

# global Eye

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## Development budget increased

Following the Comprehensive Spending Review, the budget for the Department for International Development will increase from £2,326 million in 1998/9 to £3,218 million in 2001/2.

The extra resources will enable the new approach set out in the development White Paper to be achieved and allow for greater assistance to be given to developing countries. DFID's increased budget and enhanced policy capability will also improve the UK's standing in multilateral bodies, such as the UN and World Bank. This increased influence will be used to promote the international commitment to poverty eradication.

Clare Short said of the investment, "Since the election, I have been reforming the way DFID uses its influence and resources so that we focus on the poorest. This increased budget will drive forward those reforms, and help put the rhetoric of poverty eradication into practice."

## Sudan

Britain has committed over £10 million in emergency humanitarian assistance to ease suffering in Sudan. As access to the areas affected by famine has improved, the need for urgent help has become greater. The money is being used to meet people's short term needs, providing vital food and medical aid. However, the continuing civil war means that long term solutions cannot be reached.

## Internet link up project

In July, Clare Short, International Development Secretary, launched a unique internet link up project between five schools within the city of Birmingham and five schools in Soweto, South Africa. The ten schools, all of which are in less privileged areas, have not had access to the internet before. It is hoped that the project will encourage young people to use the internet as a medium for learning, communicating, and bridging cultural divides. The link, which is funded by the Department for International Development and run by the Reading-based organisation Interaid, can be accessed via the following website address:

[www.netschools.org/job](http://www.netschools.org/job)

## Roll back malaria

The British Government has pledged £60 million towards the World Health Organisation's 'Roll Back Malaria' initiative, which aims to dramatically cut the number of deaths and illness caused by malaria by the year 2015. The project aims to increase the numbers of people able to gain access to effective malaria care, by promoting the wider use of existing techniques for treatment and prevention, and intensifying efforts to develop new drugs to fight the disease. Methods of controlling mosquitoes are also being considered, with the help of environmental development agencies.

Malaria currently kills more than one million people each year, and a further 500 million contract the disease. Pregnant women and children are particularly vulnerable. In Africa, where 90% of the world's malaria deaths take place, the disease kills one child in twenty before the age of five.

## International year of safe motherhood

1998 has been designated the International Year of Safe Motherhood, and the UK is working with the UN and developing world governments to reduce the dangers of pregnancy and childbirth. They aim to ensure that women worldwide have access to proper health information and good quality medical services in childbirth. Clare Short said of the policies, "The global community has failed poor women when it comes to safety in pregnancy and childbirth. Here in Britain, we are now largely shielded from the dangers which women in the developing world face. The risk of a woman dying in her lifetime as a result of pregnancy in the UK is about 1 in 5,100. In Nepal it is 1 in 10".

**The Republic of South Africa** consists of nine provinces covering an area of 1,221,040 square kilometres, making it larger than Germany, France and Italy combined.

The country has several distinct geographic regions. A narrow coastal strip is fringed by steep mountain ranges known collectively as the **Great Escarpment**, reaching its highest point in the **Drakensberg mountains** in the east. Inland from the escarpment lies the **interior plateau**, averaging 1,200 metres above sea level and mainly consisting of wide plains.

The influence of **relief** and **ocean currents** is reflected in the **variety of climates** found in South Africa. The western coast is washed by the cold Benguela Current producing arid scrubland conditions. In contrast the eastern shoreline is warmed by the Agulhas Current. **Rainfall is unreliable** and 65% of the country receives less than 500mm annually – which is regarded as the minimum for successful dryland farming.

People	South Africa	UK
Population (million)	<b>41.5</b>	<b>58.1</b>
Life Expectancy (years)	<b>64.1</b>	<b>76.8</b>
Infant Mortality (per 1,000 births)	<b>50</b>	<b>6</b>
Literacy (%)	<b>82</b>	<b>99</b>
<b>Economic and Social</b>		
GNP (US \$ per capita)	<b>3,160</b>	<b>18,700</b>
TVs (per 1000 people)	<b>101</b>	<b>612</b>
Radios (per 1000 people)	<b>316</b>	<b>1,433</b>
<b>Employment (%)</b>		
Agriculture	<b>14</b>	<b>2</b>
Industry	<b>32</b>	<b>29</b>
Services	<b>55</b>	<b>69</b>

Source: UN Human Development Report, 1998.

## South Africa:

- is the world's leading producer of gold
- is home to Africa's oldest National Park
- is often called the 'rainbow' country, reflecting the variety of its cultures and landscapes
- has 11 official languages



## Ending apartheid

Apartheid (meaning 'separate development') began in 1948. This policy segregated people of different colours in all aspects of their lives. Where you went to school, where you lived, and who you could marry were all decisions made based on the colour of your skin.

The government banned all internal opposition to apartheid. Most famously of all Nelson Mandela, leader of the African National Congress (or ANC) was imprisoned. He was eventually released from jail on February 2nd 1990 after 27 years as a political prisoner. His release followed the beginning of the gradual dismantling of apartheid that had begun during the last years of the 1980's. On April 27th 1994 the first multi-racial election in South Africa's history resulted in a victory for the ANC, with Nelson Mandela becoming president.

Since the end of apartheid South Africa has re-entered the international community. It is once again a member of the Commonwealth, and the United Nations. At a regional level, South Africa is a member of SADC (Southern African Development Community), which aims to promote regional economic development and integration.

## Wildlife and tourism

The number of overseas visitors arriving in South Africa has been increasing each year between 1992 and 1996. South Africa became a member of the World Tourism Organisation (WTO) in 1994. One of the biggest attractions is the country's rich variety of wildlife, and most tourists will visit at least one of the 17 National Parks in South Africa. These occupy nearly six per cent of the land, with private reserves and game farms accounting for almost the same amount of land again. The so called 'Big Five' – lion, leopard, buffalo, rhino and elephant can all be seen in their natural habitat in South Africa.

Probably the most famous of South Africa's parks is the Kruger National Park in the north east of the country. It is the oldest park on the African continent, some 350km long from north to south, and 60km across at its widest point. In total it covers an area of some 1,948,528 hectares. Within the park there are a wide variety of amphibians, reptiles, more than half of South Africa's 900 bird species, and 80% of the nation's elephant population.

## Rural development

Estimates suggest that 17 million South Africans are living in poverty. The vast majority of these people (some 75%) live in the rural areas of the country. Access to services, such as water and electricity, and to education and training are all poor in rural areas.

These disadvantages together with higher rates of unemployment have resulted in high levels of rural to urban migration. With the population expected to double in the next 40 years it is important to find ways of creating jobs in rural areas in order to reduce this migration.

One solution would be to promote traditional farming. This is relatively labour intensive, and together with the development of small agro-businesses could help reduce rural unemployment. By improving rural infrastructure it is hoped that fewer young people will be attracted to the 'bright lights' of South Africa's major cities.

The South African government's vision is that by 2020, rural people will have:

- dignity, security, freedom from poverty
- full and productive employment
- more diverse farms of varying sizes providing incomes (or part incomes) to many more people
- greater integration between towns and rural areas, especially on market days
- an improved network of towns, services, roads and transport
- good access to water and sanitation and to fuel sources
- democratic local government structures
- fewer and healthier children, with access to well resourced schools
- a healthy and productive environment.

## Minerals

South Africa is one of the world's richest countries in terms of minerals. It has the world's largest reserves of manganese ore, chrome ore, vanadium and andalusite. There are also substantial reserves of gold, diamonds, fluorspar, coal, iron ore, lead, asbestos, and uranium.

South Africa has about 39.1% of the world's known gold reserves, and in 1996 produced one fifth of the world's newly mined gold. Gold mining in South Africa has a long history, starting around 120 years ago. It is concentrated in the massive body of ore known as the Witwatersrand Basin which yields 98% of the country's gold output.

With the fall in the world price for gold over most of the past decade there has been a decline in the number of people employed in South African mines. In 1987 about 520,000 people were employed; by 1996 this number had dropped to 349,599. It is estimated that for every three people employed on a mine, another person is employed in an industry serving the mining sector. Further estimates suggest that every worker in the mining sector has between seven and 10 dependents. Job losses in mining therefore have an impact on a large number of people.



## **literacy** *n.*

- 1.** the ability to read and write.
- 2.** the ability to use language proficiently.

## **Why is literacy important?**

Literacy levels, like life expectancy and GNP per capita, are a method by which aspects of a country's quality of life or development can be measured. In the same way that a country supplying clean drinking water for its population is caring for the health of its people, a country which provides education is giving its citizens a means to control and improve their own lives.

In the UK, all children must go to school until the age of 16. As a result, most people can read and write. They are literate. They can pick up a newspaper and find out what is happening in the world, they can set up a bank account and understand their statements, they can write letters to each other or to local government if there is something they want to change. They are not hampered by illiteracy.

## **Why is there illiteracy?**

The UK is a developed country. It has taken many years and substantial government resources for 'education for all' to be put in place. In some developing countries it is not always so easy to go to school.

The reasons vary:

- there may not be a school nearby
- the family may need an extra pair of hands working and bringing in money, instead of learning at school
- it may cost a small amount to go to school, an amount that the family cannot spare
- the country's religion may not encourage women in education, or there may be no female teacher to teach the girls
- governments may feel it is more important to spend money on trade than on schools.

All of these reasons lead to the high levels of illiteracy that we see in some parts of the world.

## Some literacy facts

- A literate person is defined as someone who can write a short sentence about what they do each day.
- 27 per cent of the world's adult population is illiterate.
- It is estimated that around the world there are 100 million children who never go to school.
- Women who are educated are more likely to use family planning and take their children to clinics for immunisations.
- Since 1970, world illiteracy levels have gone down although they are still projected to have dropped only to 20 per cent by the year 2000, that is 1 in 5 people!

## Women and literacy

In this chart every single country has a literacy level that is higher for men than for women, and this is the trend throughout the world. Of the 100 million children who don't go to school, 60 per cent are girls. And of those girls that do go to primary school in developing countries, very few will go on to complete secondary school.

The irony of this is that educating women is one of the most important steps in improving social conditions in a country. Women who are literate understand more about childcare, family planning and clean drinking water. They are also able to earn more for their family and expect to be less dependent on their children in old age.

So why are they receiving less education? Often, for religious or social reasons, women aren't expected to get a job so families prefer their daughters to help out at home rather than go to school. Girls in developing countries often get married while very young and leave school to start a family.

Adult literacy rate 1996 (% of total population)	Male	Female	Total
Afghanistan	42	11	27
Brazil	82	80	81
China	87	68	78
Ethiopia	41	21	31
Gambia	48	20	34
India	62	34	48
Peru	93	80	86
Saudi Arabia	69	44	59
Thailand	96	91	93
Tunisia	73	47	60

Source: UNICEF

# Case Study 1: Senegal

Life isn't easy for the people of Louga in northern Senegal.

- The droughts of the last few years have led to food shortages and caused many young people to leave in search of work, or the promise of more fertile lands in the south of the country.
- Most villages lack sanitation facilities, electricity and running water.
- Life expectancy is 48 years.
- Access to education is limited, reading and writing are uncommon skills, and most parents prefer to keep their children at home to teach them the more practical skills of farming, herding and keeping house.

**PLAN International Louga** has set up a literacy project to enable these communities to take control of their own development. They are focusing on teenagers, as young people learn more quickly than adults and the benefits will be quick to materialise and have a longer term impact. Women teachers have been recruited to encourage parents to send their daughters to classes. As well as reading and writing they are teaching practical skills to enable people to stay and make a living in their villages; they are improving access to other areas of knowledge such as health, environment, agriculture and communications so that, once literate, villagers can develop their own initiatives and manage their own futures.

In the long term the project will establish a literate, numerate community of young people who are able to succeed economically and remain in the region.

Many countries are aware of the value of education and do what they can to develop it. When Fidel Castro took control of Cuba in 1958 the literacy level was 76 per cent and there were three universities for ten million people. Forty years later the literacy level is 94 per cent, there are 47 universities and every child must complete nine years of basic education. Cuba received a lot of aid from the former USSR.

## Case Study 2: Nepal

In the Rautahat District in the south east of Nepal, 90 per cent of the population traditionally earn their living from the land.

But rapid population growth is causing problems. Not only is there less land to go round and consequently less income per farmer, but living conditions are now overcrowded and unhygienic, and health and education services are insufficient for the increasing needs of the population.

**PLAN International** has recently established a programme in Rautahat to help the growing communities achieve sustainable development. As well as literacy the project will tackle housing improvement, school construction, road and bridge building, agricultural credit schemes and environmental education about the degradation of Nepal's mountainous terrain.

Literacy is important to a number of people in this area, both adults and children. Not only will being literate help farmers to understand the instructions on a bag of fertiliser, but also due to lower incomes, many farmers are being forced to find additional work, literacy will lead to better paid employment. Women and girls will benefit as literacy will bring with it the ability to educate themselves on issues such as family planning and nutrition. The project is setting up almost 300 learning centres, 85 'post literacy' centres and 25 mobile libraries. These will not only provide valuable information on relevant topics, but will also help new students to maintain and improve their literacy levels.

In 1992 – 1.1 million children in Nepal were not in primary school.

*Source: UN Human Development Report, 1996*

**The information gap** between rich industrialised nations and developing countries has **never been greater** and is continuing to widen.

**Book Aid International** believes that access to books and information is **fundamental to development** in all spheres.

The organisation works to help bridge that gap by **providing requested books** to libraries, community resource centres, schools, universities, and non governmental organisations in the **world's poorer countries**.

## Book Aid International

- was set up in 1954 by Hermione, Countess of Ranfurly in response to the book shortages she witnessed in the Bahamas.
- supplies over 700,000 books each year to support the local initiatives of organisations in over 50 developing countries.
- works with key partner organisations in 13 countries in sub-Saharan Africa and also in the Caribbean, the Pacific and South East Asia.
- takes advantage of the wealth of surplus books in the UK – from publishers, schools, universities, libraries and individuals. African published books are also purchased as are UK titles in subjects in high demand.
- is committed to supporting publishing in Africa – by helping to strengthen the capacity of local publishers and by purchasing African published books.

Libraries play a crucial role in supporting education in countries where books are scarce. For most people the public library service is the only free access to books – it is the 'university of the people'. Book Aid International aims to work in partnership with libraries to help them to sustain and develop their services. By encouraging people to read, investment in literacy programmes is not wasted and a local publishing industry is more viable. In Kenya library development is now led by local communities. If they provide a building, the Kenya National Library Service will give books, provide training and cover recurring costs. Two new libraries have already opened and three more are planned – most of the books will have been provided by Book Aid International.

## Income & Expenditure 1997

### Where the money came from

■ Donations in kind	£2,538,577
■ Charitable trusts	£410,506
■ Governments	£387,044
■ Companies	£97,844
■ Other	£35,802
<b>Total</b>	<b>£3,469,773</b>

### Where the money was spent

■ Projects & Programmes	£3,086,005
■ Support & Administration	£168,651
■ Fundraising & PR	£111,767
<b>Total</b>	<b>£3,366,423</b>

## Reading around the globe on World Book Day

On 23 April 1998, schools throughout Britain celebrated World Book Day. Book Aid International brought out the 'world' aspect to the day, and encouraged children in the UK to think about other children in parts of the world who might not have a favourite author or character because they lack the books in order to be able to make that choice.

Children and their teachers took part in a range of activities to raise funds for Book Aid International from sponsored storytelling, to sponsored read-ins, to dressing up as their favourite book character. One school got their teachers to bring in photos of themselves as children, and the children had to guess who was who. Then the children had to guess which book was their teacher's favourite when they were young.

250 schools took part – primary, secondary, sixth form colleges and schools for children with learning difficulties and with disabilities – and they raised over £45,000.

*"Books are important for the transformation of society and the enrichment of the human spirit. The developing nations are in a difficult period, until their economies revive and they can publish their own books. We pray for an end to the need for this kind of help, but until that time Book Aid International provides a vital bridge."*

Ben Okri, Nigerian author.

**Book Aid International** works in partnership with organisations in developing countries to support literacy, education, training and publishing, by providing books and other reading materials – which help people to realise their potential and contribute to the development of their societies.

# Clare Short, Secretary of State for International Development

## How did you become interested in development?

My Father was Irish, and a teacher in Birmingham. He was interested in all the countries Britain had colonised. We grew up surrounded by interest and concern for social justice, at home and across the world.

## What do you regard as the most interesting aspect of your job?

Every bit of it is interesting and all part of one aim: to meet the targets set out in the recent White Paper by mobilising political will, both in Britain and internationally.

## Do you believe money from DFID's budget can make a real difference and if so, how?

Of course. It helps fund the international system – World Bank, UN agencies etc. and funds our own direct partnerships with countries committed to the poverty eradication targets. We also invest in 'know how' to help middle income countries reduce poverty and contribute large sums directly to poorer countries, so that they can develop essential services, such as basic health care, education and clean water. The poorest countries need planned investment for up to 20 years to be able to avoid future aid dependency.

## What is the most important change you have been able to introduce to development policy?

Working to focus all our efforts and those of the international community on meeting the poverty eradication targets.

### Celebrity Questions

Over the next year, Global Eye is hoping to interview a number of celebrities about their interest and involvement in the developing world, aid projects and awareness raising campaigns. We would like to hear from our readers about which celebrities they want to hear from, and what questions they would like us to ask. You can nominate anyone who has been associated with development issues, TV stars, politicians, footballers, writers, pop stars, or even royalty. Don't worry if you can think of lots of people you want to hear from, you can nominate as many people as you like. Along with your choice of celebrities, we also want you to send ideas for four or five questions. The questions should relate to the developing world or associated projects, but do not have to be specific to each celebrity you have nominated. So, put on your thinking caps and let us know your views. We look forward to hearing from you!

Please send your ideas to:

**Global Eye – Celebrity Questions, 31-35 Kirby Street, London EC1N 8TE**