

# global Eye

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-17, respectively. Thank you also to  
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## India and Pakistan celebrate 50 years of Independence

This year both India and Pakistan are celebrating 50 years of Independence (1947-1997). In recognition of this, in October the Queen and Prince Philip will be making an official State Visit to both countries. This will mark the climax of a year of intensive activity aimed at forging even closer links between Britain, India and Pakistan.

## Pregnancy and Childbirth - an unspoken tragedy

In a recent report, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) has estimated that 585,000 women die each year from problems related to pregnancy and childbirth. For every woman who dies, approximately 30 more suffer injuries and disability. Up to 75,000 deaths are related to unsafe abortion practices. The risk of dying in childbirth during a woman's lifetime is 1 in 7 in the worst-affected countries compared to 1 in 5,000 in Britain.

## Lake Victoria Clean-up

Lake Victoria, Africa's largest freshwater lake is under threat. Raw sewage, industrial waste and agricultural chemicals are being poured into the lake, posing a grave health risk to millions of people who rely on the lake for drinking water and fish. The lake's fisheries which have an estimated export value of £200 million a year, are close to collapse. Potentially toxic algae are spreading rapidly; water-borne diseases are prevalent; water hyacinth, which thrives in polluted water is choking important waterways.

The World Bank has announced a clean-up project with an estimated total cost of £48.5 million. The bank will provide £21.8 million, while the Governments of Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda will fund the remainder.

Lake Victoria is of enormous economic value to Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda, which control 6%, 49% and 45% of its surface, respectively. More than one-third of the combined Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of the three countries comes from the lake basin's agriculture, fisheries, tourism and urban industries. Thirty million Africans depend on Lake Victoria for their livelihood.

# International Day for the Eradication of Poverty

17th October 1996, marked the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) reported that "Each minute in the world 47 people join the ranks of the poor families". This adds more than 24 million people each year to the 1.3 billion who survive on less than 70 pence per day. Twice as many people - 60% of the world's population - live on less than £1.25 per day. Poverty is gaining ground in even the wealthiest countries. Today 100 million people are homeless, 5 million of whom live in more economically developed countries (MEDCs); 120 million people are unemployed, 35 million of whom live in MEDCs. The livelihoods of 700 million people are not sufficient to enable them to provide for their own needs and those of their families.

## Pulse Polio Programme

Britain is contributing £47.5 million to a massive vaccination scheme which it is hoped will eradicate polio by the year 2000. It is the largest single amount the Overseas Development Administration (ODA) has ever spent on an immunisation programme. The programme will be implemented in India, which last year accounted for more cases of polio than the rest of the world put together.

- In 1995, 2,993 cases of polio were reported in India, with 2,836 cases in the rest of the world.
- In Western Europe there have been no outbreaks of polio for four years and the entire American continent is now polio free.
- If the world effort at polio eradication is successful, it will be the second virus after smallpox to disappear completely from the face of the Earth.

Baroness Chalker, Minister for Overseas Development said:

**'The programme aims to strike a body blow against this disease once and for all. If we can eliminate polio in India, then the rest of the world will follow .'**

**Namibia is one of Africa's 'newer' nations, gaining its independence in 1990.**

It is the driest country in Africa, south of the Sahara and **one of the continent's most sparsely populated nations**, with a density of less than 2 people per square kilometre.

The nutrient rich waters of Namibia's **1,850 kilometre Atlantic coastline** are among the world's richest fishing grounds, particularly for fish such as hake and pilchard.

The country is known for its contrasting landscapes. **In the south-west the formidable dunes of the Namib, one of the world's oldest deserts**, dominate the landscape. In contrast, the lush, swampy delta lands of the Caprivi are found in the north-east.

Antelope, giraffe, zebra, wildebeest, elephant, lion, leopard and cheetah - **all the famous creatures of Africa are found in Namibia**, which is home to the largest population of cheetah still in existence.

People	Namibia	UK
Population (million)	<b>1.5</b>	<b>58.1</b>
Life Expectancy (years)	<b>55.8</b>	<b>76.8</b>
Infant Mortality (per 1,000 births)	<b>60</b>	<b>6</b>
Literacy (%)	<b>40</b>	<b>99</b>
<b>Communications</b>		
TVs (per 1000 people)	<b>29</b>	<b>612</b>
Radios (per 1000 people)	<b>140</b>	<b>1,433</b>
<b>Economy</b>		
GNP (US \$ per capita)	<b>2,000</b>	<b>18,700</b>
<b>Employment (%)</b>		
Agriculture	<b>49</b>	<b>2</b>
Industry	<b>15</b>	<b>29</b>
Services	<b>36</b>	<b>69</b>

Source: UN Human Development Report, 1998.

## Namibia is:

- home to the world's largest open-pit uranium mine
- the second largest producer of lead in the world
- is the world's third largest cadmium producer



## Minerals

There are more than 40 mines currently operating in Namibia, producing a variety of minerals including diamonds, copper, zinc, silver and gold. The two world-class mineral deposits are the diamond beds (coastal and offshore) north of Oranjemund and the Rössing open-cast uranium mine near Swakopmund.

Mining is the most important sector in the economy representing almost 16% of Gross Domestic Product (GDP). Most of the minerals are exported and make up more than half of Namibia's export earnings. In 1994 they earned Namibia N\$ 2,353 million (over £400 million). New mineral reserves - including natural gas and oil - are continually being sought.

## Marine Resources

The ocean off Namibia's 1850 kilometre long Atlantic coastline is one of the world's major fisheries. The cool waters of the Benguela current, which rise towards the ocean surface near the coast, are rich in nutrients. These nutrients provide food which in turn attracts large numbers of fish.

Lüderitz and Walvis Bay are the main centres of the fishing industry. Since Namibia gained Independence and declared a 200 nautical mile exclusive economic zone (EEZ) which prevented foreign trawlers overfishing its waters, the industry has grown. Much of the fish is exported unprocessed to Europe, although a huge investment in processing factories means that increasing amounts of fish are being processed in Namibia before export. The largest investment to date has come from the Spanish company Pescanova, which has built a whitefish plant at Lüderitz.

The total fish catch in 1994 was approximately 640,000 tonnes - mostly mackerel, hake and pilchard. Fishing accounts for about 28% of total export revenue.

## Wildlife and Scenery

For overseas visitors, Namibia is probably best-known for its wildlife and scenery. The sand-dunes at Sossusvlei in the Namib Desert are world-famous, though their location is quite remote. Elsewhere, the most popular destinations for visitors are the Game Parks, including the Fish River Canyon and Etosha, where a variety of wildlife can be seen, including giraffe, elephants, springbok, gemsbok, kudu, lions and jackals.

The number of tourists visiting Namibia has grown steadily and now stands at over 200,000 each year. There are plans to restrict the number of visitors to 300,000 in order to protect Namibia's fragile environment and ecosystems.

## Water

Fresh water is in very short supply in Namibia. This is due to a combination of low rainfall - the annual rainfall across more than 70% of Namibia's land area is under 40mm per year - and high temperatures, which cause high rates of evaporation. Namibia has very few perennial rivers (rivers that flow all year round).

As the country develops and its population increases, the demand for water for industrial, farming and household use is growing. Much of this water is being extracted from groundwater sources. These are gradually being depleted because water is being removed more rapidly than rainfall can replace it.

The government has a programme of building dams to store water. Other projects use canals and pumps to transfer water from northern Namibia, where rainfall totals are relatively high, to the drier central and southern regions.

## Namibia's People

People are among the most important resources in any country - Namibia is no exception. Over 1.4 million people call themselves Namibians. Compared with 18 people per km<sup>2</sup> for Africa as a whole, the average population density in Namibia at 1.7 people per km<sup>2</sup> is very low. Some areas however have much higher population densities.

Many ethnic groups make up the Namibian population - among them are the Owambo and the Herero. The majority of the population is black, but there is a sizeable white minority (about 7% of the total), most of whom are Afrikaaners. There is also a large German community.

One of the most famous Namibians is the athlete Frankie Fredericks. Born in Windhoek in 1967, his first job was as a computer technician with Rössing Uranium Ltd in Arandis in Namibia. Today, Frankie lives and works in Utah in the USA where he trains at Brigham Young University. Fredericks has silver medals for 100 and 200 metres events from the 1992 and 1996 Olympic Games. He also won the gold medal at the World Championships in 1993 and at the Commonwealth Games in Vancouver in 1994.

**In 1998** the world's population is likely to reach 6 billion. The last two decades have seen the fastest growth in world population ever recorded. It is currently increasing at a rate of 88 million people every year, the equivalent of 241,095 people a day, or 167 people a minute.

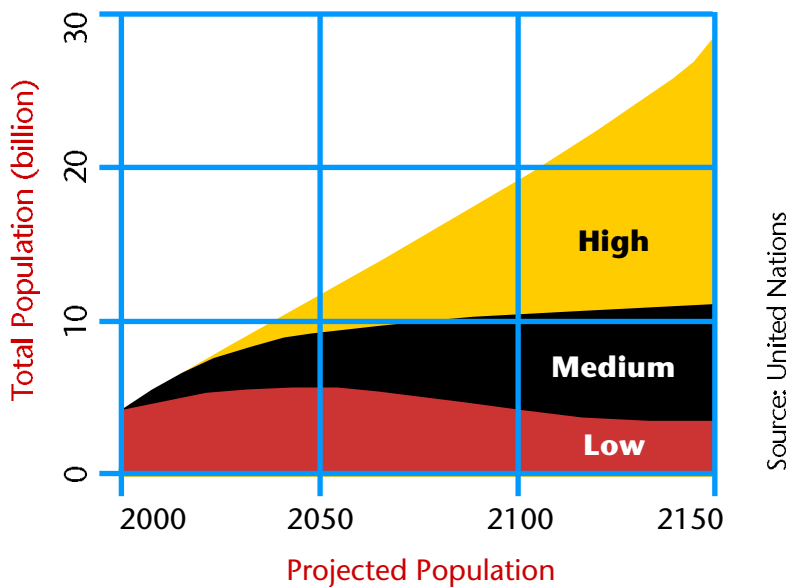
## Trends

It took 123 years for world population to increase from 1 billion in 1804 to 2 billion in 1927. Succeeding billions have been reached in increasingly shorter periods of time. The next billion, taking the world's population to 6 billion, will have been reached in only 11 years as the chart below shows.

The United Nations world population projection for 2015 ranges from a low of 7.1 billion people to a high of 7.8 billion. By the year 2050, the low projection is 7.8 billion people and the high projection 12.5 billion people. Even at the low level, world population would have tripled since 1950.

Date	Billion	Years Taken
1804	1	
1927	2	123
1960	3	33
1974	4	14
1987	5	13
1998	6	11





## Population Growth Rates

The rate of population growth or decline is determined by the difference between the number of people being born and the number of people dying. This is usually expressed as a percentage. Europe currently has the lowest rate of population growth and Africa the highest.

If assistance is not given to enable couples to plan their families, the effect on the world's population will be phenomenal. Providing women and men can obtain contraception if they require it, world population will probably level out at around 12 billion. Otherwise it is likely that it will triple to 17 billion over the next century.

### There are many reasons for an increasing world population, including:

- a steep decline in the number of people dying (largely as a result of improvements in medicine and sanitation) has not been accompanied by a similar decline in the number of babies being born. However, this is beginning to change in many countries
- large families are still found in many regions of the world
- as world population has increased, so the total added to it has grown, as children grow up to have their own families
- a lack of access to family planning services of any kind

The higher the rate of population growth in a developing country, the harder it is for the government to meet the basic needs of the people, such as food and water. Access to education and health care, including family planning services become more remote.

## Current Initiatives

Population control programmes aimed at meeting demographic targets have proved in the long-term to be counter-productive. Most current programmes recognise that solving the population problem involves a mixture of projects covering education, gender equality, health care, sustainable economic development and family planning. In LEDCs where fertility rates are stable or falling, the following factors have been identified as important:

- better status for women
- better provision for old age
- better education, especially for girls
- better education about birth control and better distribution of contraception

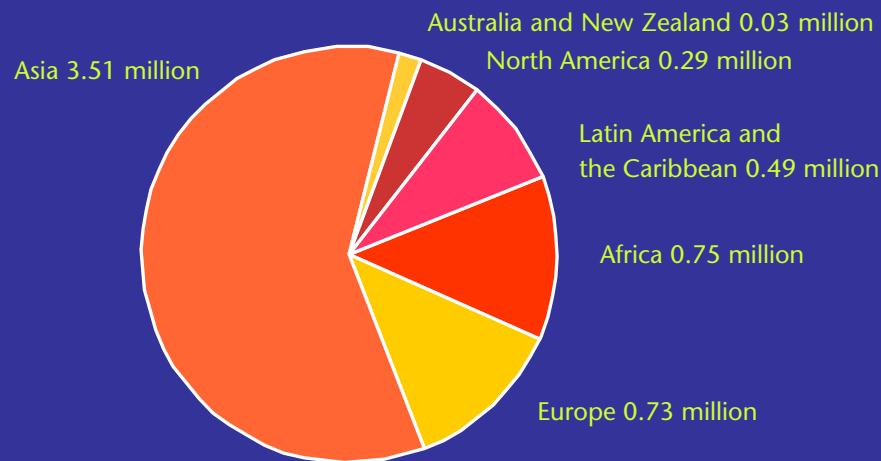
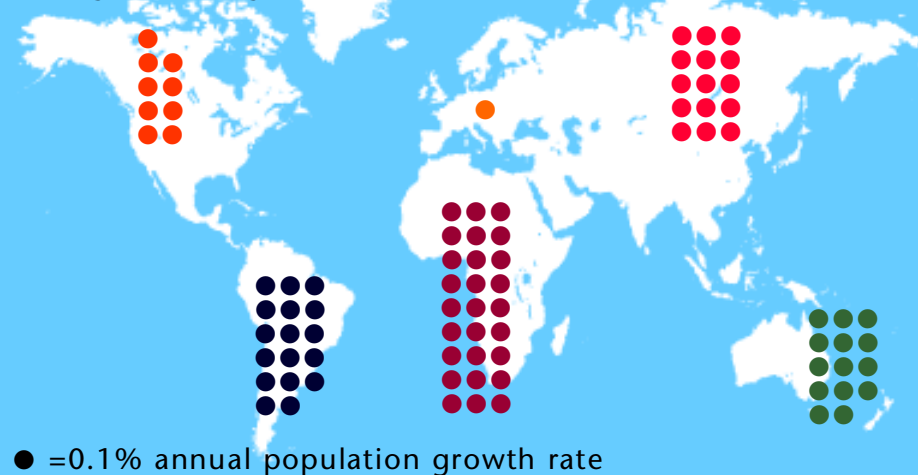
## The Cairo Population Conference

In 1994, an *International Conference on Population and Development* took place. Most governments recognise the need for slower population growth, but not all of them have the means or the education to do enough about it.

The Cairo Conference set out a 20 year programme to increase investment in women's reproductive health, including family planning services and to combat sexually-transmitted diseases. The programme emphasises the importance of quality, the needs of men as well as women and the urgent help required by young people.

### The challenges are to ensure that:

- everyone has access to reproductive health care and services
- men and women including young people are able to protect themselves against infection (most new HIV infections are among young people)
- children are conceived by choice
- women go through pregnancy and delivery more safely.

**World Population 1996** Total=5.72 billion**Population Growth (by continent)**  
average annual growth rate (1995-2000)**Some Family Planning Success Stories**

- In Mexico, where the majority of the population are Catholic, birth rates dropped by 20% in the decade after a national family planning programme was introduced.
- In Nigeria, nearly 25% of new clients at family planning centres said that television shows giving clinic addresses prompted them to make their first visit.
- In the Philippines a quarter of a sample of 600 young people aged between 15 and 25 said they sought contraceptive advice after seeing two music videos on family planning.
- In Brazil, a vasectomy advertising campaign brought about a 54% increase in the number of vasectomies performed over the year.

**Many development agencies, ranging from Government Organisations like the Overseas Development Administration (ODA) to Non Governmental Organisations (NGOs) like Population Concern, support or manage population assistance programmes.**

The ODA's funding for population programmes has increased from £20 million in 1985 to more than £60 million in 1995. Some of this money is channelled through British NGOs (see Focus on Aid, Global Eye Issue 1).

In 1991 the ODA launched its *Children by Choice not Chance* initiative. It aims to improve reproductive health by increasing access to good quality contraception, reducing the health risks associated with pregnancy and childbirth and by working to prevent and treat sexual ill-health for both men and women. Since the start of this initiative the ODA has approved funding for 174 population and reproductive health projects.

## Population Concern

Population Concern is a British NGO which works in partnership with NGOs overseas in order to help them deliver reproductive and sexual health services by raising the status of women. To date they have established programmes in 19 countries including working with women in remote areas of Pakistan; introducing youth peer counselling in Dominica (the Caribbean); developing the family planning skills of traditional birth attendants in Sierra Leone and supporting mobile education and services units in India.

**Case Study 1: India**

## Family Planning Association of India

In October 1992 the Family Planning Association of India, supported by Population Concern, launched two Mobile Education and Services Units, one in Gwalior, Uttar Pradesh and one in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh.

The area covered in Gwalior has a population of about 50,000 and in Bhopal about 40,000. Each project is supported by nine workers.

The workers initially gain the community's confidence through a child immunisation programme. After this a regular series of community meetings on education, maternal and child health and family planning take place.

**In four years the results of these two projects have been significant:**

- In the Gwalior area the number of children now immunised has reached 80%, from a starting point of 50%. This has resulted in a fall in infant mortality. Literacy rates have also increased. The recorded age of marriage has risen from 15.8 years in 1993 to 16.5 years in 1995.
- In the Bhopal area there has been an increase of more than 14% in the number of people using family planning, with a 63% increase in the number of women using the contraceptive pill. Condom use has also increased by 20%.

## Case Study 2: Mexico

### Gente Joven

Gente Joven is a sex education and family planning programme managed by the Mexican Family Planning Association (MEXFAM) which is specifically targeted at young people. To-date, the programme has been extended to 52 cities: in schools, sports and recreational centres, work sites and on the streets. There are five major components to the programme:

**Peer Promoters** More than 1,500 volunteers aged 16-20, supervised by paid coordinators, provide information and condoms to young people in the cities. They also refer them to family planning clinics. Young people help to develop the information materials used, in order to ensure that they appeal to teenagers.

**Education in Schools and Factories** Mexfam staff provide sex education courses in schools and workplaces. A 10-hour school programme, presented on five consecutive days, emphasises discussion and analysis as well as providing information.

**Outreach to Youth Groups** Teenagers 'on the street' and youth groups are targeted by trained social workers through music, theatre and group discussions.

**Radio** More than 100 radio programmes for young people have been produced in cooperation with the Ministry of Public Education. The programmes provide information on sexuality, reproduction, family planning and human relationships.

**Videos** Films and videos are used to initiate discussions about sexuality.

Gente Joven gave 4,264 talks on sexuality, communication, adolescence and AIDS; 109,867 young people took part.

Over 40,000 peer educators attended courses on family communication, puberty, sexuality and youth, sexually transmitted diseases and AIDS, teenage pregnancy and contraception.

An estimated 320,000 young people listened to the radio programme Estrenado Cuerpo (Using your body for the first time) - a series which combines music with personal accounts of young people's lives and problems.

**Red Nose Day** is the familiar face of **Comic Relief**, which is the money-raising arm of **Charity Projects**, the grant-making body behind the public face.

Charity Projects, which runs Comic Relief, was set up in 1984. **Its main aim is to help disadvantaged people in Africa and the UK** to overcome barriers (like poverty or homelessness), and achieve their full potential. Comic Relief doesn't run its own projects, but passes on the money it raises to other charities working with communities facing the greatest hardship.

**Since 1985, the public has raised over £112 million for Comic Relief.**

**In Africa**, Comic Relief funds local projects working with disabled people, pastoral people (who rely on animals for their living), women, people who live in towns and cities, and people who are living through a conflict or war.

**In the UK**, Comic Relief funds organisations working with young people who are disabled, homeless, or having problems with drugs and alcohol, and organisations which improve the quality of life for people over 65.

Comic Relief is committed to finding new sources of money to support projects in Africa and the UK. Through events like Red Nose Day, it tries to do this in a way which is active, educational, and **fun**, rather than based on a response to distress or guilt. Comic Relief also tries to pass on as much of the money raised as possible - for every pound the public donates, a pound is given to a project. This is called the 'Golden Pound Principle'. It means that the organisation relies on sponsorship and donations (of everything from office space to paper clips) to keep its operations going.

Since Comic Relief began, young people have been some of the most dedicated Red Nose supporters. More than half the schools in the UK raise money on Red Nose Day. Young people have come up with some outrageous ways of raising cash (like racing their pet snails or taking brussels sprouts for a walk).

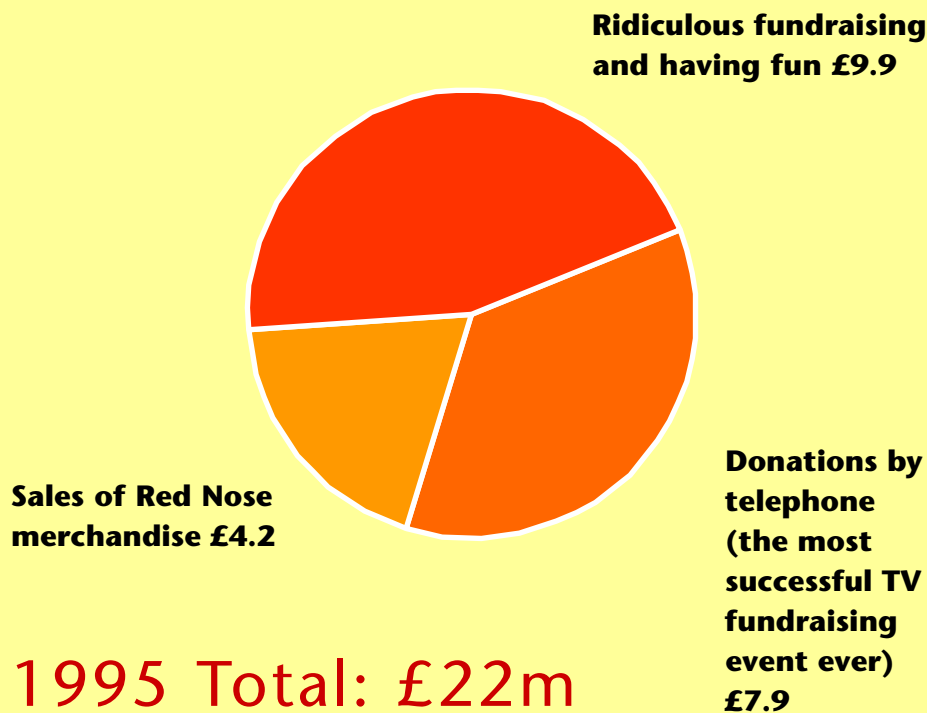
## How the money was spent

### Red Nose Day 1995

**Two-thirds in Africa** to 155 projects working with disabled people, pastoral people (who rely on animals for their living), women, people who live in towns and cities, and people who are living through a conflict or war.

**One-third in the UK** to 646 projects working with young people who are disabled, homeless, or having problems with drugs and alcohol, and organisations which improve the quality of life for people over 65.

### Where the money came from (£ million)





Goal, Addis Ababa.

## Street Children Project

In 1993, Goal (an Irish charity working in Africa) carried out a survey of children sleeping rough in one neighbourhood (or 'kebele') in Addis Ababa, the capital of Ethiopia. **They found over 200 children, some as young as five, living on the street.** Goal rented a house and converted it into a 'drop-in centre' for street children. The centre provides hot meals, a bed for the night, showers, and a place to wash clothes, plus a playroom, a health post and a nurse. **One of the most important things the children need is a safe place** to talk through their hopes and fears. Now, almost 400 children regularly use the centre, and increasingly they are getting work, education and training thanks to Goal's links with the local community.

**Comic Relief has provided over £106,000** towards the cost of the street children project for three years.

## School linking

Cranford House school near Wallingford, in Oxfordshire has written to Global Eye about their link with a Maasai community in Esilanke, Kenya. They established the link via the charity "Children Aid Direct".

The purpose of the link was to provide basic equipment for the school in Esilanke as well as a cultural exchange of ideas, music and crafts. The aim was to help the children of Esilanke remain in their own village and give their community a chance of survival. The school has supported the community for two years, during which time they have raised £4000. The children of Esilanke now have a school building, which provides for 124 children and is run by 6 staff. Before the school was built, lessons took place under an acacia tree.

Cranford House School

8 November 1996

Dear Global Eye

I have just received the Autumn issue of Global Eye which is an excellent resource for key stage 3 Geography.

Our school has a link with a Maasai community in Esilanke, Kenya, via the charity "Children Aid Direct" and we have been supporting them for over two years, during which time we have raised over £4000.00. Activities have involved a sponsored walk, bun-bakes, a Christmas Concert including a performance of the African Sanctus accompanied by the composer, David Fanshawe, collection of books, pens, balls, school uniform etc.

Although the two year direct link is about to be passed onto another school, many pupils have new pen-pals in Kenya and the whole school is very much aware of the meaning of AID.

Yours sincerely,

Miss Elizabeth Scoates

Deputy Headmistress

***"I feel that this link has made the problems of other countries "come home", I now feel part of a larger than first in this country." Kitty Bowman***

***"My empathy, understanding and above all friendship has been strengthened by the link between two very different lifestyles." Vicky Malin***

***"This link with the Esilanke tribe has allowed our small school to experience life outside of this country. Its made us think how friendship is important in this world and what we can do to help." Katy Gibbons***

***"People watch the news and try to imagine how people in Africa are struggling to survive. The link our school has had with the Esilanke people has made me really understand what they're going through". Nicola Brown***