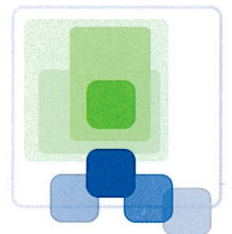




Computer Aid International - Reducing Poverty Through Practical ICT Solutions

Annual Report
2007/8

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**Computer Aid
International**

About Computer Aid International

Founded in 1998, Computer Aid is a UK registered charity that aims to reduce poverty through practical ICT solutions. Computer Aid takes in donations of computers and laptops, refurbishes them and sends them to not-for-profit organisations in the developing world, for use in agriculture, health and education.

Computer Aid has shipped over 140,000 PCs to where they are most needed in over 100 countries, making us the worlds largest and most experienced provider of ICT for Development.



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



Loading a shipment of refurbished Computer Aid PCs onto a truck

At our London workshop we asset track, data-wipe, test and professionally refurbish each donated PC and laptop. These 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 high quality and 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 to provide training and technical support to recipients to ensure the immediate, productive and sustainable use of the equipment.



Computer Aid driver collecting a donation of laptops

Chief Executive's review

This year has seen a number of landmarks in the development of Computer Aid. In February 2008, we shipped our 100,000th PC. The PC, donated by the National Gallery in London, was sent as part of a container of 225 to our Ethiopian partner ITDA (Information Technology Development Agency), who provided it to a young disabled man who is using it in his road-side business and as part of his not-for-profit work to help other disabled people. April 2008 saw us celebrate our 10th anniversary; an event to mark the occasion was attended by the then UK Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for International Development, Shahid Malik, and Her Excellency Lindiwe Mabuza, South Africa's High Commissioner.

In September 2008, we launched a campaign against the dumping of e-waste in the developing world. The campaign called on the UK government to tighten up legislation and to take action to prevent the UK's electrical waste being illegally exported and dumped in countries such as Ghana, Nigeria and China. A petition was set up on the Downing Street website, and received over 200 signatures.

Throughout 2008, Computer Aid has continued to grow and to expand its work. We have now sent more than 140,000 computers to over 107 countries throughout the world, an achievement of which we are very proud. Donations of PCs to Computer Aid in 2008 exceeded all previous records, and we are grateful to those businesses, universities, colleges, schools, local

authorities and central government departments who continue to support us and to enable us to continue our vital work in the developing world. A growing number of trusts and foundations have also supported our work throughout the year; this support is vital to us and ensures that we are able to make a difference to the lives of people and communities in the developing world.

Computer Aid PCs continue to be used in the fields of health, education and agriculture. In health, our pioneering telemedicine projects in Africa have helped to save lives; in agriculture, our work has helped small farmers to increase crop yields; in education, our PCs are being used in schools and to provide teacher training. Together with Sightsavers International, and supported by the Department for International Development, we have provided laptops for use by blind and visually impaired students at Kenyatta University in Kenya. We continue to focus our work on the poorest and most disadvantaged communities; in Macha, a village in Zambia, we have supported the communication needs of rural schools and hospitals and created new employment opportunities for villagers. Computer Aid believes that new technology is a vital tool in the global fight against poverty. Our work is providing educational opportunities to young people in the developing world and opening up employment possibilities to them which would not be possible without skills in information technology.

On a sad note, we learned in July of the tragic and

Computer Aid is working on a rural connectivity project in Zambia. Having Internet access has provided communities in Zambia with a wealth of opportunities for education and economic development.



untimely death of our then Fundraising Director, Graham Thom. Graham was an inspirational character, and a greatly admired and respected colleague and friend. He continues to be sadly missed by all of us.

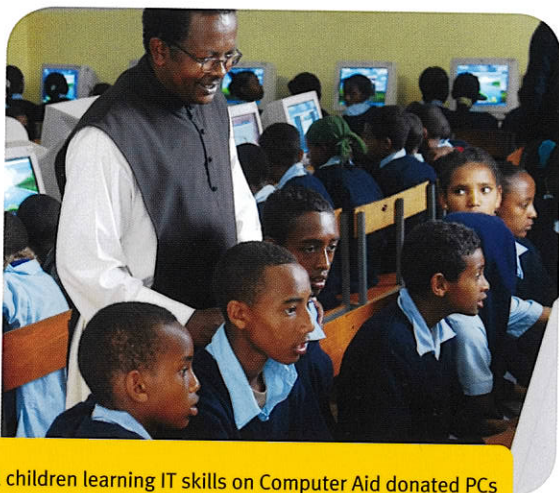
I would like to end by thanking our trustees for their support to me and my team, and to thank all of our staff and volunteers for their continued dedication and commitment to Computer Aid. As we enter 2009, we are looking forward to our next 10 years and to our 200,000th PC!

Louise Richards
Chief Executive

The Role of ICT in Education

There is a constant demand from schools for our donated computers. This is not simply because ICT literacy creates employment opportunities, but also because ICT is recognised as an important educational aid in itself.

A report by one of our long standing partner organisations Computers For Schools Kenya concluded that although ICT is never a substitute for teacher-to-pupil interaction, its use has demonstrable beneficial effects on student learning, motivation and ultimately on student achievement across a diverse range of subjects. Below is a brief summary of the report's results:



School children learning IT skills on Computer Aid donated PCs at the Cistercian Monastery School, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Effects on Engagement and Motivation

- Children are mesmerised by computers which seem to be able to hold their attention. When this is used effectively in the classroom, ICT can encourage children to not only study the curriculum, but to independently explore beyond it.
- ICT can complement existing teaching methods. The report has discovered a strong correlation between teachers who have utilised ICT as an educational tool and an increase in student interest and concentration. This was particularly evident in higher grades.

Effects on Learning

- The use of digital content allows teachers to demonstrate difficult concepts in a visual format. Students are able to learn by seeing, rather than simply hearing. This reduces the time taken by pupils to grasp new material by between 40 – 60 percent.
- It has also been shown that when ICT is incorporated into traditional teaching methods, students typically retain twice as much information. This is because

students can review the material as many times as necessary and progress at their own pace, allowing them to consolidate new concepts as they learn.

In the financial year 2007/2008, Computer Aid provided over 17,000 computers to educational establishments worldwide, ranging from Cameroon to Chile. This is



Chilean children in a nursery in Santiago, using Computer Aid PCs

enough to enable over 100 million hours of computer access. One donated Pentium 4 or equivalent PC will provide over 6,000 hours of computer access time (spread over 3 years). This is enough time to train 60 children to a vocational level of IT literacy.

e-Health

People living in remote corners of rural Africa are receiving life-saving medical diagnosis and treatment with equipment and expertise provided by Computer Aid and our partners. African Medical and Research Foundation (AMREF) Rural health workers are using simple laptops, digital cameras and scanners on the front line against some of Africa's biggest killers: HIV/AIDS, respiratory diseases, malaria, TB and water-borne infections.

In Sub-Saharan African countries there are, on average, just 12 doctors per 100,000 people – compared to 340 in Europe. The cost of medical education is prohibitive

for most people and many qualified specialist health professionals are tempted overseas where they can command far higher salaries. The result is that, especially in rural areas, people cannot access the medical support that people in the UK take for granted.

Through this project, isolated and inexperienced health workers can send X-ray images, medical notes and digital photographs of critically ill patients for fast, expert clinical diagnostic support from specialist doctors hundreds of miles away.

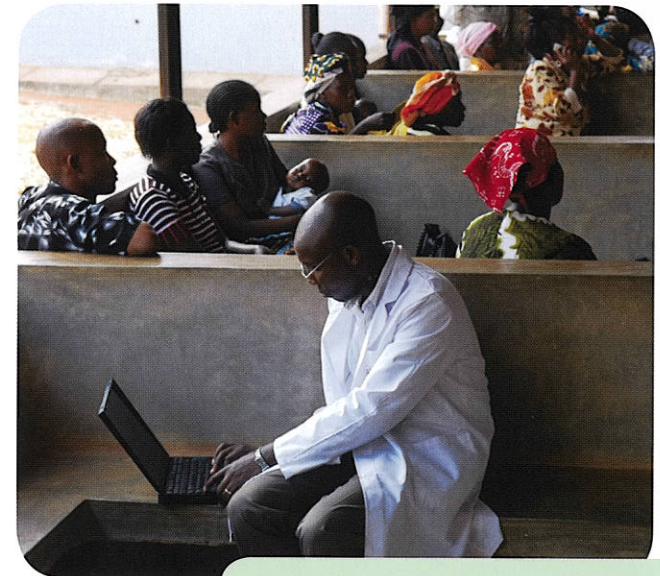
The project is a dramatic illustration of just some of the ways in which the simple application of Information

Technology enables dedicated and resourceful African doctors to apply their skills across geographical boundaries – benefiting people who would otherwise be unable to get treatment.

With continued financial support and donations of equipment, we have extended the programme this year in Uganda, Tanzania and Kenya. In the long term we are aiming to equip over 120 hospitals with these facilities.

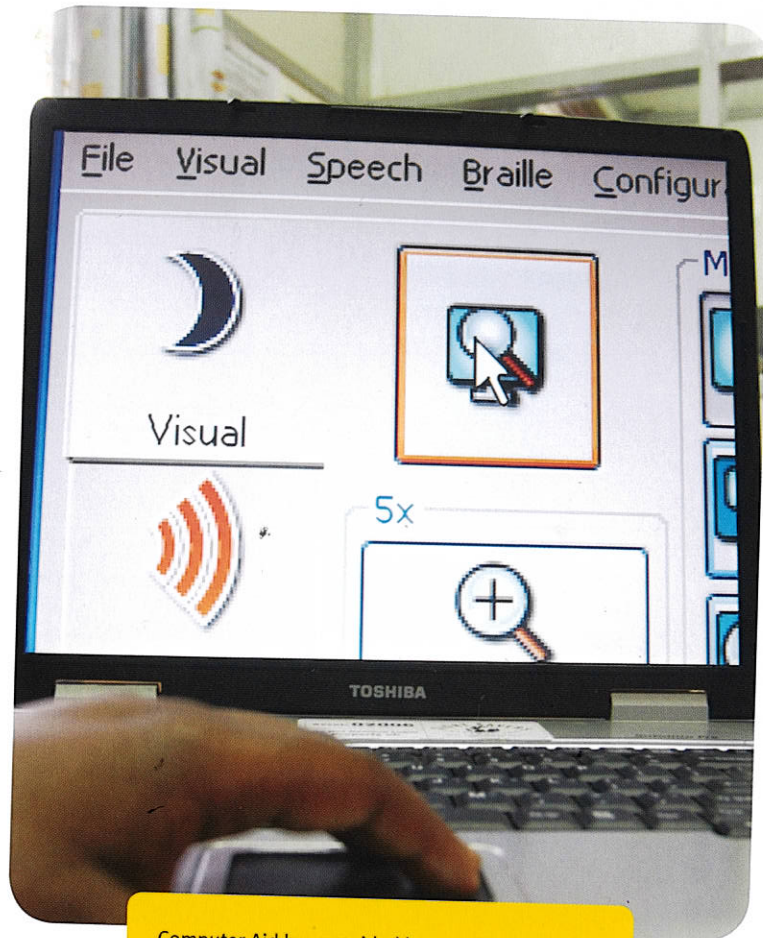


Taking a digital photo of a wound using a Computer Aid donated camera in Moi District Hospital, a rural hospital in Voi, Kenya.



Doctor using a Computer Aid donated laptop at Makindu Hospital, Kenya.

How ICT enhances education for blind students



Computer Aid has provided laptops installed with assistive technology software to enable partially sighted users to easily access written information.

Most African schools have no services available for blind students, and 90% of African children who are blind don't go to school at all.

In a project initiated by Sightsavers International, Computer Aid has been working with the Kenya Union of the Blind to provide PCs with assistive technology: software that produces synthesized speech output of the screen contents for blind users and screen magnification and enhancements for visually impaired users. These technologies allow blind and visually impaired users to easily access written information such as school textbooks and the Internet. The project is offering a new level of independence to users, allowing greater mobility and freedom and the chance to take up new opportunities. In Ethiopia, working with the Information Technology Development Agency (ITDA), Computer Aid has provided computers to disabled people to help them to establish businesses and provide vocational training to the disabled.

Our work with Sightsavers International and ITDA are just two examples 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. Computer Aid has now provided over 1000 computers in 22 countries through Sightsavers International.



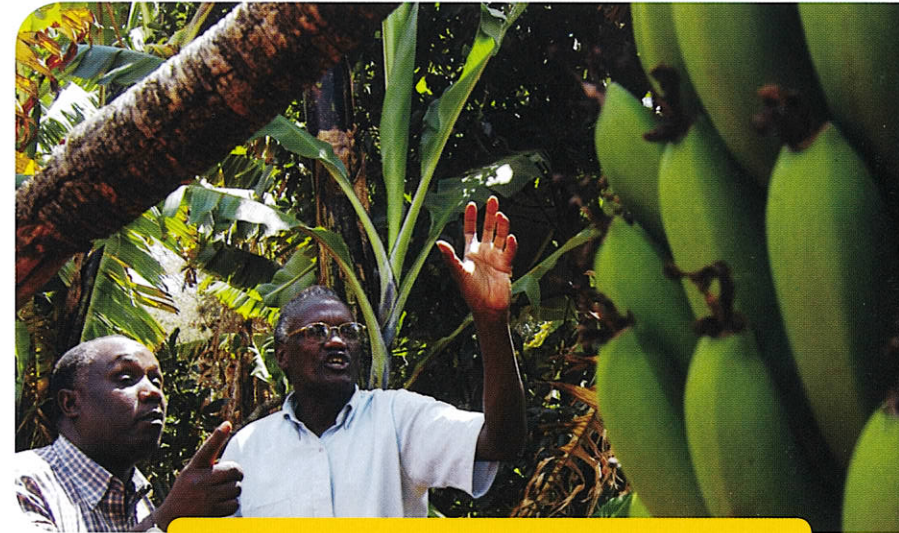
Blind and visually impaired students at Kenyatta University in Kenya studying to be teachers through the Sightsavers International programme

How ICT can help improve food security

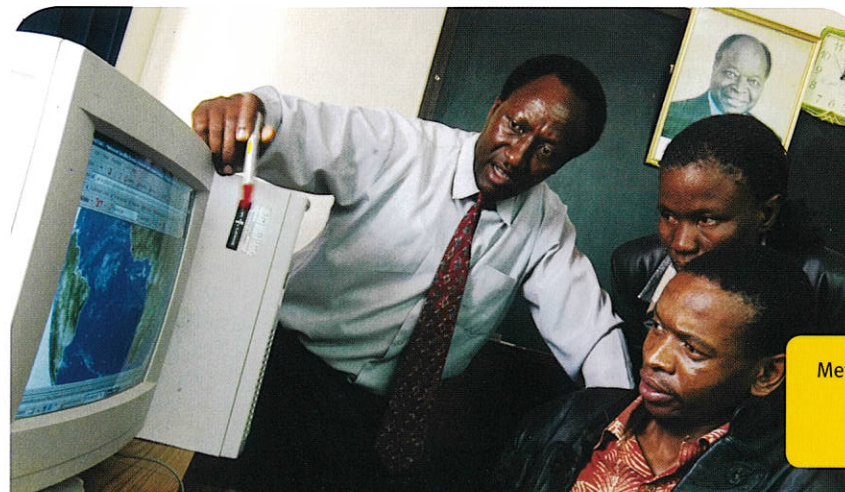
Computer Aid has provided computers to meteorological offices in Uganda, Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Kenya

Introducing ICT in the weather stations in these countries is helping to improve their information processing speeds and to equip staff at remote weather stations with the skills and tools necessary to enable them to provide fast, highly-targeted forecasts and advice to farmers. Weather forecasts can then also be delivered on time and relevant to local needs.

With accurate weather forecasting, farmers can time the planting of their crops and choose types of seed that bring them better yields – in many cases this means the difference between failing to produce enough food to feed a family and producing a surplus which can be sold to pay to send children to school. At a national level, it is recognised that more accurate and timely forecasting is necessary to make disease prevention and disaster response programmes more timely and effective.



Accurate weather forecasts provide farmers with the knowledge they need to prepare their crops and to decide which crops to plant.



Meteorological training on a Computer Aid donated PC at the East African Meteorological Training Centre

Rural Connectivity in Zambia

Computer Aid has provided over 225 PCs along with wireless routers to LinkNet, used to extend access to computers and the reach of their impressive rural wireless networks in various locations in Zambia.

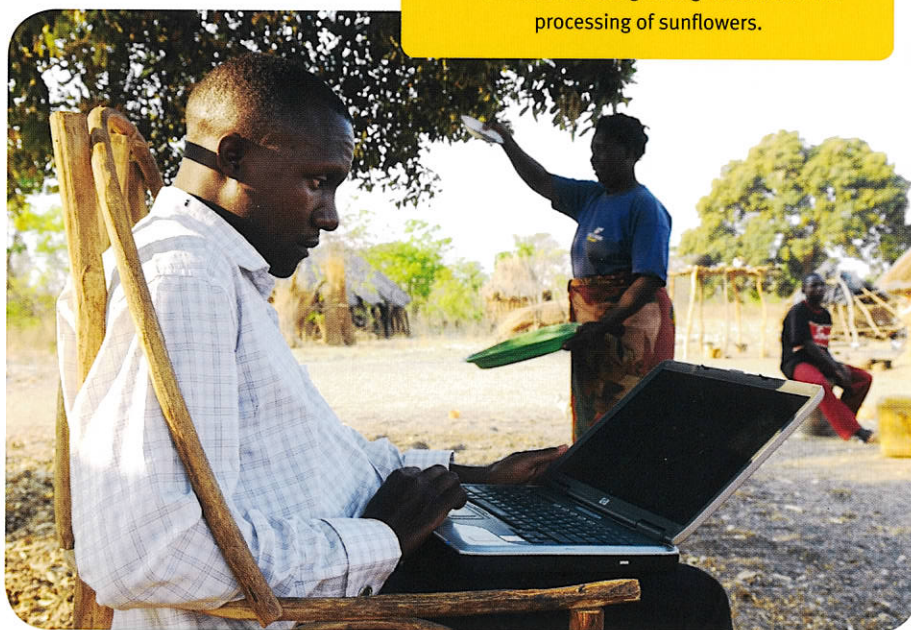
LinkNet is a cooperative organisation headquartered in Macha, rural Zambia, over 300km from the capital Lusaka, and 70km from the closest tarmac road. LinkNet supports holistic rural development initiatives, with a focus on the empowerment of special interest groups such as health and education institutions. LinkNet specialises in the design, implementation and maintenance of efficient telecommunication infrastructure, tailored to rural areas. It runs computer labs, provides high quality computer training and has become a leading institution for the provision of internet access in rural areas. The wireless mesh

network run by LinkNet in Macha is possibly the largest of its kind in the whole of sub-Saharan Africa.

The approach developed by LinkNet in Macha has already provided the local community with a wealth of opportunities for education, personal and economic development.

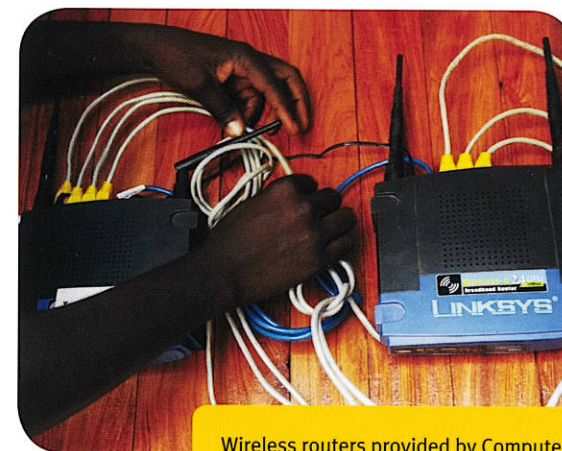
Access to the Internet has also resulted in new agricultural developments, for example sunflower oil previously imported from abroad. Because of the availability of rural connectivity, doctors and health

ICT has helped Fred Mweetwa find relevant information on the growing conditions and processing of sunflowers.



researchers from all over the world are attracted to work in Macha.

The equipment provided by Computer Aid to LinkNet is being used to further extend the coverage of their wireless networks in Macha and elsewhere, and to provide access to computers to health and education institutions in new sites where the organisation is working across rural Zambia.



Wireless routers provided by Computer Aid are used to extend access to computers in various locations in Zambia.

Education for Vulnerable Communities in Colombia

Estimates put the number of internally displaced people from their homes in Colombia as a result of drug crime and conflicts between the FARC, the government and various paramilitary groups at between 2 and 3 million.

The International Organisation for Migration (IOM) in Colombia works to support refugees leaving the country or returning and needing assistance to reintegrate. It also helps populations that are victims of forced internal displacement or trafficking and is at the forefront of work to reintegrate ex child-combatants into society.

Computer Aid has provided over 900 computers to the IOM's project in the coffee growing region of Nariño - one of the areas worst affected by Colombia's conflicts. The PCs are used to provide education for both adult and child migrants in the region - helping them gain new skills and find employment.



A Colombian student learns IT skills on a Computer Aid donated PC.



Children learning IT skills on a Computer Aid donated PC in the Manabi province, Ecuador.

Campaign against the dumping of e-waste in developing countries

Faulty and untested IT equipment is routinely exported by unscrupulous companies in the developed world to developing countries, often in violation of international law. Recent reports issued by Greenpeace and Consumers International have highlighted the extent of this problem.

In September 2008 Computer Aid launched a petition calling on the UK government to give the Environment Agency enough funds to be able to police the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) supply chain effectively to put a stop to the dumping of e-waste in Africa and Asia.

Why re-use is better than recycling

Empirical research proves beyond doubt that reusing computers is far better for the environment than recycling them when upgrading to the newest version. Reusing a computer is 20 times more effective at saving life cycle energy use than recycling it. Given the substantial environmental cost of production, it is imperative we recover the full productive value of every PC through reuse before eventually recycling it to recover parts and materials at its true end-of-life.

It is thus essential that organisations and individuals ensure that their IT equipment is sent to a professional and legitimate refurbisher, approved by the



Tom Musili, Executive Director of CFSK in front of the new recycling plant in Kenya

Environment Agency, to ensure that it is handled in a responsible way. Computer Aid only distributes computer equipment through responsible partner organisations that meet our stringent requirements.

This year Computer Aid assisted in the setting up of an e-waste recycling plant in Nairobi, extending our commitment to end-of-life solutions in Africa.

The recycling centre for end-of-life electronic and electrical equipment has been set up by our partner organisation Computers for Schools Kenya (CFSK), a not-for-profit organisation based in Nairobi. The recycling plant has received an award by the Kenyan Environment Agency for its work.

Encouraging volunteering

Computer Aid is directed by a Board of Trustees composed of senior and retired executives from a variety of backgrounds including UNISON, IBM, British Airways, the BBC and the Nicaragua Solidarity Campaign. 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 individuals looking for professional secondment, industry placements and work experience. The

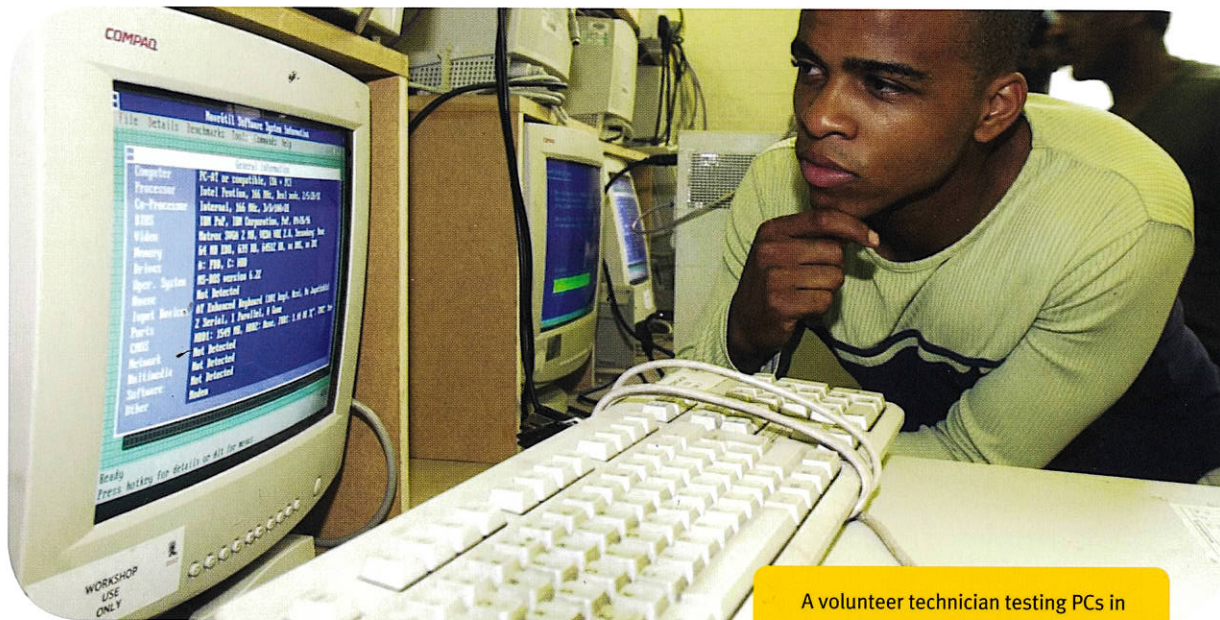
main volunteering opportunities exist in the areas of fundraising, marketing, and logistics as well as computer troubleshooting.

Many technicians also 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 data wiped, refurbished and tested. Using skilled volunteers enables Computer Aid to provide computers

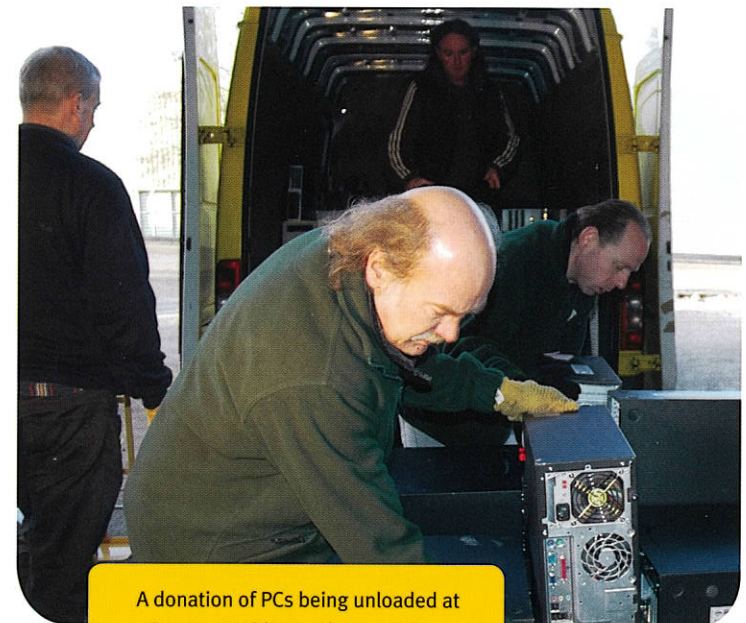
at an affordable cost to schools and community organisations in the developing world.

"I would like to express my thanks for allowing me to work at Computer Aid. It was something that was not only enjoyable, but valuable as well. It not only allowed me to build on my existing skills, but I learned new skills as well. The placement has helped me to realise that this is the kind of work I would like to continue doing in the future"

Andrew Brownlow, workshop volunteer – February 2008



A volunteer technician testing PCs in Computer Aid's London workshop



A donation of PCs being unloaded at Computer Aid's London workshop

How you can help

More and more businesses, individuals, charitable trusts, local authorities and government departments are partnering with us to deliver the benefits that we have described in this report.

Your support is absolutely crucial in enabling us to continue to expand the benefits of projects like the ones you have read about in this report.

Thanks to the tireless work of our team of volunteers, and the resourcefulness and innovation of our partners on the ground, every £1 donated will provide IT literacy to one child - and with it the chance of a better life.

Donate your old PCs or laptops

We offer a professional decommissioning service to organisations and individuals in the UK, which includes Blancco data wiping, full asset tracking, country wide collection service and a guarantee that 100% of reusable equipment will go to not-for-profit organisations in developing countries. For more information please visit www.computeraid.org/donate

Fundraising

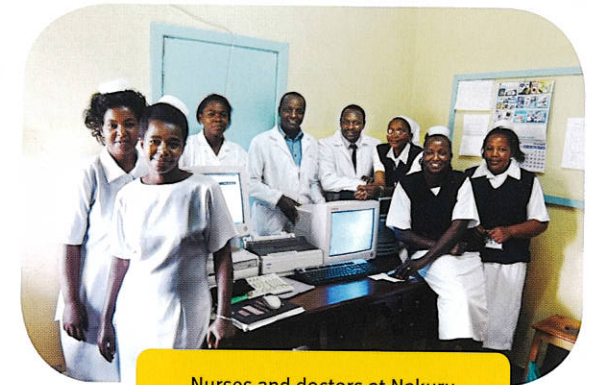
We can partner with your business or charitable trust to deliver cost-effective, high impact projects that meet your objectives and make a massive difference to people's lives. In return for your support we can offer engaging case studies, arresting images and know-how in communicating the benefits of your support to your clients, staff and other stakeholders. We will also tell you exactly what we have achieved with your support.

Individuals can donate now to specific projects or take part in our exciting range of sponsored events. For more information 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. Please visit www.computeraid.org/cartridge

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



Nurses and doctors at Nakuru hospital Kenya, with their newly donated telemedicine kit.

“ I am delighted to see our partnership with Computer Aid making a real difference to the lives of people across Africa. It is particularly satisfying for me to hear of the benefit to the CIDA organisation, and other education institutions. I hope that our support will enable more students in Africa to undertake further and higher education, and achieve their highest aspirations. ”

Frank McLoughlin, Principal,
City and Islington College



CITY AND ISLINGTON
COLLEGE

DFID Department for
International
Development

“ We are very happy to support Computer Aid as an organisation dedicated to goals which are aligned with our own, and in particular to using Information and Communications Technology to help achieve the Millennium Development Goals. ”

Simon Jones, CIO Department
for International Development

Children at St Josephs school in
Kenya have an IT lesson



Cyclists take part in one of
Computer Aid's exciting range
of sponsored events

“ Computing Magazine is proud to support Computer Aid International's work in the developing world. By engaging our staff in this work, and encouraging our clients and partners to do the same, we are all motivated by making a big difference to people's lives - in a field that is directly relevant to our core business. ”

Robin Booth, Publisher,
Computing Magazine, Incisive Media

computing

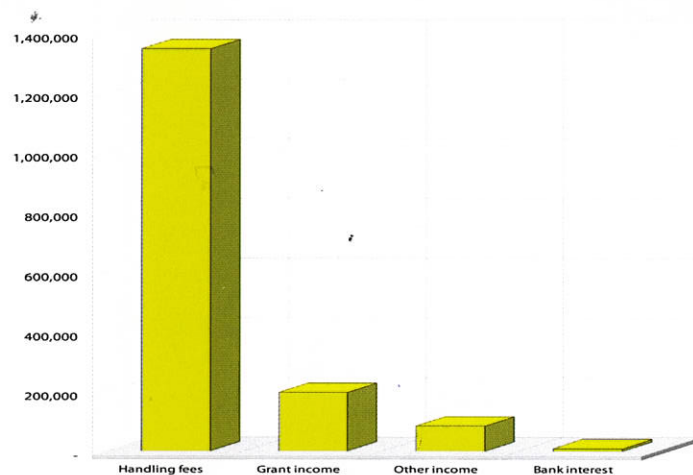
Finances for 2007/8

Having achieved income of £1.6m, our financial situation this year remains strong. A surplus of £14,000 was generated which will enable us to continue growing.

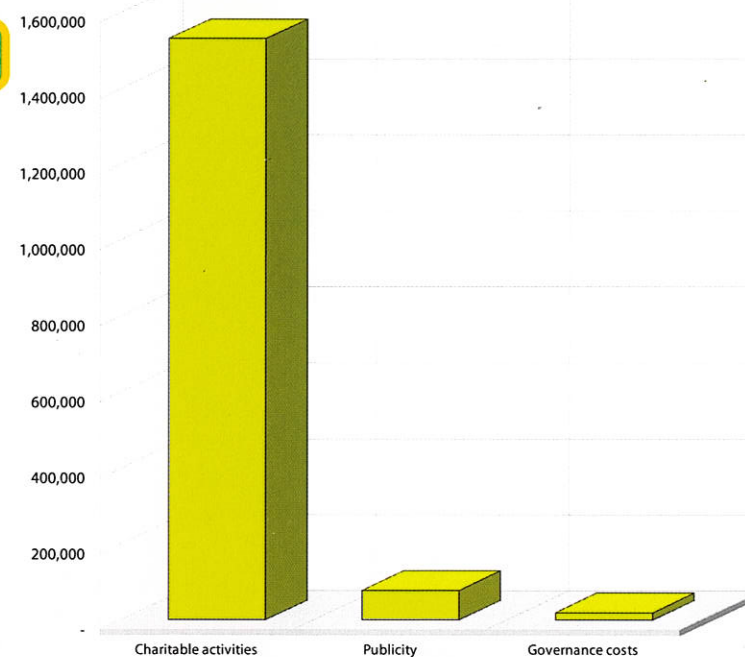
We shipped 28,712 computers to educational establishments and community organisations in developing countries, an increase of 28% compared with the previous year. Strengthening our office in Kenya has been an important factor in achieving expansion.

Receipts from handling fees - our principal form of income – continue to increase while support from charitable trusts and foundations remains high.

Full audited accounts are available on request.



Expenditure



Income

Supporters

We are grateful to all our trustees, volunteers, IT donors and financial donors for their generous donations of time, money or IT equipment. Unfortunately we are not able to list every single person and organisation.

PC Donors include:

Addison Lee	Energy Saving Trust
Arriva	English Partnership
BBC Worldwide	ERM
Benfield Group	Foxtons
Betfair	Harrow College
Big Lottery Fund	Haymarket Publishing
Boeing	Investec
Bournemouth University	Kent County Council
Bradford & Bingley	Kerry Ingredients
Brent Council	London College of Fashion
CAFOD	London Metropolitan University
Channel Tunnel Rail Network	London School of Economics
City and Islington College	Merton Council
City of London Police	National Archives
City University	New Look Retailers
Clarke Willmott	NHS
Colgate Palmolive	Nominet
Cranfield University	Oxfam
EAGA	Pearson Plc
Endemol	Pensions Regulator
	PepsiCo

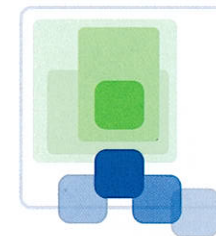
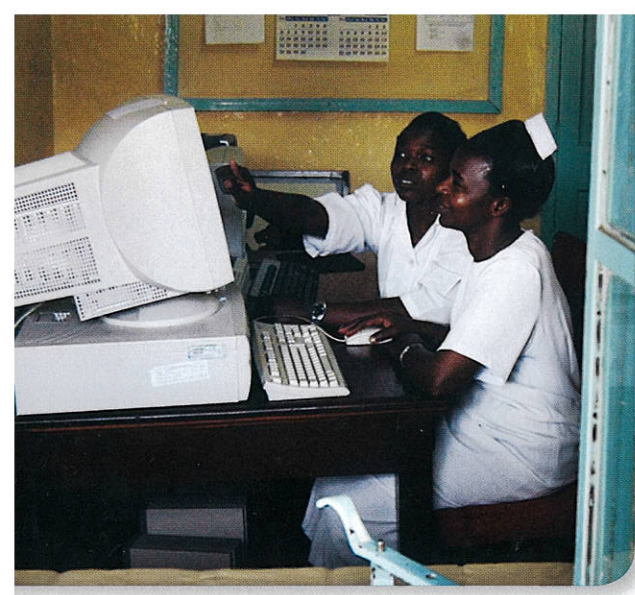
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Telereal
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Diageo
Dischma Charitable Trust
Dorfred Charitable Trust
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ExPat Foundation
FA Premier League
Father O'Mahony Memorial Trust
George Henry Collins Charity
Harold Hyam Wingate Foundation
HDH Wills 1965 Charitable Trust
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Hotwire PR
Incisive Media
Jane Hodge Foundation
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Jusaca Charitable Trust
Kable Limited
Khayami Foundation
Methodist Relief and Development Fund
Michael Cornish Charitable Trust
Mitchell Trust
Morland Charitable Trust

Mrs LD Rope's Third Charitable Settlement
Mrs Wingfield's Charitable Settlement
N Smith Charitable Settlement
Navchetna BV Charitable Trust
Open Gate
Pentland Stalls Charitable Trust
RicoH
Rita and David Slowe Trust
Robert Kiln Charitable Trust
Rufford Maurice Laing Foundation
Russell Investments
SC and ME Morland's Charitable Settlement
Simon's Charity
Sir James Roll Charitable Trust
SMB Charitable Trust
Stephen Clark 1965 Charitable
Taylour Foundation
Three Oaks Trust
Thriplow Trust
Tinsley Foundation
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UK Insurance Net
Ulverscroft Foundation
W F Southall Trust



**Computer Aid
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**FundRaising
Standards Board**

give with confidence

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