

global Eye

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Floods in China – Further Assistance

More than 3000 people died last Autumn in China's worst floods for half a century. More than one fifth of the population were affected in some way, and millions of hectares of crops were destroyed. The UK Government has provided £5.61 million of development assistance. More than £2 million of this is being allocated to providing emergency shelter, food water and sanitation, as well as infrastructure repairs.

New UK-South Africa Partnership

A new partnership for development cooperation between the UK and South Africa has been announced as a result of which the UK Government will spend upto £90 million over the next three years. The money is intended to help the South African Government to reduce poverty and improve life for many of its people. Improving the delivery of basic services including education, health, water and sanitation is a major aim. The money will also be targeted on five of the poorest provinces: Eastern Cape, Kwazulu Natal, Free State, Northern and Northwestern Provinces

Fair trading supermarkets

Three major supermarket groups – the Co-op, Sainsbury and Somerfield – have signed up to join the Ethical Trading Initiative (ETI). This initiative is trying to ensure that the goods which supermarkets sell under their own name come from suppliers who give their workers a fair deal. Christian Aid has led the campaign by asking shoppers to indicate their support for the ETI directly to their own supermarket managers. The campaign continues until other supermarket chains support the initiative.

Colombian Earthquake

On 25 January, an earthquake measuring 6.0 on the Richter scale devastated much of the coffee-growing region of Colombia in South America. Some one thousand people lost their lives. The most seriously affected areas are around the city of Armenia, 40% of the buildings in which have been so seriously damaged that they will have to be demolished. The Colombian Government has declared a state of emergency, and United Nations agencies and other organisations like Save the Children are working to support the relief effort.

The British Government is working closely with the Red Cross and the Colombian Government and has provided help with immediate needs such as medical supplies, food, clothing and shelter.

Debt

The 'Drop the Debt' campaign received a boost at the pop industry's Brit Awards ceremony in London. The campaign, designed to persuade governments to cancel the unpayable debts of the world's poorest countries by the year 2000 was boosted by calls for support made by Bono and world boxing legend Muhammad Ali. Jubilee 2000 is an international coalition movement in over 40 countries. In the UK alone, it has more than 80 organisations supporting its aims.

In March, Clare Short and Gordon Brown unveiled a plan to help relive debts and aid poverty reduction programmes in the world's poorest countries. The Secretary of State for International Development and the Chancellor, announced a four point plan which aims to:

- Cut debt – a target of committing the government to reducing developing world debt by US\$50 billion by the end of the year 2000 was set
- Boost aid – a call was made to developed countries to increase aid flow to poor countries to US\$ 60 billion by the year 2000
- Give a billion – non-governmental organisations were asked to increase their aid to US\$1 billion by the end of 2000
- Sell the gold – supporting the sale of US\$1 billion of International Monetary Fund gold to enhance debt relief through the World Bank's 'Heavily Indebted Poor Countries' initiative.

The Republic of Kenya is named after Mount Kenya or 'Kirinyaga' – the mountain of whiteness, which is almost in the centre of the country. Lying on the east coast of Africa and beside the Indian Ocean, Kenya **straddles the equator**. The country covers 582,650 square kilometres and has borders with Somalia, Ethiopia, Sudan, Uganda and Tanzania.

In Northern Kenya there are **semi arid plains and deserts**, while further south there are large expanses of **savannah**, known for game parks such as the **Maasai Mara**. The Central Highlands form Kenya's most productive region, with **natural forests and fertile soils**. Kenya's most famous physical feature is the **Rift Valley**, which in places is almost 100 kilometres wide and up to 3 kilometres deep.

Kenya gained its independence from Britain in 1963. **Swahili** is the official language of the country, but over 30 other languages are also spoken. The people of Kenya come from over 70 tribal groupings, the largest of which is the **Kikuyu**.

Kenya has **few natural resources**, so the economy is chiefly based on **agriculture** and **services**, mostly tourism.

People	Kenya	UK
Population (million)	27.1	58.1
Life Expectancy (years)	53.8	76.8
Infant Mortality (per 1,000 births)	61	6
Literacy (%)	78.1	99
Urban Population (% of total)	29	89
Economic and Social		
GNP (US \$ per capita)	280	18,700
TVs (per 1000 people)	18	612
Radios (per 1000 people)	96	1,433
Employment (%)		
Agriculture	80	2
Industry	7	29
Services	13	69

Source: UN Human Development Report, 1998.

Kenya is:

- a popular tourist destination, with almost 500,000 visitors in 1996
- a member of the Commonwealth
- renowned as the 'cradle of humankind', some of the world's oldest human remains have been found in Olduvai Gorge



Industry

Kenya is East Africa's most industrialised country, producing a range of products for sale both in Kenya and for export. The industrial sector currently accounts for 20% of Kenya's GDP. Most industry is concentrated in Nairobi and Mombasa, and is based on agriculture, processing food and other cash crops. Tea and coffee are processed, flour is milled from both maize and wheat, sugar is refined from sugar-cane, cotton is spun and then made in cloth, and cigarettes are produced from the country's tobacco crop.

Kenya also has a small chemical and engineering industry, but expansion in this area is hampered by limited fuel availability. Kenya has little coal, gas or oil and so relies on imported fuel. Oil is imported for commercial and domestic use, with much of the country's profits from exports being spent on this vital commodity.

Tourism is an increasingly important source of income and currently provides work for over 100,000 people. Over half a million tourists visit Kenya every year, to see the wildlife and enjoy the sandy beaches. Despite the money that such tourists bring into Kenya, there have been conflicts between developers and locals, as traditional tribal lands have been cleared to form nature parks, and hotels have made unsustainable demands on water and electricity supplies. A number of government strategies have been put in place in an attempt to combat such problems.

Solar Power

In Kenya, more rural households get their electricity from solar energy than from the official Rural Electrification Program (REP). For users with low energy demands, solar power offers an economic and reliable power supply, which is quick and easy to obtain and use. Due to lack of funding, the REP is expanding very slowly through the country. In 1994 only 0.5% of rural households (17,000) had access to the electricity grid, while 20,000 had bought and installed solar energy systems.

Solar energy systems can be used in rural areas to power lights, radios and televisions, and despite their cost are cheaper to run than the national grid, generators or batteries. Since their introduction in the mid 1980s, demand for solar energy systems has grown rapidly from those households who can afford the initial costs.

Solar power is pollution-free and does not rely on another energy source, such as oil, which must first be imported. Solar powered households tend to be more energy efficient as they use low-energy fluorescent lamps. Fluorescent lamps are five times more efficient than traditional bulbs, but are difficult to use with the electricity grid because of fluctuations in the power supply.

Land Issues

Land is traditionally very important to the Kenyan people, most of whom either live on, or rely on income from the land. However, a growing population means that the demand for land is increasing. More than half of the country's total area is dry and of poor quality, making it almost impossible to farm. Traditional agricultural land is intensively farmed and overcultivated; the extensive use of pesticides and fertilisers has caused degradation of the soil and falling yields. To try to combat this problem more fragile areas have been cultivated in an attempt to meet the growing demand for food and cash crops.

Agricultural products are Kenya's primary export. As more land is made available for flowers and vegetables which are destined for foreign shops, less land is retained for personal use by local smallholders and farmers. These big, commercial farms are largely owned by powerful individuals and companies. As the pressures on land have grown, so disputes over land rights have increased. Such quarrels have led to court battles which have effectively contradicted traditional land ownership. In 1994, for example, the Okiek people were forcibly removed from the Tinet Forest of Olenguruone, in the Rift Valley, so that a commercial flower farm could be developed on the site.

To help combat such clashes, a land reform commission has been proposed, which will attempt to settle land disputes quickly and fairly. Hopefully this will result in a fairer distribution of land and a more sustainable future for local farmers.

Living with Elephants

Since 1989 an ivory ban has been in place in Kenya, resulting in a huge drop in the number of elephants killed by poachers. Poachers once killed as many as 5,000 elephants a year. Since the imposition of the ban, this number has fallen to below 60. In the same period, the elephant population has grown by 1,000 animals per year. However, the news is not all good.

Elephants have now lost their fear of people and are spilling out of the overcrowded national parks into the surrounding countryside. In the early 1990s, the human death toll caused by elephants rose dramatically, from just 9 in 1990 to 40 in 1992. These fatalities caused a huge problem for the Kenyan Wildlife Service (KWS), which was accused of caring more about animals than humans. In 1995 a limited cull was carried out. By shooting just a few elephants, the fear of people was re-established, and human fatalities declined to 11.

Damage to natural and cultivated crops by elephants is also a huge problem, which has increased with growing herd sizes. In the Amboseli National Park in south west Kenya, there are now so many elephants that half the natural plant species in the park have been destroyed. Fences have been constructed to allow grassland to revive, but some elephants are necessary to retain the natural balance. Too many elephants will destroy the grassland, but too few will allow bushes to grow and depress the natural vegetation.

Research is currently underway into various conservation projects to reduce the numbers of elephants, including fertility control and the possibilities of 'green hunting'. KWS aim to involve local communities in wildlife conservation, in order to reduce potential conflict. If wildlife is seen as an alternative 'land use' and is allowed to roam freely, more tourists may be attracted to Kenya, increasing local incomes.

'Health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well being and not merely the absence of disease' (World Health Organisation)

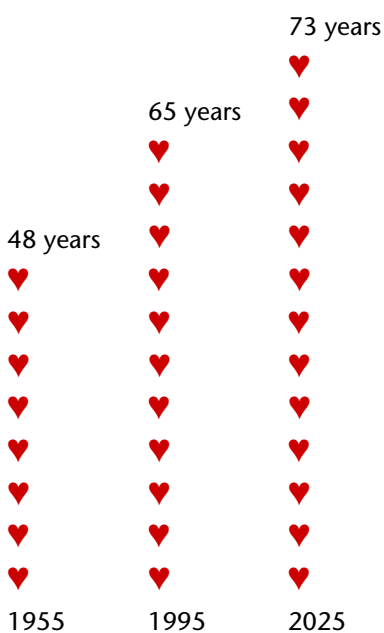
20th Century Diseases

The social and economic advances of the 20th century have had a massive impact on the health of the world's population. People are living longer and more people than ever before have access to basic health care, safe water supplies, and basic sanitation.

Most of the world's children are now immunised against the six major diseases of childhood – measles, polio, tuberculosis (TB), diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus. The development of medicines and vaccines has helped wipe out smallpox, and has virtually eliminated others such as yaws and leprosy.

Unfortunately other diseases have not been eliminated and some new diseases have also appeared. Tuberculosis was almost wiped out but many countries closed down programmes controlling the disease; and as a result tuberculosis still kills about 3 million people every year. Over the last 20 years some 30 new diseases have developed, including AIDS, Ebola fever and new variant Creutzfeldt Jakob, or 'mad cow' disease.

Improvements in life expectancy



Deaths worldwide in 1997

Total 52.2 million deaths

17.3 m	Infectious and parasitic diseases
15.3 m	Circulatory diseases
6.2 m	Cancer
2.9 m	Respiratory diseases
3.6 m	Perinatal* conditions
6.9 m	Other

*Occurring from three months before to one month after the birth of a baby.

Healthy Eating

Whilst the health of a large percentage of the world's population has undoubtedly improved, many people in developing countries still suffer from poor diets and unsanitary living conditions.

The diet of millions of people in developing countries leads to either:

- undernourishment (insufficient energy-giving calories) or
- malnutrition (a shortage of the right kinds of food e.g. proteins, vitamins or minerals)

In developed countries few people suffer from undernourishment or malnutrition, instead diet-related diseases are more widespread. Many of these diseases are associated with people's lifestyles, most notably heart disease and some forms of cancer.

infectious	non-Infectious
malaria	cancer
HIV/AIDS	coronary heart disease
tuberculosis	diabetes
meningitis	

In developing countries, infectious diseases are common. Indeed HIV/AIDS is expected to have a major impact in some countries. Unfortunately as more people in developing countries adopt 'western' lifestyles factors such as smoking, a high-fat diet, obesity and lack of exercise will all have an impact on their health.

Case study 1

Primary Health Care (PHC)

The concept of Primary Health Care (PHC) was jointly developed by the World Health Organisation (WHO) and UNICEF (United Nations Children's Fund) to improve the health of poor people – especially children. PHC is a package of essential health services, personal responsibility for one's own health, and community projects which promote good health. The nature of any PHC programme can vary from country to country, this is because a country adopting a PHC programme is free to do so within the social and economic circumstances in which it finds itself. There are eight core elements to a Primary Health Care programme:

Health Education Preventing ill health depends on changing personal and social habits. PHC means educating people in understanding the causes of ill health and promoting their own health needs.	Food & Nutrition Around two-thirds of under fives in the poor world are malnourished. PHC means ensuring an adequate, affordable food supply and a balanced diet.	Water & Sanitation 80% of the world's disease is related to lack of safe water and sanitation. PHC means providing everyone with clean water and basic sanitation.	Traditional Medicine Traditional birth attendants deliver 60%-80% of babies in the developing world. PHC means enlisting traditional healers, giving additional training and using traditional medicines.
Disease Control Some 5 million children die and another 5 million are disabled yearly from 6 common childhood diseases. PHC means immunisation against childhood diseases and combating others like malaria.	Essential Drugs Up to 50% of health budgets are spent on drugs. PHC means restricting drugs to 200 essentials, preferably locally manufactured and made available to everyone at a cost they can afford.	Curative Care 1,000 million cases of acute diarrhoea in under-fives each year. PHC means training village health workers to diagnose and treat common diseases and injuries.	Maternal & Child Health Over half a million mothers die in childbirth and 10% of babies die before their first birthday. PHC means trained birth attendants, promotion of family planning and monitor child health

The introduction of Primary Health Care has had an impact globally, as well as being extremely successful in countries such as Egypt.

- Worldwide infant mortality rate has dropped from 90 per 1,000 live births in 1975 to 59 in 1995
- The number of children under one year of age who have been immunised has risen from 20% in 1980, to 80% in 1990

Case study 2

Save the Children and the 1998 Bangladesh floods

Floods are a normal part of the annual cycle of life in Bangladesh. Normally the flood waters bring with them vital nutrients which help to renew fish stocks and groundwater supplies. Unfortunately the floods of 1998 were heavier and longer than normal, and caused large scale disruption to people's daily lives. The floods also had a very serious impact on the health of Bangladesh's population for a number of reasons:

- scarcity of food – either food was simply not available, or it was too expensive for people to buy
- dirty water – safe drinking water was scarce as supplies were often contaminated by sewage and flood water
- disease – contamination of water supplies lead to widespread diarrhoea and other water related diseases, many people suffered from leg sores from standing in flood water
- homes were destroyed and people were forced to live in damp, unsanitary shelters

To assess the scale of problems facing Bangladesh, the relief and development organisation Save the Children carried out a survey of children under five years old in the Jamuna river region. Amongst other things this survey found that 17% of children were suffering from moderate malnutrition, and 2.5% of the children were suffering from severe malnutrition.

To help overcome problems like these, Save the Children:

- helped to restore clean water supplies by rebuilding latrines and purifying tube wells
- provided food to children and disabled women; and wherever possible, families were given cash to buy their own foodstuffs – this helped local markets continue operating
- supplied seeds for fast growing vegetables and other crops

By providing access to a safe water supply, the money to buy, or the means to produce an adequate diet for themselves and to rebuild their homes, Save the Children tried to ensure that people will quickly be able to look after their own health needs again.



Save the Children is a large **aid agency** and childrens charity. It works in different places in the world, in the **UK** as well as **overseas**.

Save the Children has a Global Programme Strategy covering five years up to the year 2000. This, along with other documents, sets out what the charity believes in, and the principles it operates by. They have been agreed and understood by the staff and management of the charity. So when it comes to helping children in a particular community a decision can be made whether or not to get involved – and if so, at what level and how.

These principles are the same all over the world – whether working with disabled children in a rural community in Africa or with lone parents on a housing estate in Wales.

Save the Children believes in children's rights. The guiding document used by the organisation is the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. This, signed and ratified by almost all the nations in the world, is based on an original drawn up by Save the Children's founder, Eglantyne Jebb, in 1923. Save the Children recognises that children are special. It works to a children's agenda, always putting children and young people at the centre of decisions that affect them.

Save the Children is an independent organisation. Although it often works in partnership with other bodies. Save the Children will respond to urgent needs – such as emergency relief work, but is also committed to carrying out vital long-term plans. All its work is designed to strengthen the ability of communities to bring about lasting improvements for children. Cooperation with governments plays an important role in the activities of Save the Children. Where a government is weak and unable or unwilling to care for its own population, Save the Children will work with other humanitarian organisations to respond to the needs of affected communities.

By staying in countries during crisis, Save the Children has often been in a position to help governments begin to recover after emergencies. In the 1980s, for example, Save the Children remained in Uganda during the civil war, working alongside government social services to help and protect children. This special relationship continued into peace time, and the organisation worked closely with the government of Uganda on their Children's Bill, which revolutionised the country's approach to child care and protection.

Save the Children believes in fairness and justice within societies, that all people have the right to dignity and equality, and it opposes all forms of unfair treatment based on age, gender, culture, ethnicity, sexuality and disability.

What does this mean in practice? Here are some examples:

In war thousands of children become lost and separated from their families. Save the Children has developed expertise in tracing families of lost children. This is slow, painstaking and sensitive work, but it can eventually lead to the reuniting of families and friends.

Emergency famine relief can save lives, but for thousands it comes too late. So Save the Children spends time and money working with communities to try to forecast when food supplies are running low and emergencies are likely. This is done with the aid of computer software called RiskMap which helps anticipate the need for food aid. RiskMap works by collating data, such as the price of grain and cattle, crop failures, lack of grazing, war etc. The programme then analyses the size of the problem, and offers an estimate of the proportion of the population likely to be effected. This data is then used to inform proactive planning and help avoid extreme food shortages.

Discrimination against women and girls is a huge problem in many countries throughout the world. Save the Children tries to tackle this in practical ways. Improving female access to education is very important and can, in some cases, be tackled with simple solutions. In South Sudan, for example, Save the Children workers found that girls were rarely going to school. Investigations showed that their families could not afford dresses for them to wear. Save the Children set up a sewing machine project for women, providing training and material, and so helping the families to overcome this particular problem.

A state of emergency

A huge clear up operation is currently underway in Colombia, following the massive earthquake in January. In just 18 seconds the earthquake savaged the country's fertile coffee-belt and devastated the city of Armenia, killing at least 1,000 and injuring 5,000 others. The survivors now find themselves living in makeshift shelters, with no sanitation or power, food and water are in short supply, and many people have lost everything they own.

Thousands of tonnes of rubble and debris are still being cleared from Armenia's streets. Workers regularly uncover bodies which have been buried beneath the remains of homes and businesses. A local basketball arena has been converted into a temporary morgue, and although many of the earthquake victims have already been buried, some still wait for relatives to claim them. Photographs of the dead are stuck on walls, where those looking for the missing can search for members of their family.

Over 200,000 people have been made homeless by the earthquake, some have fled to other areas, but thousands have been forced to erect tents and huts in parks and open spaces. Some lucky people have been able to salvage mattresses and blankets from the wreckage, but many have nothing to protect themselves from the drop in temperature at night. The lack of proper sanitation and running water means that the risk of disease and infection is growing everyday. Emergency aid has been donated by many countries and organisations, but the scale of the problem is so huge that donations are being exhausted faster than they can be replaced.

In rural areas coffee plantations have suffered extreme damage. Coffee is one of Colombia's key exports and it is feared that the earthquake and its aftermath will have a devastating effect on the country's economy. The rubble alone will take weeks to move, but even once it has gone, the problems will not disappear. The earthquake has destroyed hundreds of businesses in and around Armenia, throwing thousands of people out of work. The government has promised loans for the estimated US\$ 1 billion necessary to rebuild the city, thus providing much needed jobs, but work cannot begin until the rubble is removed or made safe. In the mean time people must continue to fend for themselves and rely on the limited supplies of relief agencies.