party acts as an arbitrator – poorer people have had a cheap and accessible way of resolving disputes and protecting their rights.

Mairam is one of those who has benefited from the new system – in fact it saved her livelihood. She had rented four hectares of land to grow wheat and expected – as her tenancy agreement stated – that the land would be irrigated. But there was no irrigation, so her wheat didn't grow properly and she earned no money to pay rent to the landowner.

She and the landowner agreed to take their dispute to a TPAC. After thorough investigation, the arbitrator concluded that the land hadn't been properly irrigated for 15 years, vindicating Mairam. As a result, the contract between Mairam and the landowner was nullified, and a new and fairer agreement drawn up.

The dispute was settled amicably and transparently in just nine days. The two sides reached a fair agreement without incurring heavy legal fees or going through a protracted case in the formal law courts. As Mairam and many others have found, Tajikistan's poor now have access to a system that no longer works against them.

- Tajikistan's Third Party Arbitration Courts (TPACs) have given 800,000 people (12% of the population) access to legal services, and have already solved over 275 disputes.
- The government of Tajikistan has praised the speed with which TPACs are improving the lives of the poor.
- DFID is contributing £1.2m to Tajikistan's TPACs for use between 2004 and 2008. Since 1998, DFID has also funded TPACs in Russia, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Ukraine and Georgia.



Mrs Mwanzi lives in a village near Alupe in Kenya. There she grows a new orange-fleshed variety of sweetpotato, which she heard would improve her children's' health.

The sweetpotato is a lifesaver for millions in East Africa: once the plant has put down roots, a family can start eating, and an established patch keeps producing for months, so it can be harvested gradually.

However, people in East Africa tend to like white-fleshed sweetpotatoes, which are not as good a source of vitamin A as the orange-fleshed variety that Mrs Mwanzi grows. Scientists conducted an 11-week study of a group of children, and

found that, among those who were given orange-fleshed sweetpotatoes, the proportion with adequate stores of vitamin A increased by 10%. Among those who ate only the white-fleshed variety, that proportion fell by 5%.

Vitamin A deficiency is a major health problem in East Africa, particularly for young children and pregnant women. It causes blindness and weakens the immune system, and is often responsible for childhood death.

That's why the International Potato Centre (CIP) developed an orange-fleshed variety specifically for the East African palate. This has become an effective weapon for tackling vitamin A deficiency, and the CIP is encouraging local producers to grow them.

They have a devotee in Mrs Mwanzi, who has planted a nursery for the dry season to get the first new roots early. As she says, "It is best to plant a lot of stems in case some of them die".

- In Africa, three million young children suffer blindness because they lack vitamin A. Two-thirds of children with vitamin A deficiency die because of their increased vulnerability to infection.
- The CIP is one of 15 research centres that work under the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR).
- CGIAR aims to cut poverty by means of agricultural research and improved management of natural resources.
- DFID contributes £20 million a year to CGIAR.



The frontline warriors in the battle against malaria are not always doctors or scientists. In Kilifi, near the Kenyan city of Mombassa, they are shopkeepers.

The shopkeepers have been recruited by the Kenyan government's Shops Programme to ensure that children receive effective treatment as soon as the first symptoms of malaria appear.

When children contract a fever in rural Kenya, many parents go to their village kiosks to buy aspirin-based drugs. But if the fever is a symptom of malaria, these drugs are inadequate,

and children can die as a result. Indeed 26,000 young Kenyan children die of malaria each year.

The Shops Programme trains kiosk owners to recognise the signs of malaria and recommend appropriate drugs – or a trip to the hospital. More than 250 kiosk owners in Kilifi have now received this training, and the results are promising. Before the programme was introduced, antimalarial drugs were given to only 25% of children with malaria who were treated with drugs from a kiosk – and just 8% received the right dosage. Now, 50% receive antimalarial drugs and, of these, 60% take the right amount.

The programme has been so successful that it now forms part of Kenya's National Malaria Strategy and is being introduced to five other districts where malaria is endemic.

Dr Vicki Marsh, who created the programme, says, *"We do not know how many lives we might have saved, but the scheme is certainly making a big impact."*

- Countries in tropical Africa account for more than 90% of the 300 million cases of malaria throughout the world each year.
- 20 million Kenyans are regularly exposed to malaria, the country's leading cause of death.
- The Shops Programme was originally funded by DFID and the World Health Organisation, and developed by the Wellcome Trust, the Kenyan Ministry of Health and the Malaria Control Division.

PADDLING YOUR OWN CANOE IN CHAD



Owning a canoe is essential for the fisherman of Lake Chad: “If you don’t have one”, says Michel Adjibang, who lives the village of Ere, “you’ll always remain poor”.

Ere relies on fishing, as do many communities that live by the lake. To make their livelihoods more sustainable, the villagers set up an organisation called Walta, which means “take responsibility for yourself”, and obtained the support of the DFID-backed Sustainable Fisheries Livelihoods Programme (SFLP).

SFLP trained Ere’s fishermen to be more professional and to improve their practices. It taught local carpenters to build canoes using planks bought from nearby towns – canoes that are easier to use and kinder on the environment than craft hewn from tree trunks. And SFLP’s micro-credit scheme helped fishermen to buy these canoes and the nets to go with them.

SFLP has also introduced a new type of fish-smoking oven – the Chorkor – that allows more fish to be smoked to a higher standard, using less fuel. Sixty local women have formed a fishmongers’ group and the SFLP gave it credit facilities for building ovens and buying fish.

By following their maxim of taking responsibility, the people of Ere have made great progress. Kady Alhere Bitrus, who belongs to the fishmongers’ group, says, **“I used to buy fish, but only in small quantities. The loan changed all that: now we even go as far as N’Djamena [Chad’s capital] with a large quantity of smoked fish – and we get a good price.”**

- ➔ The Sustainable Fisheries Livelihoods Programme (SFLP) is a regional development project that aims to reduce poverty in coastal and inland fisheries communities through the sustainable improvement of livelihoods.
- ➔ The SFLP is a partnership between DFID, the UN’s Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and 25 participating countries in West Africa.
- ➔ The programme, which started in 1999, is financed by DFID for a period of seven years.



David Ngugi is a farmer in the Kiambu district of Kenya, and knows how hard it is to make a living from the soil. Transport is infrequent, unreliable and expensive, making it difficult to get produce to market.

Once there, things don't get any easier, as David explains: "Traders get a very beautiful chance of saying 'I'm buying at this price'. The seller is already at the market and must sell it or lose it."

Now, things are improving for farmers thanks to a project run by the Kenya Network for Draught Animal Technology (KENDAT). This organisation researches the difficulties caused

by poor local transport. It looks at issues such as how farmers buy and repair their equipment, and develops transport systems that enable farmers to get their goods to market by, for example, making better use of donkey carts.

KENDAT encourages people to work together in groups. By co-operating, farmers can increase their bargaining power and reduce transport costs. And "bodaboda boys", who operate bicycle taxis, can pool their resources and enhance their financial security.

KENDAT has set up training courses to help farmers manage their businesses and obtain loans. It has also introduced a donkey welfare programme that improves the design of carts and shows people how to keep their donkeys healthy.

Alfred Murage, another farmer in the region, says, "The workshops have been very vital to us. When we organise these groups they invite agricultural officers and veterinary officers so that we can be trained."

- KENDAT was founded in 1990. It fosters business development and economic growth by enabling rural people to transport their produce more efficiently and work with animals more effectively.
- KENDAT trains farmers, rural transporters and artisans in business development and management.
- Supported by DFID and other international donors, its three-year rural transport services project is worth £350,000.

A HIGH-QUALITY PRIMARY EDUCATION IN BANGLADESH



Sonia and her sister Asma, aged 9 and 11, live in the village of Dergram, near Dhaka.

They study hard and are ambitious – Asma wants to become a police officer and Sonia a nurse. Unlike many children in Bangladesh, they have a good chance of achieving their dreams: their school is run by BRAC.

BRAC, formerly the Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee, reduces poverty by providing free primary education outside the government system. Its 34,000 schools educate a million disadvantaged children, offering

flexible hours, convenient locations, and free textbooks and stationery. Their curriculums are designed to ensure that the children go on to secondary education, and 90% of them do.

In contrast, government schools are plagued with problems. They have a 32% drop-out rate, few of their pupils go on to secondary education and the school day is one of the shortest in Asia. The teaching is poor because people can become teachers at a young age with few qualifications.

The government is trying to address the problems in its schools. In 1990, it committed itself to providing education for all, and 40% of primary school children are now eligible for a monthly grant of about £10. The second Primary Education Development Programme will provide more classrooms and teachers.

But until government schools improve dramatically, BRAC's role is crucial. Government schools don't provide such essentials as stationery, and Sonia and Asma's parents couldn't have afforded to pay for them. Without BRAC, the girls might not have received any education at all.

- ➔ BRAC educates 11% of Bangladesh's primary school children.
- ➔ Between 2004 and 2009, DFID is contributing £32 million to phase four of BRAC's Education Programme.
- ➔ DFID is also contributing £100 million over six years to the Bangladeshi government's Primary Education Development Programme, and a further £6 million for the Underprivileged Children Education Programme.

34 A NEW MARKET FOR SORGHUM FARMERS IN INDIA



Vulli Sharanaiah is a farmer in Andhra Pradesh, India. Many generations of his family have grown sorghum and used it as a staple food.

But they have rarely been able to sell any surplus because, during the rainy season, the crop is prone to mould, which livestock farmers have always believed to be unhealthy for their animals.

Now, thanks to a project by the International Crop Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT), Vulli has found a new market for his sorghum, and is earning a bigger income as a result.

ICRISAT conducted research to find out whether sorghum – a cheap and plentiful crop – can be used instead of maize as the main ingredient for poultry feed. The Institute assembled a coalition of farmers' associations, poultry feed companies and scientists from Acharya NG Ranga Agricultural University (ANGRAU). Together they proved that sorghum, whether mouldy or not, is healthy for poultry. And in the course of their research they developed seeds that yield five times more than existing varieties.

ICRISAT distributed these seeds to farmers in Andhra Pradesh in June 2004, and the scientists advised the farmers on how to cultivate them. Many hundreds of farmers now grow the sorghum and work together to supply feed manufacturers.

Vulli recognises the potential of the new crop: "Some officers came and gave us some seed and at first we were sceptical about them. Now many farmers are interested to grow this hybrid sorghum, and we have grown to three hundred farmers using these seeds."

- ICRISAT is a research organisation that uses science to serve the poorest people in semi-arid areas of the developing world.
- DFID funded ICRISAT's sorghum research coalition through its Crop Post-Harvest Programme, which has an annual budget of £2.5 million.
- The farmers who grow the new sorghum are expected to increase their income by up to 20%.

CUTTING THROUGH RED TAPE IN TANZANIA



Alice Machange owns a small textile business in Dar es Salaam. She explains why she left a secure job to go it alone: “I wanted to be my own boss and make my own money. I’m very happy, because my profits are increasing yearly. I can also contribute to my children’s education, which is very satisfying.”

Starting her own business was no easy task. Hampered by taxes, bureaucracy and cautious bankers, Alice had to scrimp and save to set herself up. The effort paid off, and she now exhibits her textiles throughout East Africa, and supplies a British company that sells garments in London.

By employing three people, Alice is also helping to counter poverty. Stella, Alice’s assistant, had been in deep trouble because her husband had left her to bring up three children without any money. Now she earns a good wage.

The Tanzanian government knows that this kind of entrepreneurship is crucial for economic growth. With support from DFID and other donors it is implementing a programme called Business Environment Strengthening for Tanzania (BEST). This enables businesses to get loans, and cuts the amount of red tape that they have to deal with.

BEST aims to encourage more people like Alice to set up their own companies and employ people. Alice is a great role model, and lacks nothing in ambition: “I’d like to expand five times over. It would mean that I could increase exports and capture the US market.”

- DFID has donated £3.2 million to Business Environment Strengthening for Tanzania.
- DFID is also donating £4.5 million to Tanzania’s tax modernisation initiative, which is making tax administration less of a burden for companies.
- In 2000, DFID created the Financial Sector Deepening programme, which aims to make it easier for businesses and poor households in Tanzania to get credit from financial institutions.

BOXING CLEVER IN RIO: FIGHTING FOR PEACE



Sergio is typical of disadvantaged young men from the back streets of Rio. After his father was jailed – ten years for armed robbery – Sergio started bunking off school and fell into petty crime.

His future looked bleak, especially after his cousins introduced him to an armed drug gang: a well-trodden path to disaster.

But something – “*something inside me*” as he says – urged Sergio into a different path. At 15 he heard about the Fight for Peace boxing club, which encourages youngsters to steer clear of the drug gangs. Run by an organisation called

Viva Rio, the club gives youngsters a healthy and safe outlet for their energy, provides compulsory citizenship classes, builds a culture of rights, responsibilities and duties, and helps its members develop self-esteem – and get jobs.

The club’s work is vital because for many in Rio life is dominated by violence and the culture of machismo, exacerbated by the easy availability of guns and drugs, and by police corruption. Lacking an integrated public security strategy, the city is plagued by gang wars, armed robbery and petty crime.

Sergio is now 19 and works at the club, helping others to find the path to peace and fulfilment that he discovered. He is also the father of a three-year-old boy, and he is determined that his son will grow up in a safe community. One day Sergio says he will write his own life story ... when he has become “*a complete winner.*”

- Brazil has one of the world’s highest murder rates.
- Viva Rio works to build a more democratic and just society by organising peace campaigns and running social projects.
- The UK funds Viva Rio through its Global Conflict Prevention Pool, to which DFID, the Foreign Office and the Ministry of Defence contribute. Between 2001 and 2006 this Pool contributed £1.7 million to Viva Rio.
- DFID provided a further £70,000 to help children who are affected by armed violence.

37 HEALTH AND SAFETY FOR SEX WORKERS IN BANGLADESH



Hazera Begum spent much of her life as a sex worker in Bangladesh. Hers is a common story: orphaned at an early age, she had no choice but to join a brothel in Dhaka. She spent the next two decades selling sex on the streets.

Sex workers are the most marginalised of Bangladesh's poor. Many landlords refuse to lease property to them, and they cannot get healthcare from the government. They often give birth to children on the streets because they are refused access to hospitals.

One of the greatest threats they face is HIV and AIDS. Many of the women are so desperate for money that they have sex even if a client refuses to use a condom. Indeed, sex workers in Bangladesh report the lowest rate of condom use in Asia.

Hazera was lucky to find a way out. She is now a field co-ordinator for Durjoy Nari Sangha – a support group for sex workers, backed by Care International. She runs discussions on HIV and AIDS, and encourages women to work together to strengthen their bargaining position, and to educate their clients about using condoms.

She has a system for recording the proportion of clients who use condoms: yellow slips of paper represent client visits, orange ones indicate that a condom was used. Little by little, the numbers are getting closer.

Her work is vital. Not only does she provide comfort and support for the most vulnerable, but by changing behaviour she is helping to prevent an HIV and AIDS epidemic.

- CARE Bangladesh protects sex workers from HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases. It operates eight drop-in centres in Dhaka, running health education sessions, providing medical care and treatment, and offering cooking and washing facilities.
- Over the last ten years DFID has donated £10 million to this programme.
- CARE Bangladesh is a part of Care International, one of the world's largest private humanitarian organisations.

38 UNIVERSAL PRIMARY EDUCATION IN TANZANIA



Mrisho is an 8-year-old pupil at Kerezange School on the outskirts of Dar es Salaam.

He and his brother Benadi know how lucky they are: “My parents say that it is a blessing that they do not have to pay for us to go to school,” says Mrisho. “I think so too, because if they did, my brother and I may not have been able to come to school.”

Their parents don’t have to pay because Tanzania abolished school fees in 2001. In double-quick time, and with the help of DFID and other donors, the country succeeded in getting 95% of children into primary school, up from 53% before the abolition.

The atmosphere at Kerezange is buoyant, and the pupils are polite, friendly and well behaved. In the final exams this year, two Kerezange pupils scored the best marks in the whole district. But success has brought problems: classrooms are overcrowded, textbooks scarce and qualified teachers rare. Kerezange has 140 pupils in each class, so teachers have to be creative to make their lessons work.

Kerezange’s parents are very supportive, and have formed a committee with some of the teachers to raise funds and discuss new ideas. The funds are urgently needed for new classrooms, electricity, running water and a lodge house for teachers.

Even without these basics, Mrisho is grateful for the free education he’s getting. Without it, he says, “We’d have been at home, not here learning or playing with our friends.”

- More than 100 million children around the world don’t go to school. Most of these live in the world’s poorest countries.
- In 2002, over 1.5 million children started primary school in Tanzania – twice as many as in 2001.
- As a result of Tanzania’s success in providing free primary education, DFID is donating £85 million to help the country reduce poverty and further improve its education system.

USING FOOTBALL TO PROMOTE SEXUAL HEALTH



Gouy Osoundalo was only 19 when he migrated from Nigeria to South Africa in search of a better future.

He quickly began to earn money in South Africa, but he was shocked by the xenophobia he encountered, and had to stay in Pretoria's city centre for fear of being assaulted in the townships. He was also concerned about the threat of HIV and AIDS and the lack of information available to immigrants like him.

When Gouy heard about a project that used sport to promote sexual health, he decided to find out more. The project, called African Soccer Against AIDS Tournaments (ASAAT), runs a

series of soccer tournaments for young immigrants. During the tournaments, discussion sessions enable the young people to talk about their experiences of immigration, their attitudes towards sex and their knowledge of HIV and AIDS.

ASAAT also set up a peer-educator scheme, and Gouy was quick to volunteer. He was so effective that he was chosen to lead the peer educators, and he used his position to help many young people to find out about HIV and AIDS and how to avoid the dangers. Working with immigrants and South Africans, Gouy also learnt to cope better with the xenophobia that he witnessed.

Gouy's experiences with ASAAT were chosen to illustrate good practice by a worldwide HIV and AIDS conference sponsored by the World Health Organisation and DFID. The conference used Gouy's story to inspire innovative practice in other countries and to inform their strategies.

- It is estimated that 11.8 million young people around the world are living with HIV and AIDS, and that 6,000 young people become infected with HIV each day.
- The ASAAT project was supported by UNAIDS and the International Organisation for Migration.
- In 1999, DFID funded a five-year *Safe Passages to Adulthood* programme, which researched young people's sexual and reproductive health in poorer countries.

40 PLANT DOCTORS AND CLINICS IN BOLIVIA



When plant doctor Wilge Velasco arrived in the Bolivian village of Tumuyu, he found that the farmers were using vast quantities of chemical fertiliser.

They believed the soil was infertile. Yet, no matter how much fertiliser they applied, yields stubbornly remained low for the potato on which they depend.

Wilge diagnosed nematode attack, not infertile soil, after he found root-knots and cysts in the soil, small black 'seeds' that resemble harmless weeds. The villagers were sceptical, so Wilge took a group to PROINPA, one of the Global Plant Clinic's (GPC) partner organisations.

There, in the laboratory, the villagers saw the tiny nematode worms for themselves, and the eggs inside the cysts. These were the real culprits, sucking the nutrients out of the potatoes. With Wilge's advice – and without extra fertiliser – yields improved, saving money and enhancing Wilge's reputation.

There are not enough plant doctors, however, and many farmers still rely on agrochemical dealers for advice. PROINPA have a weekly mobile plant clinic, or Posta para Plantas, in Tiraque market, where anyone can bring soil and plant samples to be diagnosed. Together, Wilge, PROINPA and the GPC are widening access for farmers to authoritative, independent advice.

- The Global Plant Clinic (GPC), which is funded by DFID, is an alliance of three institutes: CAB International, Rothamsted Research and the UK's Central Science Laboratory.
- Mobile plant clinics were created by the GPC, who also train plant doctors. Operated locally by national partners, they offer a free diagnostic and advisory service for plant health problems in developing countries.
- Mobile plant clinics began in Bolivia and have been extended to Nicaragua, Uganda, Cuba and Bangladesh, with India, Kenya and Colombia waiting to join.

SELLING PACIFIC SARDINES IN EUROPEAN SHOPS



When the European Union decided that only a species of sardine that swims in European waters could be marketed as ‘sardines’ in European shops, it created a major problem for Peru’s fishing communities and exporters.

The life of a Pacific fisherman is tough enough, without being told that the sardines he catches aren’t really sardines at all.

Fearing for the livelihoods of its fishermen, Peru challenged the EU’s decision through the World Trade Organisation (WTO). To mount this challenge it used the services of the Advisory Centre on WTO Law (ACWL), based in Geneva. ACWL provides

developing countries with free advice on international law, as well as low-cost legal support. Its lawyers charge just \$100 an hour.

With ACWL’s support, Peru mounted its case against the EU. It argued that sardines from the Pacific Ocean are marketed as ‘sardines’ in most world markets, and that international law allows a modifying phrase designating a geographic area of origin to be used, such as ‘Pacific sardines’. It even produced evidence that Peruvian sardines had been marketed in Germany as ‘Pacific sardines’ until the dispute arose.

In 2002 the WTO ruled in favour of Peru – the first time that a WTO member had been found in violation of its obligations under the WTO Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade. The case shows how, with a little help from ACWL, developing countries can take on and beat big trading blocs in commercial disputes.

- Since being established in 2001, the Advisory Centre on WTO Law (ACWL) has given 120 legal opinions to smaller, lower-income countries. In each year of its existence, it has represented its members in 20 dispute settlement proceedings.
- ACWL is funded by its ten developed country members: Canada, Denmark, Finland, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.
- Through DFID, the UK is paying \$1.25 million to ACWL to fund the first five years of its operations.

42 IMPROVING THE WATER SUPPLY IN SOUTHERN IRAQ



In the city of Basrah, in southern Iraq, the poor quality and unreliable supply of the drinking water are health hazards.

Of the 1.5 million people living in the city, three out of four don't have access to piped water and the rest have to put up with poor quality water and intermittent supply. Those who can afford it buy treated water from street vendors, because the water that comes from the taps often smells foul.

These problems have been caused by more than a decade of underfunding, which has resulted in an overburdened infrastructure, a chronic shortage of maintenance skills, a decrepit pipe system and a lack of essential spare parts.

To tackle these issues, DFID has funded the construction of a new training centre for Basrah's Water Directorate. Construction of the centre began in September 2005 and was completed in February 2006. This centre will enable the Water Directorate's workforce to develop practical skills in leak detection, equipment maintenance, water treatment processes and safe working practices – skills that will improve the efficiency and effectiveness of water treatment processes, giving the people of Basrah a better and more reliable water supply.

The project has received support from Basrah University, which has helped with curricula setting and training methods. Six members of the Basrah Water Directorate also went on a study tour to Northern Ireland in November 2005, and took part in practical training provided by the Northern Ireland Water Service.

- The water training centre cost £330,000, and is available for use by all four of Iraq's southern governorates: Al Basrah, Al Muthanna, Dhi Qar and Maysan.
- A Basrah-based firm, employing up to 120 local tradesmen, carried out construction. Project management was provided by PA Consulting Group.
- The training centre is part of DFID's Iraq Infrastructure Services Programme, worth £40 million.

43 FUFU FOR THOUGHT IN GHANA



In Accra, Ghana's capital, the streets and markets bulge with vendors selling convenience food – 60,000 people, mostly women, earn a good living selling favourites such as fufu, banku and kenki.

"I eat here because they are neat and the food is cheap – way cheaper than you'd get to buy in a restaurant," says Celina Mensah, a regular.

But there are dangers. Poor hygiene means that food is often contaminated, and when customers fall ill, a vendor's clientele – and livelihood – can vanish.

The city suffers too: vendors contribute £100 million each year to Accra's economy. What's more, those who rely most on "street food" tend to be the poorest – those who can least afford to get ill.

DFID-funded research showed that some foods – fufu in particular – were more easily contaminated than others, and that some vendors' traditional cooking pots contained dangerous amounts of heavy metals such as lead. This research set the priorities for a vendor education project: washing pots in running water, separating raw from cooked food and keeping food hot.

The project has directly trained 300 vendors, with another 3,000 trained by vendors' associations. Aprako, one of the trainers, says, "We teach environmental sanitation, food hygiene, personal hygiene, nutrition and business management – anything that is dealing with food." The training helps vendors to see that, by attracting more customers, improved hygiene can enable them to earn more. Thanks to word of mouth, more and more people in Accra are seeing the business benefits of good hygiene.

- The project is funded by DFID's Crop Post-Harvest Programme (CPHP), and is jointly managed by Ghana's Food Research Institute and the UK's Natural Resources Institute.
- Its success has depended on a coalition of street vendor NGOs, local authorities, food standards authorities, research institutions, and food laboratories.
- The approach is now being extended to informally vended food in Zambia, Zimbabwe and India.

44 GARDENS FOR LIFE IN KENYA



“This is where I grow my maize,” says Peris Wanjiru, pointing to her garden in Kenya’s Rift Valley. “I wish you’d seen it before I harvested it – I had it planted properly in rows just like my grandson showed me.”

There aren’t many people who learn new farming methods from their grandchildren - yet. Because of the Gardens For Life project, Peris’s grandson, Joseph Wanjuki, learned how to grow crops in primary school. His family gave him a corner of their land in which to practise – or “play” – and they watch what he does. “I feel proud when I play,” he says.

Despite the region’s good soil and smiling climate, malnutrition is common here. Gardens For Life aims to remedy that by getting children talking to adults about food, spreading techniques that make local farms more productive and prosperous. In class, the children learn about agricultural theory, nutrition, science and economics. Even in mathematics the examples are all practical, rooted in the garden behind the school where the children grow crops.

The children’s crops are used in school dinners – the only nutritious meal of the day for some – and local grocers are queuing up to buy the remainder. “It’s changed our lifestyle,” says one, “because there’s a constant supply of fresh vegetables now.”

For the children, the project has made agriculture look like a good career choice. Francis Muchuni is one of the children who took part in the project. He says, “I have a mission to continue farming – because you cannot exist without eating.”

- Gardens for Life is implemented by the Eden Project and the Kenya Youth Education and Community Development Programme (KYCEP), and supported by DFID, the UK’s Department for Education and Skills, Cisco Foundation, Syngenta Foundation, Future Harvest, Creative Partnerships (Cornwall), Barclays and Ernest Cook Trust.
- The project operates in the UK, India and Kenya, encouraging children and teachers to talk to each other – and their communities – about food.
- The aim is to enrich teaching, improve health, and lay the basis for action on urgent issues, such as sustainability.



For Rogati Kiwale, a farmer in northern Tanzania, the rainy season brought terror.

Monstrous columns of marching black caterpillars known as army worms could devour 90% of his crops. His simple choice? Lose the crop or join the panic-buying of expensive and environmentally damaging insecticides. Like 90% of farmers, he couldn't afford either.

Now the army worms are in retreat. A collaborative project funded by DFID's Crop Protection Programme supplies community forecasting packs to give farmers advance warning of attacks. These packs include a rain gauge, guidance notes and – most potently – traps baited with a pheromone secreted

by female army worms. The number of males caught provides an indication of worm populations.

When populations are rising and rainclouds loom, local networks spread the word and farmers begin intense monitoring. "By shaking the maize leaves we find the very young larvae," says Rogati. "And if we see the larvae then we take control measures immediately." That means NPV, another of the project's innovations.

NPV, or Nucleopolyhedrovirus, is a disease that kills up to 98% of army worms but affects no other plant or animal. Although NPV naturally occurs only after the worms have consumed the crops, scientists have found that diseased worms are highly infectious even after their death. This means they can be powdered and stored, then sprayed on crops – with the new casualties turned to powder in their turn.

At \$1 per hectare this is much cheaper than chemical insecticides – and completely safe even in environmentally sensitive areas.

- The Army Worm Novel Control Project is a worldwide collaboration supported by DFID's Crop Protection Programme.
- It involves CABI Africa, USAID (the US government's aid agency), the Tanzanian Ministry of Agriculture's Pest Control Services, the UK's Natural Resources Institute, the British Natural Environmental Research Council and Stirling University.
- The Tanzanian government is developing ways of collating and communicating the information gathered by local communities.

46 POTATO FARMERS GETTING BACK TO THEIR ROOTS IN BOLIVIA



“These potatoes were grown by our grandparents and great-grandparents,” says Martin Ortiz, a farmer in the Candelaria area of the Andes.

“Before, we’d keep these native potatoes for our own use and we’d eat them on special occasions like festivals and birthdays. We didn’t ever sell them in the markets, but they’re very good to eat.”

Although only 26, Martin is president of APROTAC, an association of farmers growing “papas Andinas” – native varieties of potato. In a project funded by DFID and managed by NR International, farmers are reviving varieties that were

close to extinction, keeping alive traditional ways of cultivating – and making a profit.

Nobody knew whether the idea would work: “We went to the supermarkets with samples which we carefully bagged and labelled so they could try them out. Then about a week later they came back to us and said that they’d like them there in the city.”

The farmers add value by exercising strict quality control, clearly labelling the different varieties and providing traditional Andean recipes on the bags. One manufacturer even sells the potatoes as native crisps, which city dwellers love for their novelty of shapes and colours.

The indigenous varieties are resistant to many local pests and diseases, which makes the crop more dependable. Andean farming communities have already benefited enormously from Martin’s experiment. The next step? “Now we have to produce and multiply more seeds and increase the size of the potato association because we need more of us to satisfy demand.”

- APROTAC is the Asociación de Productores de Tubérculos Andinos de Candelaria, formed with help from PROINPA, Bolivia’s potato research programme.
- APROTAC catalogues local knowledge about the cultivation and use of indigenous varieties of potato.
- NR International is an independent project-management company dedicated to improving the well-being of the resource-poor communities in the developing world. Since 1996 it has been jointly owned by Imperial College London, the University of Edinburgh and the University of Greenwich.

HELPING DISABLED PEOPLE BECOME MOBILE IN INDIA



Zabiullah learned to walk at the age of 22. He lives in Yarab Nagar, a deprived area of Bangalore, and he contracted polio when was eight months old.

For most of his life he was confined to his home because his only means of getting around was to crawl.

Doctors had told Zabi (as his family call him) that he would never walk because his muscles were too weak for callipers (leg braces) and his spine was too curved. When he heard about Mobility India – a Bangalore charity trying to improve rehabilitation services for polio sufferers – he asked them for a wheelchair.

To Zabi's surprise, the therapist who assessed him suggested callipers instead. Although sceptical, Zabi agreed to try. A rehabilitation team – therapist, prosthetist and orthotist – devised a programme of strengthening exercises for his upper limbs and back muscles. He moved swiftly from parallel bars to armpit crutches, and within six months he was walking with just callipers and elbow crutches.

He achieved this seemingly impossible feat because of Mobility India. The charity trained the team who helped him, and they researched and developed the callipers he uses. Their innovative techniques for producing cheap callipers and prostheses means that disabled people's mobility can be transformed without the need for expensive custom-fitted components.

Zabi is just one of India's 50 million disabled people, most of whom have no access to rehabilitation services, but he is one of a growing number who have reason to be grateful to Mobility India.

- Mobility India is a partner organisation of Action on Disability and Development (ADD).
- ADD is one of the 15 organisations with which DFID has partnership programme agreements (PPAs) – close, long-term working partnerships to achieve specific outcomes.
- ADD is a UK-based organisation working for "a world where all disabled people are able to participate as fully as they choose at every level of society".

48 VIETNAM'S ROAD TO PROSPERITY



“In the past, I had to carry paddy on my shoulders to the Thua market, which is 7km away,” says Kieu Van Do, a member of the Duong Quang commune in Vietnam. “There were few rice mills in the commune at that time. Now there are 20.”

The road running through the commune has recently been improved, and, like everyone, Kieu Van Do is delighted at the benefits. The road now links directly to one of the region’s main arteries, the NH5, making markets far more accessible.

The road was upgraded during 2001 and 2002, with funding from DFID and the World Bank. Since then incomes in the commune have increased by 7% a year, and the commune’s development fund has grown by 15% per year.

The commune’s economy – previously based solely on rice – has been transformed. It now involves cottage industries, rearing livestock and selling services, as well as different kinds of cultivation. With better access to information, villagers have adopted higher-value seeds and modern farming techniques.

Economic improvements have brought social benefits too: schools, health clinics, power supplies and the post office have all been modernised. More children are enrolling at school and benefiting from primary healthcare programmes.

Another commune member, Kieu Ngoc Quang, explains how villagers can now sell their livestock to agents for a better price: **“In the past, the price of a pig sold in the commune was 500 dong per kg lower than that at markets near NH5. Now there is no such difference.”**

- The improvements to Duong Quang commune’s road were carried out under the Vietnamese government’s Rural Transport II project.
- According to a government report (“Government Spending and Poverty Reduction In Vietnam”) every \$50,000 invested in rural roads lifts 100 people out of poverty, and every \$10,000 invested in road maintenance prevents 5,000 people slipping back into poverty.
- DFID will continue to fund the Vietnamese government’s rural transport targets, helping it to develop infrastructure in the poorest communes.



Turn on a radio in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and you will hear a confident statement: “Radio Okapi – breath of the DRC.”

Radio Okapi is the DRC’s most popular station, with tens of millions of listeners, but it does more than just broadcast good programmes. “Radio Okapi offers objective reporting and has opened up dialogue against a background of conflict”, says Franklin Moliba Sese, one of the station’s 100 journalists.

The Hironnelle Foundation and the United Nations Peace Keeping Department (UNPKD) established Radio Okapi as a vehicle for peace during the armed conflict that ravaged the DRC in the late 90s. The national radio and television

networks had been taken over by activists and used to spread propaganda and hatred, so Radio Okapi quickly developed a strong following, becoming the largest radio project ever managed by the UN.

The station played a major role in restoring peace to the country. And when the inter-Congolese dialogue began, Radio Okapi broadcast regular unbiased news reports as well as the DRC’s first political magazine programme, “Dialogue among Congolese”, which gave opposing factions their first opportunity to discuss their ideas in a trusted forum.

A 2004 audience study showed Radio Okapi to be the station that is both most listened-to and most trusted. Franklin Moliba Sese has no doubts about its influence: “Since its creation, the programme which I present has reported daily on major political events, and has been instrumental in the return of peace in DRC.”

- The Hironnelle Foundation is funded by a range of donors, including DFID.
- Founded in 1995, the Foundation aims to establish professional and independent media outlets in crisis regions of the world.
- Besides Radio Okapi, its ventures include Radio Agatashya in the Great Lakes region of Africa, Star Radio in Liberia, the Hironnelle News Agency in Tanzania, Radio Blue Sky in Kosovo, Radio Ndeke Luka in the Central African Republic and Moris Hamutuk in Timor.

50 CREATING NEW RICE FOR AFRICA



For Bintu, a rice farmer in southern Côte d'Ivoire, work used to be an endless cycle of ecological destruction and poverty.

After laboriously clearing land on her one-hectare farm, she had only time to sow a crop or two before the weeds returned. For years, she was stuck on a treadmill of clearing, sowing, harvesting – and clearing again.

Now Bintu grows a new kind of rice seed, less destructive and far more plentiful, thanks to scientists at the Africa Rice Center (WARDA). The new rice species was developed by

combining two different varieties: the Asian seed that Bintu used to use, which is productive but susceptible to weeds, and the traditional African variety, which is more durable but much less abundant.

The new variety, which is both rugged and profuse, is called Nerica (New Rice for Africa). Nerica can increase production by as much as 250%, and matures up to 50 days earlier than other varieties. Because it grows taller than most rice plants, it is easier to harvest, and it has more protein than its African or Asian parents.

Since its introduction in the late 1990s, Nerica varieties have been planted on more than 100,000 hectares across Africa. Nerica has transformed the working lives of millions of poor farmers like Bintu, and it has made food more affordable for the many millions of West Africans who live on less than a dollar a day, and who spend most of their meagre income on rice.

- Scientists at the Africa Rice Center (WARDA) have developed 18 Nerica varieties, all of which are suitable for the upland rice ecology of sub-Saharan Africa.
- WARDA is one of 15 international agricultural research centres supported by the Consultative Group on International Agriculture Research (CGIAR).
- CGIAR's mission is to achieve sustainable food security and reduce poverty in developing countries through scientific research.
- DFID gives £20 million a year to CGIAR.

51 OPENING UP A GLOBAL MARKET FOR VIETNAMESE POTTERS



Le Minh Chau, a Vietnamese potter, was recently celebrated for making the country's largest vase – a giant at nearly 4m high.

His other claims to fame include being judged a craftsman with 'golden hands' by the People's Committee of Hanoi, and winning the silver prize at the traditional handicraft fair.

But Le Minh Chau is not ready to rest on his laurels. He and other craftsmen in the village of Bat Trang are now making products for the international market through their new pottery brand – Bat Trang Vietnam – which they set up with the support of the Mekong Private Sector Development Facility (MPDF).

MPDF supported the craftsmen in building a new export centre in the village's historic temple of literature. The centre gives them advice on language skills, shipment, packaging and documentation, and the brand helps them achieve international recognition.

For the village's 400 potters, who have been plying their trade for 1,000 years, the new brand and export centre have secured their future. Their exports are worth an incredible \$40 million a year, and the market looks set to grow further because they have plans to target top-end retailers and develop tour packages.

As for Le Minh Chau, who has been making pottery for 40 years, the new brand is helping to preserve a valuable tradition: "When I was born, every villager produced ceramics. I didn't know when this traditional career started but I really wanted to continue."

- In the last two years eight million people have been lifted out of absolute poverty in Vietnam.
- The Mekong Private Sector Development Facility (MPDF) tackles poverty by providing business-support services to small and medium-sized enterprises in Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos.
- The MPDF is a multi-donor initiative managed by the International Finance Corporation, the private-sector arm of the World Bank Group.
- DFID is one of the MPDF's largest donors. It is donating £3 million between 1997 and 2007.



“I saw it first in August 2004 and thought that this marked the end of the world.” So says Zoë Tinkamanyine, remembering how she felt when she first saw banana bacterial wilt (BBW) in her crop.

The wilt destroys the fruit and kills the plant. In a country where 70% of farmers depend on bananas and plantains for their income, the disease threatens people’s survival. It is also a national disaster for Uganda, which earns over a quarter of its wealth from the crops.

DFID made research into the wilt a priority, and help also came from a surprising quarter – the vervet monkeys that most farmers see as pests. Farmers in Luwero district noticed that banana plants did not become infected if the male flowers had been eaten by monkeys, and scientists found that insects which feed on these flowers play a large part in spreading the infection.

The next priority was to tell farmers how to prevent the disease. Here Global Plant Clinic (GPC), also funded by DFID, took a major role. GPC developed the “Going Public” method of spreading information, which involves officers using any kind of meeting – from weddings to markets – to spread the word, aided by demonstrations, posters and photos.

The recommended measures include burying infected plants, cleaning tools, restricting the movement of plants and breaking off the male flowers. Thanks to their memorable slogan “castrate: twist and break”, infection rates have fallen from 70% to 10%. Mrs Tinkamanyine says, *“My bananas are not affected anymore.”*

- ➔ DFID’s Crop Protection Programme funded the research, which was mainly carried out by CABI Bioscience and Uganda’s National Agricultural Research Organisation (NARO).
- ➔ The Global Plant Clinic (GPC) is also funded by DFID. It is an alliance of three institutes: CABI Bioscience, Rothamsted Research and the UK’s Central Science Laboratory (CSL).
- ➔ GPC identified the disease’s causal agent and developed the strategy for telling farmers how to combat the disease.

DFID, the Department for International Development:
leading the British government's fight against world poverty.

One in five people in the world today, over 1 billion people, live in poverty on less than one dollar a day. In an increasingly interdependent world, many problems – like conflict, crime, pollution and diseases such as HIV and AIDS – are caused or made worse by poverty. DFID responds to emergencies, both natural and man-made. It also supports long-term programmes which aim to reduce poverty and disease and to increase the number of children in school, in support of the internationally agreed UN Millennium Development Goals.

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