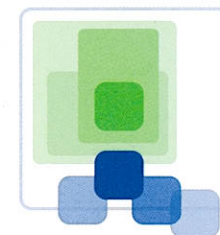




Computer Aid International - Reducing Poverty Through Practical ICT Solutions

Annual Report
2006/7



**Computer Aid
International**

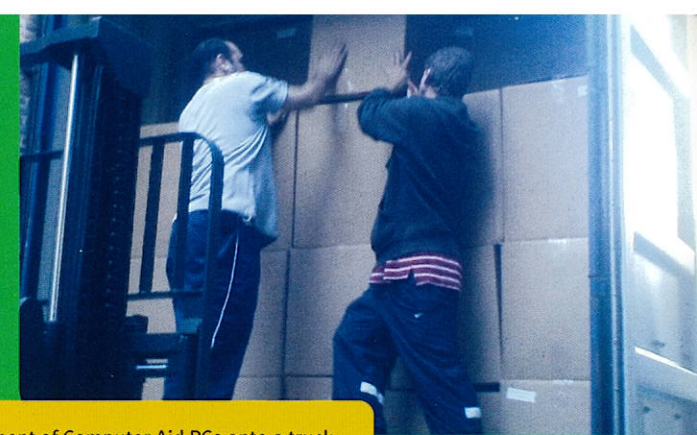
About Computer Aid International

Founded in 1998, Computer Aid is a registered charity that aims to bridge the digital divide between rich and poor countries through the provision of high quality refurbished computers and their application in education and poverty reduction.

Computer Aid has shipped over 100,000 PCs to where they are most needed in more than 100 countries, making us the world's largest and most experienced ICT for Development provider.



Computer Aid's new head office and warehouse in London, UK



Loading a shipment of Computer Aid PCs onto a truck.

At our London workshop we data-wipe, test and professionally refurbish donated computers, which are then packed and shipped to educational and community organisations in developing countries. Computers that are faulty when donated, or do not meet our minimum specification are fully recycled within the EU with zero percent going to landfill.

Computer Aid is committed to providing a professional decommissioning service to its UK computer donors and to delivering the highest quality refurbished computers to its recipients overseas.

As well as supplying computers, we develop partnerships with organisations overseas that provide training and technical support to beneficiaries. This ensures that our recipients can make the best use of the equipment.

Chief Executive's review

I am delighted to have joined Computer Aid as its Chief Executive in November 2007 and to have the opportunity of building on the success and reputation of the organisation in its tenth year of operation. In doing so, I want to pay tribute to the work and achievements of our founder and former Chief Executive Tony Roberts, who has grown the organisation to become the world's largest and most experienced not-for-profit provider of PCs to the developing world. Tony has moved into the newly created role of Director of International Development to concentrate on developing further Computer Aid's projects on the ground in Africa and Latin America.

Computer Aid has now provided over 100,000 computers to educational and community organisations in more than 100 countries. We know that computers make a vital difference to the lives of the poorest communities in the world. Computers are helping to ensure that farmers have enough food to feed their families, that people can access lifesaving healthcare and that children receive a decent education and develop the skills that dramatically improve their job prospects.

Throughout the year, we have received regular donations of PCs from organisations, for whom we provide a professional decommissioning service, which includes free Blancco data destruction, WEEE compliance, full asset tracking and an assurance of the highest standards of environmental disposal. We provide an environmentally friendly and socially responsible solution to the disposal of surplus IT equipment. Donations of computers are vital if we are to continue making a real difference to the lives and prospects of so many people in the developing world.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of those who have supported us in the past and who continue to support us, either financially, through PC donations or by working in partnership with us to take forward specific projects. Our aim remains to reduce poverty by applying computers to the tasks of international development. I would also like to thank our dedicated team of staff and volunteers, without whom our work would not be possible.

We look forward to your continued support and to working with you throughout the coming year.

Louise Richards

Chief Executive

Girls gaining skills in IT in a school in Columbia.



Bridging the digital divide

The current Information Communications Technology (ICT) revolution, has enormous social and economic implications for both developed and under developed countries. A huge digital divide exists between industrialised and developing countries in terms of access to ICTs which must be closed if less developed countries are to escape poverty and engage in the global economy.

In the UK we routinely refresh and dispose of millions of PCs every year – in 2007 alone over 10 million new PCs were purchased which resulted in millions of working PCs being discarded. Every computer shipped by Computer Aid will provide at least 6,000 hours of computer access. This is enough time to train 60



Children at Shengilia orphanage in the Kangemi slum area in Nairobi, Kenya, learning IT skills.

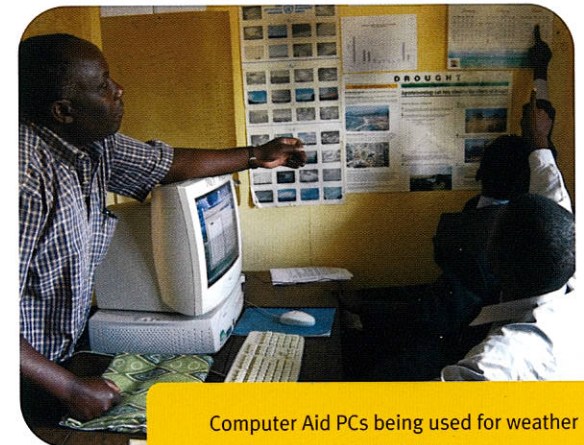
children to a high level of vocational IT literacy. Providing ICT to organisations in less developed countries enables them to increase organisational efficiency and to share information, so that they are able to develop for themselves a coordinated response to development challenges.

In the developed world it is easy to take access to computers and the Internet for granted. We can sometimes forget how efficient email is, or how effective the Internet is as a learning or communication tool. Most office employees would find it difficult to imagine how laborious it would be to record and analyse data if they didn't have access to a computer, or how difficult it would be to get a job if they didn't know how to use a computer.

Paul Kagame the President of Rwanda recently stated "it has become abundantly clear to us in Africa that ICT is an indispensable tool in the achievement of our development goals. We do not have the luxury of waiting until all the necessary pre-conditions are in place."

Computer Aid provides an innovative solution to this problem by sourcing donations of PCs from businesses for re-use by schools and community organisations in developing countries.

Every PC that is sent overseas by Computer Aid is professionally refurbished. We work with local partners to provide support and training to schools and community organisations. By providing low-cost high-quality PCs and facilitating support services, Computer Aid is helping thousands of disadvantaged communities enjoy the benefits of ICT for the first time.



Computer Aid PCs being used for weather forecasting in Kenya

UK Partners

Computer Aid relies on the generosity of individuals, companies and organisations in the UK who donate their IT equipment to us. Without these donations we would not be able to provide affordable computers to schools and community groups in the developing world.

Partnerships with PC donors

Computer Aid receives donations from central government departments, corporates, local authorities, universities and colleges through to small business and individuals. This year our corporate support has grown notably, with many large well know names signing up to support us, including Ricoh, Pepsico, Diageo, Addison Lee and Panasonic Avionics.

“ We liked Computer Aid because we knew that they were donating our PCs to some great causes in the developing world. It is naturally also very important for Virgin that we have complete reassurance that all information stored on our PCs is data wiped. By wiping the hard disk to US military standards and removing all sensitive data, Computer Aid gives us this peace of mind ”

Eileen Donnelly
Virgin Aware Manager
Virgin



Partners

In addition to our partnerships with UK companies that donate equipment, we are grateful for the help we have received from other partners. We are indebted to Blancco, our data wiping software supplier, for its continued support and to British Airways, which has helped us in a number of ways.

We would also like to thank our recycling partners, Breed Recycling and Metallo Chimique, our shipping agents, AMBA Forwarding, and our off-site partners, Manchester Aspire and 3R Computers.

“ Addison Lee has established an ever improving emission and waste reduction programme. Donating our used and unwanted PCs to Computer Aid has helped us ensure that their useable lifespan is maximized. In addition to this, we get peace of mind knowing that all the information will be wiped to CESG standards which makes Computer Aid the obvious choice for us ”

Lee Wickens
CSR & Quality Manager
Addison Lee



Ricoh has strong environmental and CSR beliefs, along with high standards for security and data protection. Computer Aid International fits these requirements well and we can rest assured that others are benefiting from the programme ”

Barry Dolan
Systems Support Specialist
Ricoh



Improved services

Professional decommissioning service for organisations

Computer Aid offers a professional decommissioning service to organisations that are replacing their old computers. By partnering with Blancco – provider of the world's best data destruction software, we are able to guarantee the removal of confidential data to military standards. We also assume full legal liability for any equipment we receive.

Since Computer Aid moved premises in February 2007, we have been working hard to further improve our operational facilities and the decommissioning services that we provide to our IT donors. This has included tighter security, WEEE compliance and a new Asset Tracking System

New premises with tighter security

Our new premises are larger and as a consequence we are able to process greater quantities of computers and monitors. We also have even tighter security, and are fully equipped with CCTV cameras as well as alarm systems.

WEEE Directive

Our warehouse and processes were inspected by the Environment Agency in June 2007, who have now approved and licensed us to operate as an Authorised Approved Treatment Facility (AATF) for Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE). This means that all companies who decide to donate their unwanted IT equipment to us are fully compliant with the WEEE directive.

Environmentally Friendly Disposal

Any equipment that Computer Aid is unable to re-use that doesn't pass our stringent quality tests, is recycled through licensed waste management companies, entirely within the EU, that guarantee 0% of unusable equipment ends up in landfill.

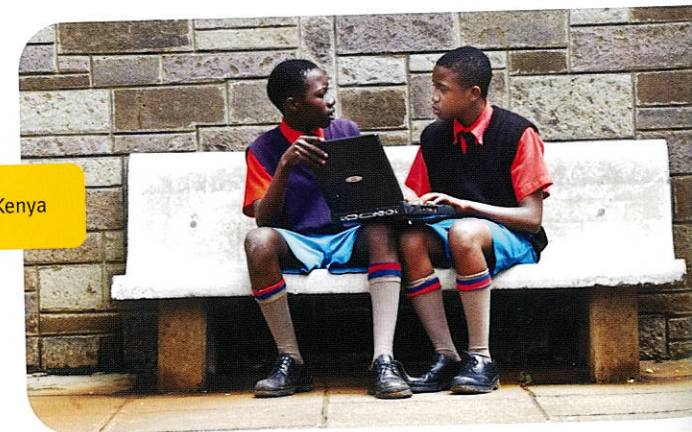
New Asset Tracking System

We now have a full asset tracking system in place. This means that every piece of equipment that comes into our warehouse is asset tracked to exactly where it goes in a developing country. This enables our IT donors to use our asset tracking system to follow their old PCs and find out who's benefiting from them.

Accreditations

We are also currently well under way with the implementation of the Quality Management Standard ISO 9001:2000 and Environment Management Standard ISO 14001, both of which we aim to have in place by mid 2008.

Pupils at Starehe Boys School in Kenya



Encouraging Volunteering

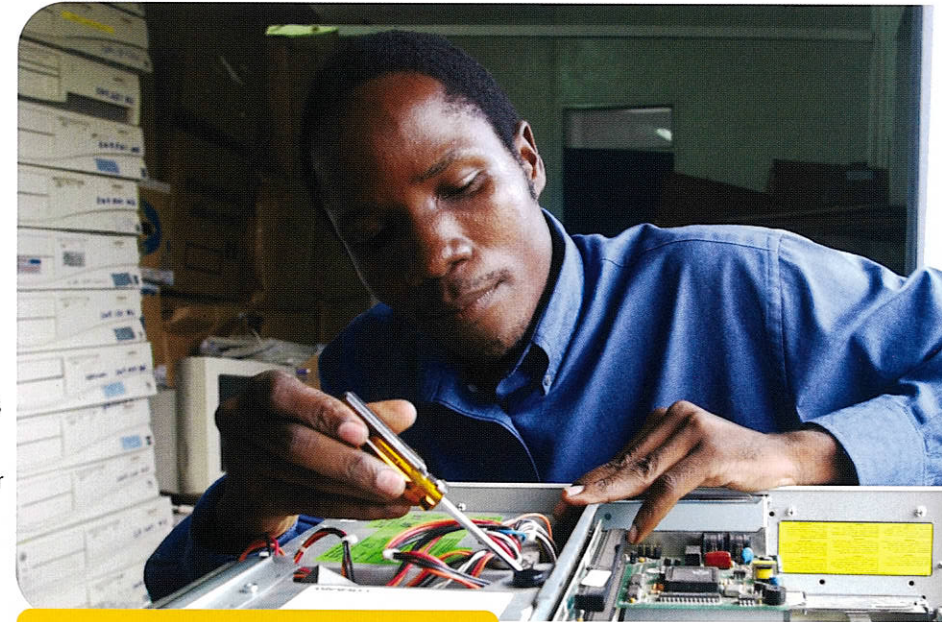
Computer Aid is overseen and directed by a Board of Trustees composed of senior and retired executives from companies such as IBM, British Airways and the BBC as well as representatives from the voluntary sector and from UNISON. The Board is responsible for determining the strategy and effective governance of the charity. Board membership is voluntary and unpaid.

Computer Aid provides volunteering opportunities for companies and individuals looking for professional secondment, industry placements and work experience. The main volunteering opportunities exist in the areas of fundraising, marketing, corporate relations and logistics as well as computer troubleshooting.

Many technicians contribute their skills and time volunteering in the London workshop. All workshop volunteers are trained and supervised by full-time production and technical staff, who ensure that all PCs shipped overseas have been thoroughly refurbished and tested. Using skilled volunteers enables Computer Aid to provide computers at an affordable cost to schools and community organisations in the developing world.



Technician testing PCs in Computer Aid's workshop in London



Peter Katoni of Schoolnet Malawi repairing a computer for use in a Malawian school

Disadvantaged schoolchildren gain IT literacy

School children are the main recipients of Computer Aid PCs. In our first ten years, we have sent over 100,000 PCs to developing countries. This is enough PCs to provide IT literacy to over half a billion school children.

As well as schools, we have also provided computers to universities, adult education centres and to projects for out-of-school youth. This year we have increased our involvement in e-learning projects. These projects are helping to include marginalised people as they can offer an education to those who have traditionally found it difficult to access education, such as women with young families and people living in rural areas.

Computer for Schools Kenya

Computer Aid has continued to work with Kenyan charity Computer for Schools Kenya. CFSK provides technical support and training to schools, as well as advising them on issues such as classroom security and the IT curriculum. To date, we have provided over 5000 computers to CFSK, as well as providing hundreds of computers to other educational projects in Kenya.

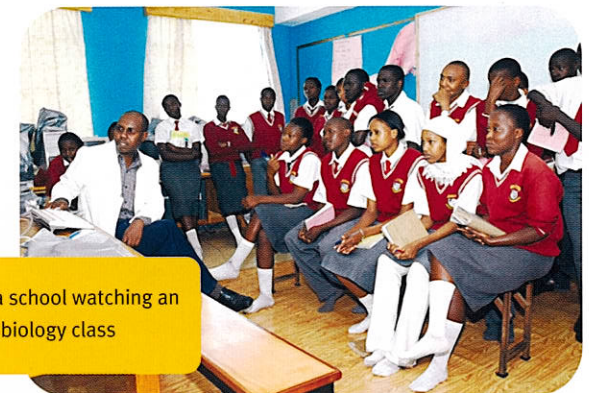


Students at St Josephs School in Nairobi Kenya

Our Lady of Fatima Secondary School

One recipient of refurbished computers is Our Lady of Fatima Secondary School, situated in one of Nairobi's poorest slums. Kezziah Muthoni, the IT teacher at the school, says access to technology is vital for students, especially as the job market in Nairobi is competitive. "It will really improve the chances of them getting jobs," she says.

Students not only learn how to use various office productivity applications, but the computers are also used as an educational aid in various subjects across the curriculum. With limited text books available, being able to show students diagrams or videos on a computer has been invaluable in helping students learn about complex topics, according to Kezziah.



Students at Our Lady of Fatima school watching an instructional video in a biology class

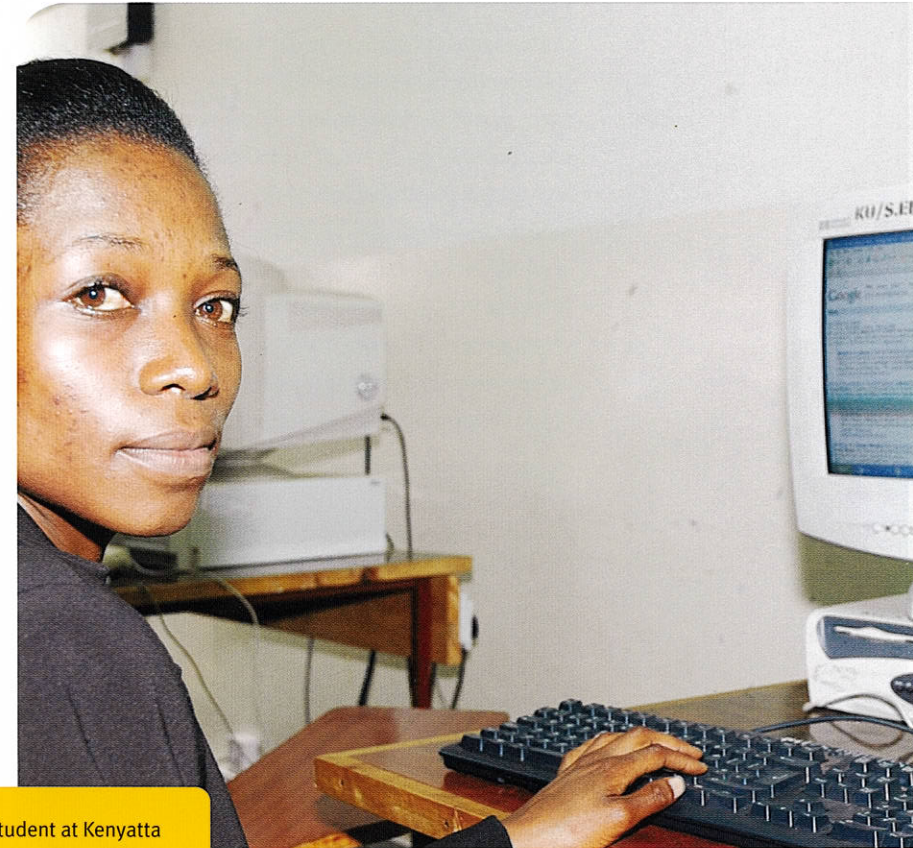
University e-learning project

Computer Aid has provided over 1,500 PCs to Kenyatta University in Kenya. Many of these computers are being used for the university's cutting edge e-learning project, which is enabling rural students to pursue university courses remotely.

Kenyatta University has made its courses accessible to people living and working in those communities. In particular, the university is targeting people who are already engaged in work that is vital to the social and economic development of rural and marginalised areas. These 'key workers' include nurses, teachers, entrepreneurs and agricultural advisors.

This will enable access to university education to socially excluded groups such as the disabled, housebound, parents of young children and help reverse the brain drain from rural to urban areas.

The project is already benefiting 4,000 students in geographically and economically marginalised areas. Kenyatta University's base of IT staff are providing the maintenance, training and support necessary to ensure that thousands more students will benefit in years to come. With increased access to information and support, it is expected that academic achievement at the Open Learning Centres will improve considerably.



Daisy Mundia, a student at Kenyatta University using a Computer Aid PC

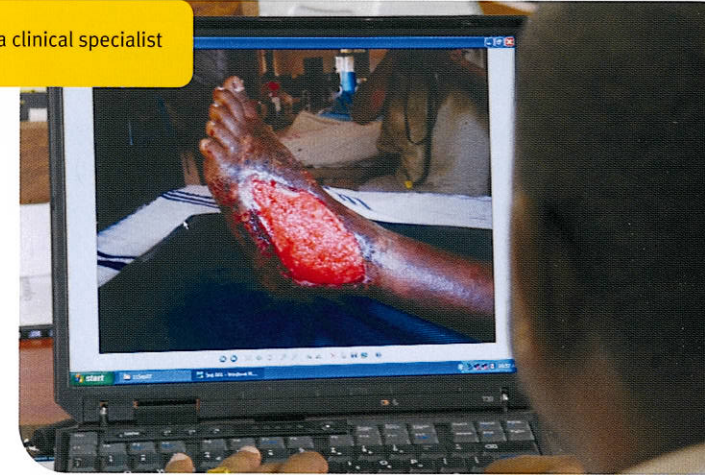
Telemedicine Laptops Saves Lives

Computer Aid International has been providing laptops to rural doctors to aid in the diagnosis of life-threatening illnesses in some of the most remote parts of Africa. Rural health workers are using these donated laptops to email x-ray images, medical notes and digital photographs of critically ill patients for expert clinical diagnostic support from experienced professional clinicians, hundreds of miles away bringing healthcare to people living in the most remote areas. This project is one of the most compelling examples of the life-saving importance of IT to the rural poor in developing countries.



Taking a digital photo of a wound using a Computer Aid donated camera in Moi District Hospital, a rural hospital in Voi, Kenya.

Photo of the wound being examined by a clinical specialist



In Sub-Saharan Africa there is an average of just 12 doctors per 100,000 people – compared to the European average of 340 for the same number of people. Few qualify due to the high cost of education and many qualified health professionals are tempted overseas where they can command far higher salaries compounding the “brain drain” suffered by many developing countries.

The African Medical Research and Education Foundation is putting Computer Aid International PCs, together with scanners and digital cameras, into rural health clinics in some of the most isolated communities in Africa. From there, nurses and newly-qualified doctors can email pictures via the internet to clinical specialists for instant expert diagnosis. By this mechanism people living in rural areas can have access to the best clinical diagnosis available and medical conditions can be treated promptly and accurately with life-saving consequences.

This is a dramatic low-cost high-impact example of the way in which PCs donated in the UK are serving on the front-line against Africa's biggest killers: HIV/AIDS, respiratory disease, malaria and water-borne infections.

HIV/Aids training in Mauritania

Computer Aid is providing hundreds of computers for use in HIV/Aids education within schools in Assaba in Mauritania as part of a programme run by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).

Assaba is the poorest region in Mauritania with 84 percent of its population living below the poverty threshold, according to the United Nations. Most of the people living in the region are cattle farmers and have been negatively impacted by climate change, with records showing a 40 percent decline in rainfall over recent years.



Mauritanian Ministers at an official ceremony handing over Computer Aid PCs

Map of Mauritania

The UNFPA worked with the regional government to set up a youth centre that functions as a counselling and information centre, providing advice and training to teenagers about HIV/Aids. Computer Aid provided PCs which are being used to disseminate HIV/Aids information to the young people and to give them training in ICT to help their job prospects. The computers are also being used to collate statistics on reproductive health and HIV infections to help the United Nations to devise a youth policy for the region.

The Mauritanian Ministers of Health and Culture and the State Secretary for ICT were present at an official ceremony handing over the first consignment of computers. Computer Aid shipped a further 100 computers to the project in April 2007 to enable it to reach out to even more young people.

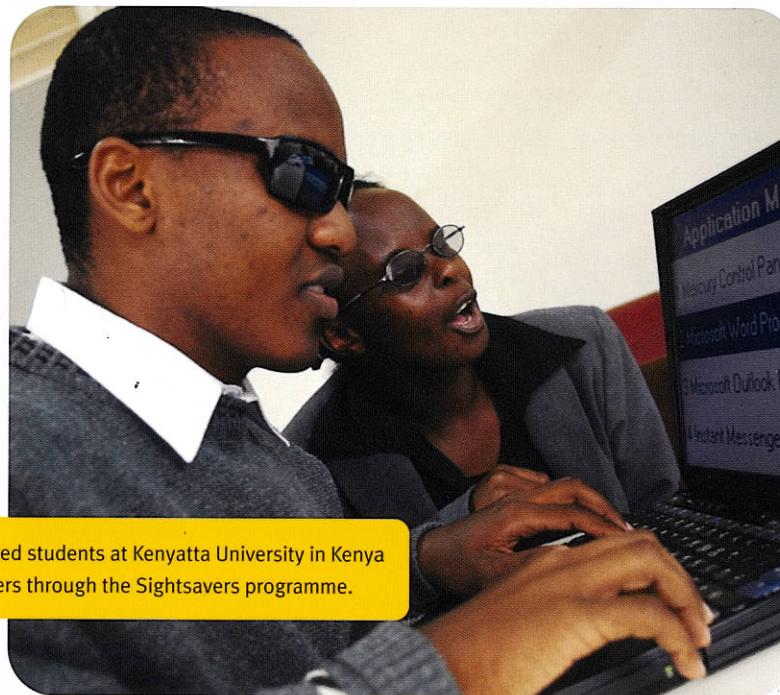


Education access for people with disabilities

Computer Aid has continued to work closely with Sightsavers International, and we have now provided computers to 22 countries through the charity.

The computers provided to Sightsavers International are installed with adaptive technologies, such as screen magnification and voice output software. These technologies allow blind and visually impaired users to easily access written information such as school textbooks and the Internet.

Our work with Sightsavers International is just one example of Computer Aid's increasing involvement in projects harnessing refurbished PCs to remove the cost-barriers that limit opportunities for some of the most disadvantaged people in the world.



Blind and visually impaired students at Kenyatta University in Kenya studying to be teachers through the Sightsavers programme.



Martin Kieti using a Computer Aid laptop installed with adaptive technology for visually impaired users at Kenya Union of the Blind

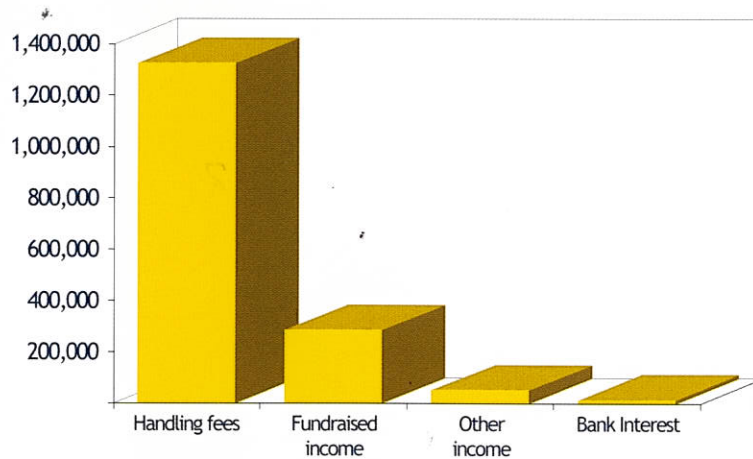
Finances for 2006/7

Our financial situation further strengthened this year with income rising to £1.7mn. We were able to generate a surplus of £55,000 which will certainly enable us to continue growing.

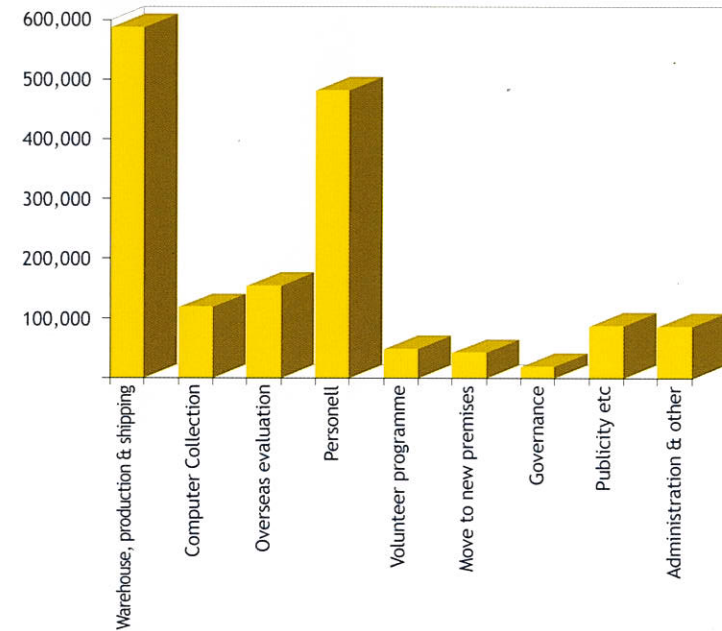
We shipped 22,365 computers to educational establishments and community organisations in developing countries, an 18% increase on the previous year. Continuing to maintain our office in South Africa and expanding the one in Kenya have been key factors in achieving this growth.

Compared with 2005/6, handling fees - our principal form of income - increased by 30% while receipts from charitable trusts and foundations more than doubled.

Full audited accounts are available on request.



Expenditure



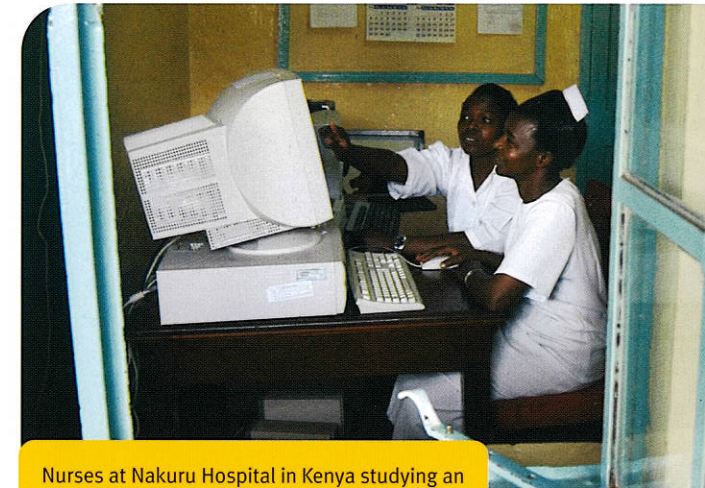
Income

How you can help

Computer Aid International has to meet the cost of maintaining our workshop to refurbish PCs as well as costs associated with collection and delivery of equipment. Your support is crucial in enabling us to continue our work on projects like the ones you have read about in this report. Thanks to the tireless work of our team of volunteers, and the innovative work of our partners on the ground in the recipient countries, we calculate that every £1 we spend in the UK on processing and shipping PCs provides IT education to one child for one year. Just £1 therefore, provides basic computer literacy to that child, and with it the chance of a better life.

- **Donate your company's old PCs to Computer Aid.** We offer a free decommissioning service to companies in the UK and accept donations of any size. For more information please visit www.computeraid.org/donate
- **Donate your old PC.** Have an old computer lying around at home? We can help. You can either drop-off your computer personally at our workshop in North London or we can arrange collection on your behalf from any address in the UK at a cost of £12.95 per box.
- **Donate money to us or fundraise on our behalf.** It costs us £48 to collect, test, refurbish and package every computer we send out. By raising £980 you can pay for an entire computer lab for a school in the developing world. To make a donation please visit www.computeraid.org/fundraising
- **Donate your unwanted printer cartridges and mobile phones.** We can provide you with a box to put in your office or school, which will be picked up again when it is full at no cost to your organisation. Please visit www.computeraid.org/cartridge

For more information on any of the above, please visit our website www.computeraid.org, or contact us on 020 8361 5540 or info@computeraid.org.



Nurses at Nakuru Hospital in Kenya studying an e-learning course using a Computer Aid PC

Supporters

We are grateful to all our Trustees, volunteers, PC Donors and financial donors for their generous donations of time, money or computers. Unfortunately we aren't able to list every single person and organisation.

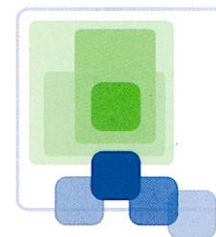
PC Donors include:

Aberdeen Asset Management	Enfield Council
Addison Lee	English Partnership
ATS Euromaster	Freshfield Bruckhaus Deringer
Benfield Group	Greater London Authority
Betfair	Hammersmith and Fulham Council
Big Lottery Fund	Harrow College
Boeing	Haymarket Publishing
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Broadway Malyan	Howarth Clark Whitehill
Canada Life	Investec
Cathay Pacific	Islington City College
Channel Tunnel Rail Network	Lazard Brothers
Christian Aid	Lewis Silkin
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Development Fund
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Paprika Software

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Share Gift
Shears Charitable Foundation
Simon's Charity
Situs Software
Spear Charitable Trust
Stella Charitable Trust
Stephen Clark 1965 Charitable Trust
Tory Family Foundation
Tula Trust
Viscountess Boyd Charitable Trust
Wirrel Trust
Workers Beer Company



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