

How can the rich help the poor?

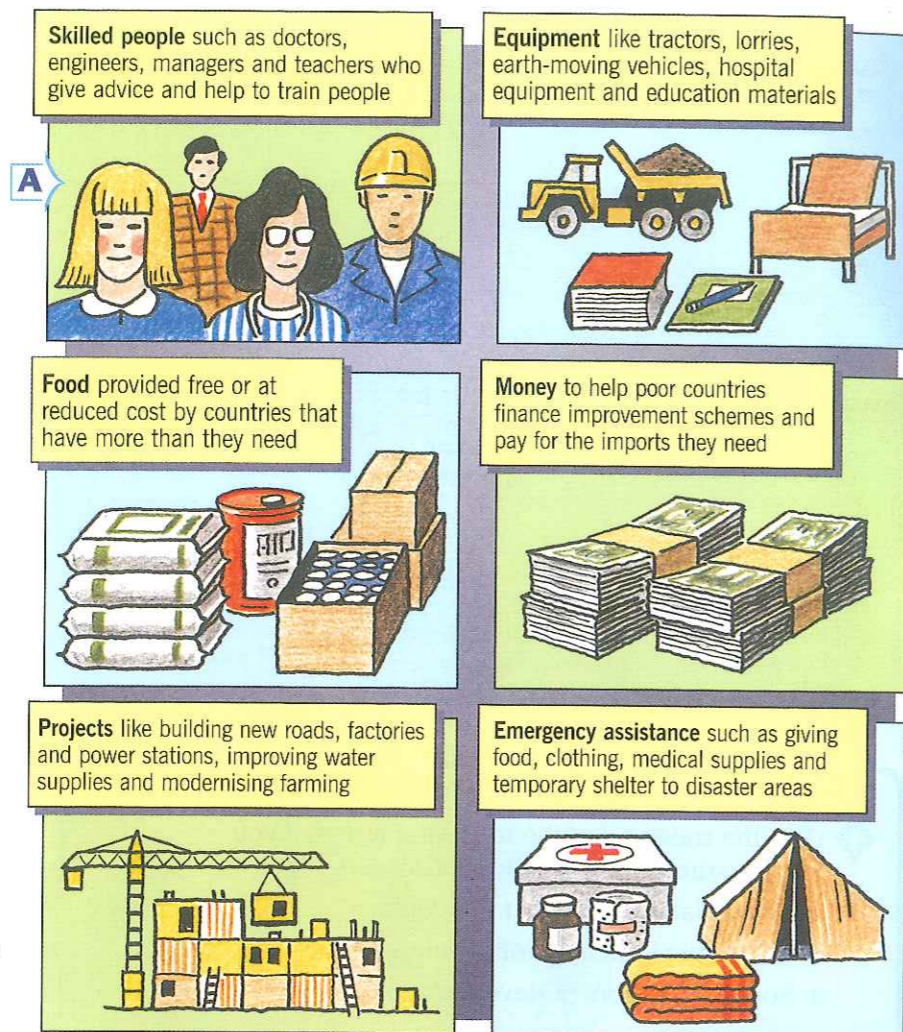
One way to help countries develop and improve their living standards is to give them **aid**. Aid is a form of help. It is a practical way for wealthy countries to help poorer countries. It can be given in two main ways.

- ◆ The first is as **short-term aid**. Short-term aid helps solve immediate problems. It brings help quickly to people affected by disasters and emergencies. Floods, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, famine and even wars are some of the events that bring about a need for short-term aid.
- ◆ The second is **long-term aid**. The aim of this type of aid is to improve basic living standards and enable people to make better use of their own resources. Long-term aid should help a country progress and improve its overall level of development.

Aid can be given in many different ways. Some of these are shown in diagram A.

Giving help to others can bring many benefits but it can also cause problems. Some aid projects, for example, are so large that they damage the environment and are too big and complicated for local people to manage. The Aswan Dam in Egypt is one such example. Others cause people to change their lives too much and spoil the traditions of the area. Some forms of aid even fail to reach the people for whom they were intended. In Somalia, Sudan and Niger, for example, some of the food aid sent there never reached the millions of people who were dying of starvation. This was partly due to a lack of transport but also in some areas because of civil war.

Great care has to be taken in providing countries with the right kind of aid. A well thought out and carefully planned programme can help to provide the building blocks for a country's future. Cartoon B shows the kind of aid which is most likely to bring benefits to a country and help its poorest people.



Aid schemes should be **sustainable**. They should improve our quality of life today but must not harm or damage our chances in the future. **The best aid schemes...**



Activities

- 1 a** Draw a table and sort the newspaper headlines C into two columns headed **Short-term aid** and **Long-term aid**.

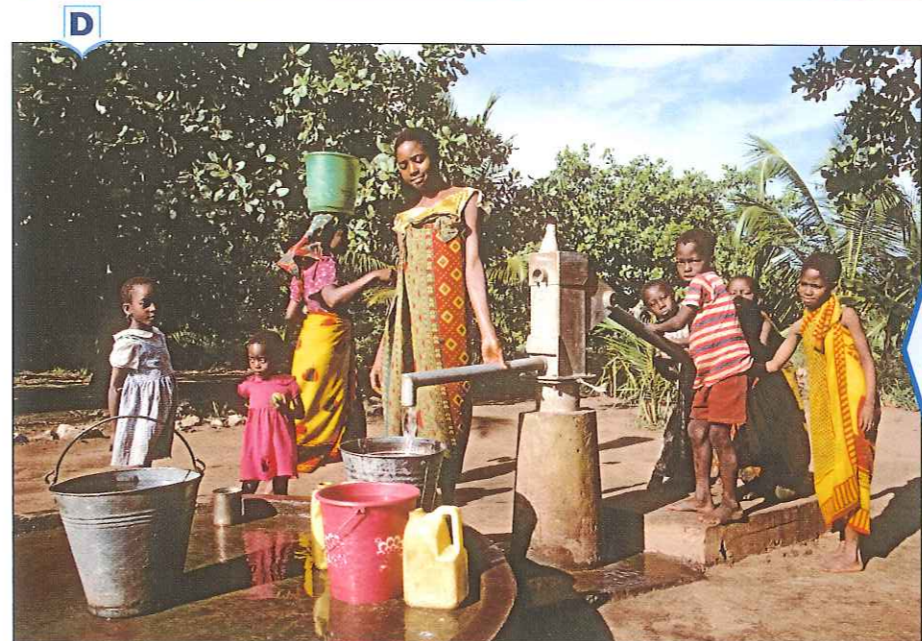
b Choose two headlines from each column and suggest what aid might be most helpful to that country. Diagram A will help you.
- 2 a** Down the left hand side of your page write a list of six rules that you think all aid should keep to. Put them in the order you think most important. Diagram B will help you.

b Look at D below showing a water supply scheme in Kenya. For each rule, answer *Yes*, *No* or *Partly* to describe whether the scheme is keeping to that rule.

c Give the scheme a mark out of ten and write out a comment on its success.

C

- Earthquake wrecks Mexico City
- Record debts hit Brazilian banks
- China seeks help for farming problems
- Crops lost in Bangladesh flood
- Water supply blamed for Ghana disaster
- Massive new health scheme planned for India



An example of **sustainable development**: a simple borehole well with a hand pump, which requires no servicing, supplies clean water to a small village in Kenya.

- ◆ Simple **technology**; easy and cheap to run and repair
- ◆ Provides direct help for the people most in need
- ◆ Advisers help local people to make best use of the new water supply
- ◆ Water supply can become a village meeting point
- ◆ Small-scale project with no bad effects on the environment
- ◆ Does not change local way of life

EXTRA

Imagine that you are to help organise the provision of a safe water supply to a country in Africa. Which eight of the following would be most useful to you? For each one that you choose, say how it would be used.

- money • farmer • drilling equipment • nurse • lorry
- laboratory • water pipes • mechanic • tractor
- chemist • water pump • geologist • teacher

Summary

Aid is a form of help usually given by the wealthy areas of the world to the poorer areas. Aid schemes should be sustainable. If they are planned carefully they can help provide a better life for people living in poorer areas.

Should we give aid?

Aid comes from many different sources. In 2005 the British government gave around £3,200 million of aid to developing countries. **Charities** like Oxfam and Save the Children spent a total of over £120 million mainly funding small schemes and giving emergency aid. Large international organisations like the United Nations, the World Bank and the European Union provided more than £900 million of help to the poorer countries and regions of the world.

There are arguments as to whether we should give aid. Some people think that aid can be damaging and that people should help themselves. Others point out that we all live in the same world and we all rely on each other for our survival. We must therefore help each other and try, as far as possible, to improve the quality of life for everyone. What do *you* think? Look carefully at diagram A and try to decide whether we should or should not give aid.

A Should we give aid?

A What's it got to do with us? We've got enough problems of our own.

B Without our help the poor people have no chance in life.

C We should always help people who are worse off than ourselves.

D Most aid is wasted or stolen and doesn't even get to the people who need it.

E They are used to bad conditions. There's no need to help them.

F We all live in the same world. We should all help each other.

G The more aid we give, the less they will help themselves.

H We need the things they have, so we might as well help them.

I If we help the poorer countries it will provide new markets for our products.

Activities

- Look at diagram A.
 - Give the letters of the speech bubbles that are:
 - for giving aid
 - against giving aid.
 - Write out the two speech bubbles that you think are the best argument:
 - for giving aid
 - against giving aid.
 - Do you think we should give more aid, less aid or no aid to people who live in countries that have a very low standard of living? Give reasons for your answer.
- With a partner, play the game on the opposite page.
 - Use a dice or spinner for each move.
 - Follow the instructions for moves backwards or forwards.
 The winner is the first to reach the end of the road with the exact number.
 - Play the game again. This time write down the **problems** and the **help** that you meet on the way. Do this in two columns. Underline the events which were affected by aid.

The road to development?

Start

Oxfam sends food to flood disaster area. **Move on 2**

Crops lost in worst ever flood. **Go back 4**

Rich country ends trade agreement. **Go back 3**

Export of cars and other manufactured goods increased. **Move on 2**

Foreign banks ask for loan repayment. **Go back 3**

Foreign banks give loans for irrigation scheme. **Move on 2**

United Nations aid programme helps with new health scheme. **Move on 1**

Cost of imported manufactured goods goes up. **Go back 3**

Food shortage causes unrest. Government overthrown. **Go back 6**

Fall in world prices hits export trade. **Go back 6**

Money from car sales used for new schools and hospitals. **Move on 3**

Ford open new car factory. Increase in secondary industry jobs. **Move on 3**

World recession closes factories. **Go back 5**

EU advisers help with family-planning programme. **Move on 3**

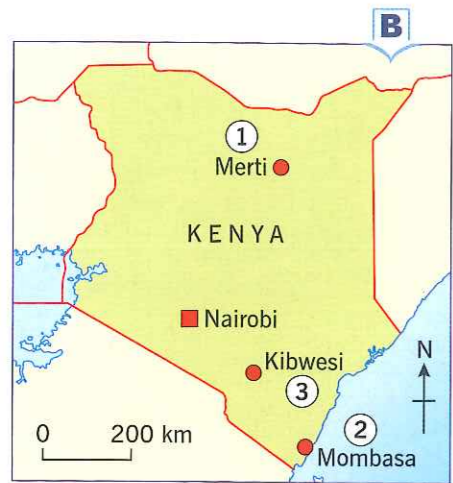
Summary

There are great differences in levels of development around the world. It has become increasingly difficult to improve living standards for people in the poorer countries.

World development enquiry

ActionAid is a charitable organisation which was founded in 1972. It is the UK's fourth largest overseas development agency, and works in partnership with poor people in more than 30 countries across Asia, Africa and South America. Its aims are to help these people improve their standard of living and gain access to their basic rights.

ActionAid has worked in Kenya since 1976. Projects are mostly in rural areas, but it also runs urban projects in squatter settlements – many people from the countryside migrate here in search of a better life. ActionAid's approach is to support local community groups in setting up and running their own projects.



In this enquiry you should imagine that you work on the Project Team in ActionAid Kenya's Nairobi office. Your job is to decide how best to use the funds raised in the UK and elsewhere for ActionAid's work in Kenya. You have £50,000 to spend and have been asked to look at three proposals put forward by local community groups.

actionaid

- Encourages schemes set up and run by local groups
- Supports appropriate and sustainable long-term solutions to local problems in less developed countries
- Supports projects that enable people to understand and gain access to their basic rights

Factors to consider	Scheme 1	Scheme 2	Scheme 3
Provides nearby clean water supplies			
Increases food production			
Reduces disease and infection			
Improves health care			
Improves ability to earn money			
Helps people learn to read and write			

What is the best way to help poor people improve their lives?

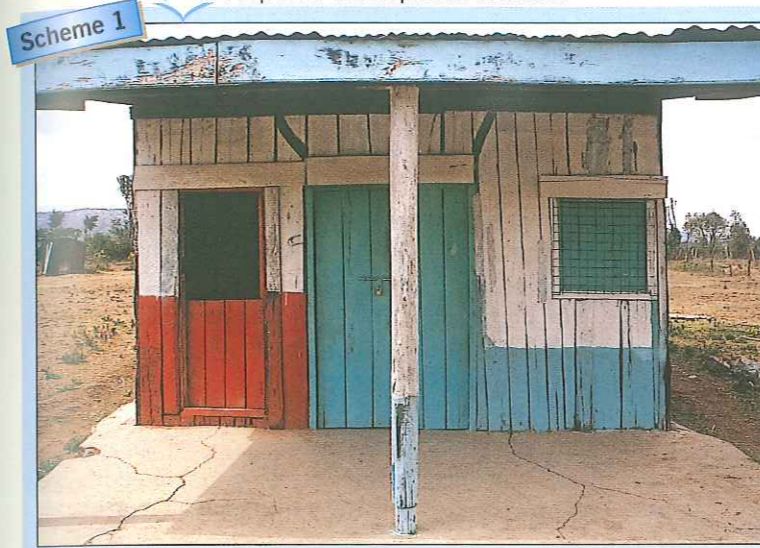
- Copy table C which shows some factors that have to be considered when choosing which schemes to support.
- Read the proposals in E carefully. Show the advantages of each scheme by putting a tick in columns 1, 2 or 3 in table C. More than one column may be ticked for each factor.
- Add up the ticks to find which scheme has the most advantages.
- Decide which two schemes you would choose. The two with the most advantages will be the best. Consider also how each scheme matches ActionAid's main aims shown in drawing A.

- Working with the local group, decide how to spend the £50,000. To do this, copy table D and list the items and costs for your two chosen schemes. Decide how many of each item you want and work out the total costs.

Item	Cost	Number	Total cost

- Write a report for the Kenya Country Director giving details of your decisions. Describe the two schemes and explain how they will improve the quality of life for local people. Link your explanations to ActionAid's aims.

E Proposed development schemes



Merti district is home to 18,000 people in the dry, isolated north of Kenya. The main health centre is empty and falling down, and most people have no health care.

'We want to re-open the centre and set up mobile clinics to provide basic medical needs, vaccinations and advice on nutrition, hygiene and childcare. If we can have help with materials, equipment and medical supplies, local volunteers will rebuild the health centre and convert some old jeeps for use as mobile clinics. With training, our community groups can take over health care and collect low-cost fees so that medicines can be re-stocked.'

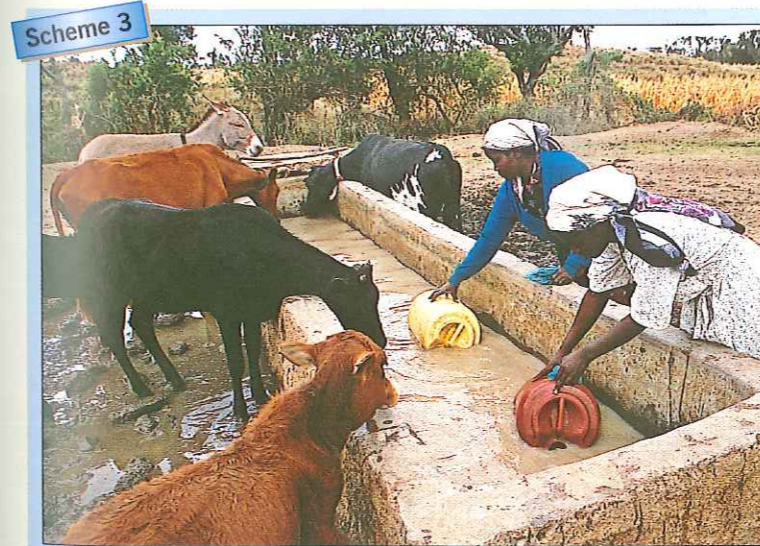
- Rebuild and re-stock health centre £10,000
- Set up mobile clinic £2,000 each
- Provide health worker training £500 per person



Ziwa La Ng'ombe is a shanty settlement of about 70,000 people on the outskirts of Mombasa.

'Many of us are women on our own with young families to support. Most of us are illiterate, have few job skills and no money. We would like to set up small savings groups of 15 to 20 women each, so that we can put money aside for expenses like school fees and take out loans to set up small businesses like dressmaking. If ActionAid could also set up adult literacy and skills training classes, this would build our confidence and increase our earning ability. We could buy better food, afford to see the doctor and help our children through school.'

- Savings group (training and start-up fund) £500 each
- Skills training centre £1,000 per trade
- Literacy unit £1,500



The Kibwesi district is home to 90,000 people. The area suffers severe water shortages and is short of food. Many people suffer illness caused by dirty drinking water.

'We want to improve our water provision by digging several wells and building simple water storage systems. We would set up vegetable plots near the wells, build fenced cattle troughs for our livestock and dig ponds for fish farming. These ideas would improve our diet, and extra produce could be sold at the market to make money. Local groups would organise work parties if ActionAid could supply the necessary materials and training.'

- Water provision £2,000 per unit
- Crop farming (materials and training) £1,000 per plot
- Fish farming (materials and training) £2,000 per pond