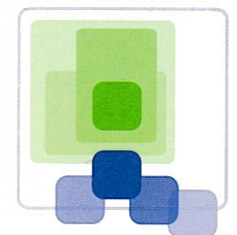




Computer Aid International - Reducing Poverty Through Practical ICT Solutions

Annual Report
2008/9



**Computer Aid
International**

About Computer Aid International

Founded in 1998, Computer Aid International is a registered charity that aims to reduce poverty through practical ICT solutions. Computer Aid takes in donations of computers, laptops, and monitors which are refurbished and distributed to not-for-profit organisations in the developing world. The computers go on to be used in areas such as agriculture, health and education.

Computer Aid has shipped over 150,000 PCs to where they are most needed in schools, hospitals and not-for-profit organisations in over 100 countries, making us the world's largest and most experienced ICT for Development provider.

At our London workshop we asset track, data-wipe, test and professionally refurbish each donated computer, monitor and laptop.

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

As well as providing computers, we develop partnerships with organisations overseas that provide training and technical support to recipients to ensure the immediate, productive and sustainable use of the equipment.



Lord Chris Smith, Chair of the Environment Agency with Anja French, Computer Aid's Director of Communications and Marketing at the Annual Environment Agency Conference, London

Chief Executive's review

Computer Aid International was founded in 1998 to address the problems of access and environment. Access to computers was not affordable to organisations in Africa, yet in the UK companies were dumping thousands of working computers in landfill as they upgraded their PCs every two or three years.

Computer Aid selected the best of these 'excess' PCs and after professionally refurbishing them has now provided over 150,000 high quality computers to under-resourced organisations in more than 100 countries. Those PCs are improving the lives of literally millions of people that would not otherwise have had access to ICTs to enrich education, facilitate telemedicine, collate climate data, empower the disabled, and a myriad of other development applications.

However, over the last decade Computer Aid's understanding of Access has expanded beyond hardware provision and our concern for the Environment has extended beyond the issue of landfill in the UK.

In this annual report you will see how, in addition to the provision of essential hardware, Computer Aid has developed experience in delivering access to broader 'ICT for Development' solutions, including providing education in rural communities and enhancing medical research in Sub-Saharan Africa as well as providing training and technical support to partners.

In addition to expanding our work to encompass these new areas, Computer Aid continues to expand its work on environmental issues. Over the last five years Computer Aid has played an increasingly central role campaigning on e-waste and Green IT.

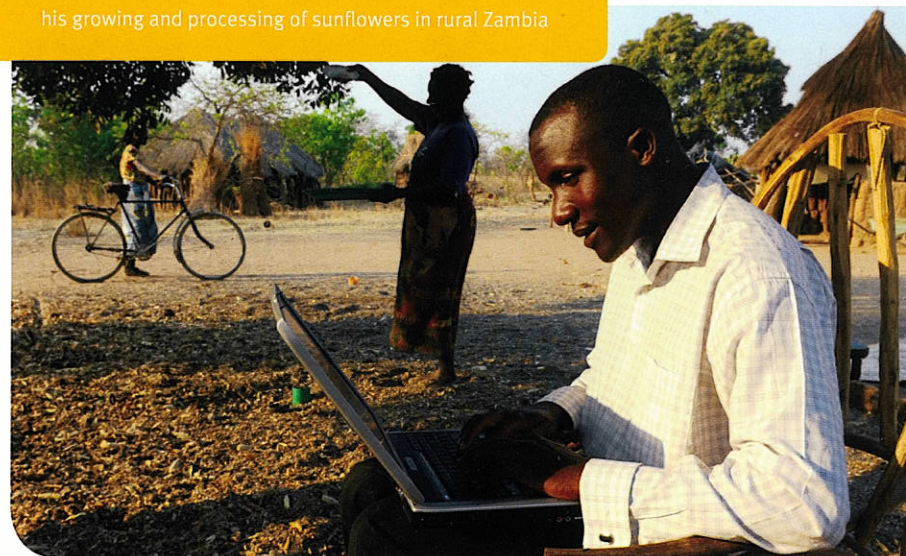
The PC refurbishing work of Computer Aid has the practical effect of diverting 150,000 PCs from the waste stream and refurbishing them for productive re-use. However the e-waste issue is far wider than PCs alone and encompasses all electrical and electronic equipment.

Computer Aid hosted the UK's first public e-waste briefing event and successfully campaigned for the implementation of the European Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) Directive into UK law. More specifically we successfully lobbied for the prioritisation of re-use over recycling, and for the 'producer pays principle' which makes the manufacturers of electrical and electronic equipment responsible for financing environmentally friendly end-of-life recycling.

Computer Aid champions re-use - highlighting the fact that extending the productive life of a computer is twenty times more environmentally efficient than simply recycling - and so encourages everyone to support donation programmes.

Looking ahead, access and environment issues will remain at the heart of Computer Aid's work.

ICT has helped Fred Mweetwa find relevant information to support his growing and processing of sunflowers in rural Zambia



We will extend access to ICT for Development resources to our partners in Africa and Latin America and we will support their environmental campaigning too. Computer Aid will use its experience from the UK to support partners in other countries who campaign for their governments to enact legislation on e-Waste dumping, champion re-use in preference to recycling, and promote the 'producer pays principle' to ensure that manufacturers of electrical and electronic equipment fund end-of-life programmes in every country (and not just in Europe, as they do today).

Tony Roberts

Chief Executive & Founder

Providing ICT to Ethiopian schools

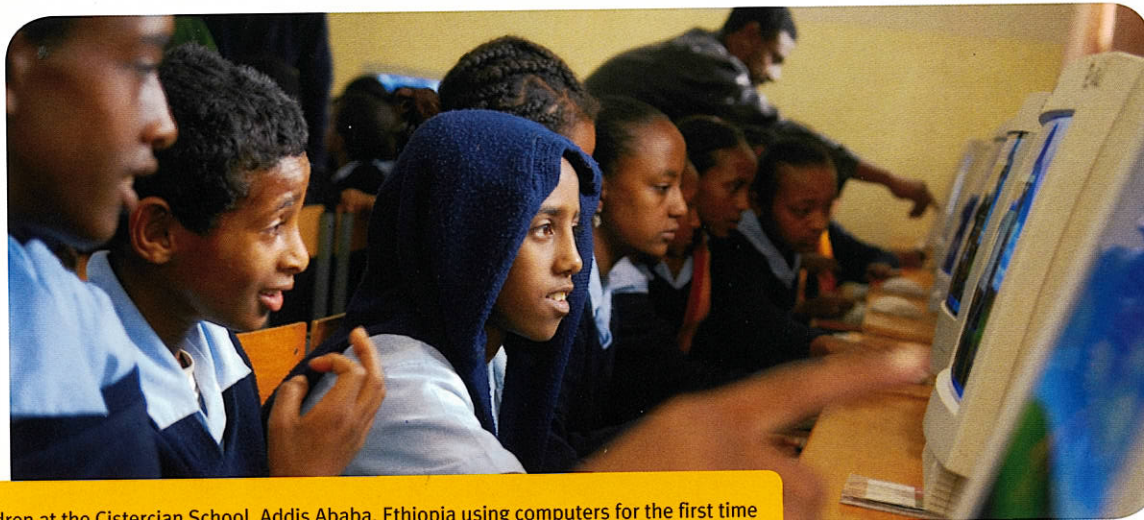
Ethiopia is one of Africa's poorest countries, with the majority of its population illiterate. Although primary education is free, enrollment and attendance rates at schools remains low. One reason for this is that most families depend on agriculture for their livelihood and survive on an income of less than a dollar a day. Sending children to school is often considered a poor investment and parents choose to utilise their children's labour on the land. This problem is compounded by the fact that many schools are overcrowded and have only basic facilities.

Computer Aid is working in Ethiopia to improve the resources available to schools, to provide an improved standard of education to pupils, and to make school a more appealing option for the families of hundreds of children across the country.

Working in partnership with the Ethiopian registered charity Ethiopia Knowledge and Technology Transfer Society (EKTTS), Computer Aid is equipping over twenty schools with PCs to enable approximately 1,500 children to benefit from an improved standard of education.

This is in addition to over 5,200 PCs that Computer Aid has already provided to educational organisations across Ethiopia.

These computers are contributing to the education of a generation of Ethiopian children, ensuring that their future educational and professional prospects are enhanced, and allowing them to reach their full potential in life.



Children at the Cistercian School, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia using computers for the first time

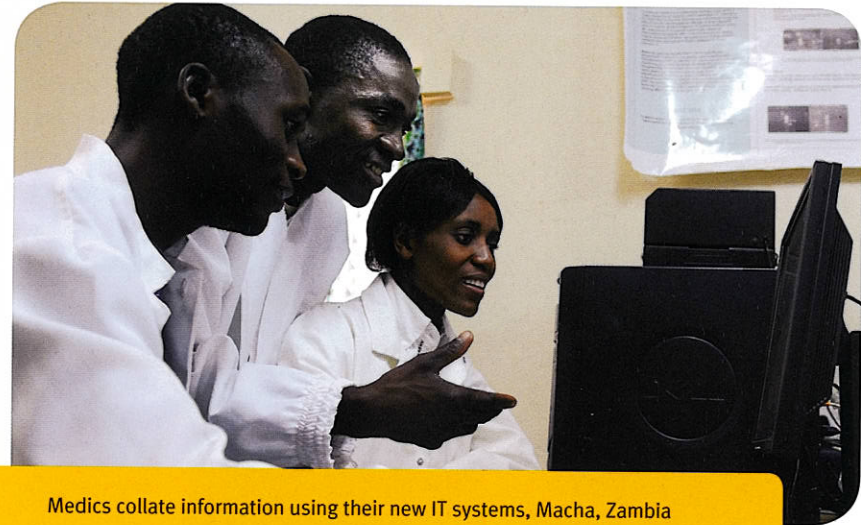
Tackling Malaria in Zambia

Malaria is still one of the worlds largest killers, infecting 350 - 500 million people every year. The majority of cases occur in Sub-Saharan Africa where it is estimated the infection kills over one million people annually, with children under five and pregnant women being particularly vulnerable.

Computer Aid has provided computers to The Medical Institute at Macha (MIAM) based at the Macha Mission Hospital, Southern Zambia. The hospital is located over 300 km from the capital Lusaka and 70 km from the closest tarmac road. Transmission rates in rural areas tend to be higher than in towns and cities due to a lack of clinics, medical facilities and diagnostic tools. The hospital treats over 5,000 cases of malaria every year.

No vaccine currently exists to protect against the spread of Malaria and traditionally development programmes have concentrated on prevention through the use of nets and sprays.

MIAM's aim is to develop a centre of excellence that will carry out state-of-the-art malaria research. Computers are vital to this work, allowing researchers to collect and analyse data. Connection to the Internet also enables medical professionals working in Macha to communicate with experts across the world who are working to eradicate this disease.



Medics collate information using their new IT systems, Macha, Zambia



Nurses arrive at the Macha Mission Hospital, Zambia

Computers to Strengthen Fairtrade Associations



A producer displays his organic bananas in El Guabo, Ecuador

Computer Aid has provided over 500 computers to support the Ecuadorian Fairtrade association APPBG. The association's members grow and export bananas, including organic bananas, to the highest environmental and social standards.

El Guabo is home to one of Ecuador's largest Fairtrade associations. With a membership of over 450 small to medium sized banana producers, APPBG export 50,000 boxes of bananas a week. Producers who sell through APPBG are guaranteed a stable price which covers the cost of production when market prices go down. As a Fairtrade Labeling Organisation (FLO) approved body, APPBG provides an equitable platform from which to trade in international markets. The association also encourages consumers to make ethical considerations when purchasing imported products. FLOs are able to issue the Fairtrade logo, which is now recognized around the world as a guarantee that producers have received a fair price for their goods.

In addition to guaranteed prices for their produce, members also benefit from the association's social projects. Computer Aid's donated PCs are being used to strengthen Trade Union activity in a country with limited enforcement of worker's rights. The computers

are also being used to improve day-to-day operations within this fast growing enterprise.

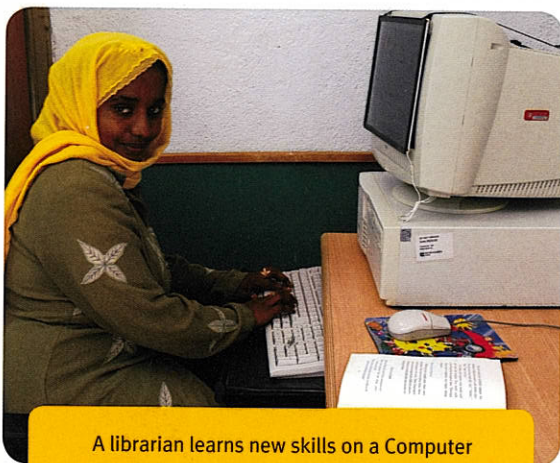
Close to Ecuador's southern boarder, APPBG has established a network of 17 primary schools for the families of its producers. Indigenous children in these schools are now using PCs donated to Computer Aid providing them with the opportunity to become IT literate.



Fairtrade guarantees a fair deal for all

Equipping libraries with ICT in Eritrea

It is difficult to overstate the importance of libraries in places where educational resources are a scarce commodity. Libraries provide an invaluable service to people for whom books are considerably beyond their means.



A librarian learns new skills on a Computer Aid donated PC, Eritrea

The British Council Eritrea has equipped every school and public library in the country with IT equipment provided by Computer Aid. Not only has this

dramatically improved the administrative processes, it has created a means through which digital content can be distributed via CD-ROMs and the Internet. A local Internet Service Provider has also provided free Internet connectivity to participating institutions, allowing users unprecedented access to a wealth of free information. Through the information dissemination channels created by the British Council, ICTs have significantly broadened the range of content publicly available at libraries. This is revolutionising library use in Eritrea. Libraries are now perceived as resource centres for locally-relevant information, which has led to a steady rise in the number of people visiting them. Once the domain of students and academics, libraries are now thriving community centres of information for nurses, development practitioners, farmers and agricultural extension workers. The widespread implementation of ICT in Eritrea's libraries is creating an enduring beneficial effect on local economies and local communities.



Librarian Training Room at the British Council, Asmara, Eritrea

Preserving African history: Bamoun King's Palace

As with many ancient African civilizations you won't find much about the Bamoun Kingdom on the Internet. Founded in the 14th century in the north east of present day Cameroon, the Kingdom has a rich and varied cultural history.



The Bamoun people perform a traditional ceremony

The Bamoun language was suppressed under colonial occupation after the end of the First World War, and much of its history remains undocumented.

The Bamoun Scripts and Archives Project at the Bamoun Palace aims to preserve the history of the kingdom for future generations.

Computer Aid International has provided over 500 PCs to the project which are being used for educational purposes as well as to document the history of the Bamoun people online. The website www.royaumbamoun.com, launched by the palace, is used to announce cultural events and maintain a sense of community.

It is often said that the Internet is dominated by western languages - but there is no reason, other than differential access, for this to be the case. The Bamoun Scripts and Archive Project has been involved in collecting and photographing threatened documents, translating and in some cases hand-copying texts, and creating a fully usable Bamoun computer font. The kingdom believes in using new technology to preserve its traditions - using radio, for example, to preserve and teach the language, which is also used by many popular musicians in the kingdom.

The Bamoun Kingdom's story shows how access to ICT can help preserve African history and maintain a strong sense of cultural identity in present and future generations.



The Bamoun Kingdom, located in north east Cameroon

Supporting sustainable development in Venezuela



Kindergarten students are known as 'red shirts' in Venezuela. Uniforms are colour coded according to which class children are in

“ Many thanks to Computer Aid for making IT affordable to communities that would otherwise have no access. ”

Alejandra González, from Asociación de Promoción Iniciativas Ecológicas.

Some of Computer Aid's donated PCs have found a new home in the heart of the Amazon Jungle. Computer Aid's partner the Venezuelan Community Development organisation Asociación de Promoción Iniciativas Ecológicas (APIE) is providing the computers to schools in the remote South East of the country. This area was affected by particularly heavy logging in the 1980s and 1990s. APIE's work aims to re-establish ecological diversity, and foster development practices that protect the Amazon's rich ecological and cultural heritage.

In the absence of a stable power supply, Amazonian children are usually denied access to ICT. APIE has equipped remote schools with solar panels which generate enough electricity to power a computer lab. This sustainable power source has enabled pupils aged between six and 15 to have regular access to ICT facilities. These schools are now able to follow the Venezuelan National Curriculum via e-learning programmes, linking with schools in the nearby cities of Puerto Ayacucho and Inirida.

The Venezuelan Government has long recognized the importance of ICT in education. As far back as 1999, the Constitución de la República Bolivariana de Venezuela instructed educational institutions to 'incorporate knowledge and application of new technologies and the resulting innovations' into the national curriculum.



A solar panel is lifted onto the roof of a school, Venezuela

Campaigning for e-waste solutions

During 2008/9 Computer Aid continued to campaign on the issue of e-waste. Our petition on the Downing Street website calling for tighter policing of WEEE leaving the UK, attracted over 700 signatures, and we look forward to receiving a response from government in early 2010. More effective controls on e-waste leaving the UK are vital if we are to prevent dumping of the UK's e-waste in Africa and Asia.

East Africa's first e-waste recycling plant, established by our partners Computers for Schools Kenya (CFSK) and supported by Computer Aid International, continues to offer sustainable solutions once true end-of-life is reached. Here computers are stripped down



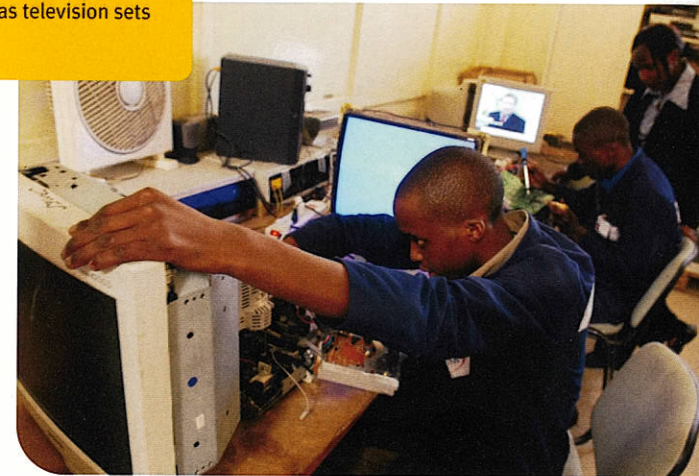
Tom Musili, Executive Director of CFSK at East Africa's first e-waste recycling centre

CRT monitors are adapted to function as television sets in Nairobi, Kenya

to their component parts, which are either reclaimed for reuse in CFSK's workshop or recycled. Reusing equipment is prioritised, for example decommissioned monitors are converted into quality affordable television sets. Stephen Kahara, Projects Manager at CFSK, anticipates that the centre will have handled 5.8million tonnes of e-waste by the end of 2009. Computer Aid's Zambian partner Linknet Zambia has also begun work developing a recycling centre built on a similar model.

Reusing a computer is both socially and environmentally responsible. Most UK businesses upgrade PCs every 3 years. By refurbishing redundant equipment Computer Aid can extend its life for another 3-4 years. This is enough time to train 60 children to a vocational level of IT literacy.

It is also better for the environment. As much as 80% of the energy used across a PC's working life is expended during its manufacture, before it is even switched on for the first time. By donating to Computer Aid, IT departments can ensure the greenest outcome for their unwanted PCs and laptops.



Working with our community

Computer Aid would not be able to operate without the valuable support of its volunteers.

Technicians who volunteer in our North London workshop work in partnership with full time members of staff to provide a professional IT decommissioning service, testing and refurbishing over 2,500 PCs a month.



A container heading to Kenya is filled with PCs, at Computer Aid's headquarters, London, UK

Workshop Volunteer, Philip, testing equipment in Computer Aid's London workshop

Volunteering with Computer Aid is a great way to gain skills and experience; in return Computer Aid can provide training opportunities and references for people who are looking for a route into work. During 2008/9 volunteers have gone on to find employment in a variety of different roles including IT support, telecommunications and warehouse work. Please visit www.computeraid.org/volunteering for information on volunteering with Computer Aid.

We are also extremely grateful to our fantastic team of office based volunteers who have given their time to the administration, fundraising, marketing and logistics teams, and to our trustees who have volunteered their time, skills and expertise.



“ I like working here, it has given me experience of working in a team and a chance to learn new skills. I enjoy meeting people and making new friends. I am proud to work for a charity that supports people in the developing world. ”

Tony Morgan
Warehouse Volunteer

How you can help

More and more businesses, individuals, charitable trusts, local authorities and government departments are partnering with us to deliver the benefits of ICT across the developing world.

“ Computer Aid made donating these PCs extremely straightforward by assuming full legal liability for the equipment we sent and providing documentation to prove our compliance with electrical waste and payment card industry regulations. ”

Rob Fraser, IT Director, Sainsbury's

Sainsbury's

“ I think every individual should realise the difference that even a small donation can make to the lives of others. By making a donation or taking part in a sponsored event you are giving poor communities the chance to build a better future for themselves. ”

Shelley Kingston, Individual Supporter and Event participant

Donate your old PCs, laptops, and monitors

Computer Aid needs PCs, monitors, laptops, keyboards, cables and mice. We offer a professional decommissioning service to organisations and individuals in the UK, which includes Communications Electronics Security Group (CESG) approved 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



Children at Cistercian School, Addis Ababa, where Computer Aid has supplied PCs

Donate your old printer cartridges and mobile phones

Donating old printer cartridges and mobiles couldn't be easier. We can provide you with a box to put in your office or school, which will be picked up again when it is full, free of charge. Please visit www.computeraid.org/cartridge for more information.

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/get-involved



Computer Aid's Cycle Chile team

“ Our partnership with Computer Aid not only provides us with a simple, cost-effective solution for disposing of our IT equipment, but it also ties in perfectly with our CSR schemes which focus on waste reduction, charitable donations and sustainability. It's a cause that we're proud to support and we've communicated the good work to our staff internally as well. ”

Chris Grao, Field IT Manager, Coca-Cola Enterprises



“ Orange has been happy to support the work of Computer Aid as it's a great opportunity to contribute to fantastic causes whilst reusing our old computer equipment. We felt Computer Aid was a good fit with our sustainability agenda, as well as keeping the IT guys happy with their rigorous standards of data erasure. We hope to do lots more exciting stuff together in the future. ”

Stuart Drake, Asset Manager, Orange



“ BioMed Central is pleased to support Computer Aid to enable knowledge exchange and learning across the developing world. It is satisfying to see our fundraising with Computer Aid and Kenyatta University make a difference to the lives of scientists conducting vital research relevant to local communities and East Africa. We hope that this partnership will allow researchers to fulfill their highest aspirations. ”

Matt Cockerill, Managing Director, BioMed Central



Finances for 2008/9

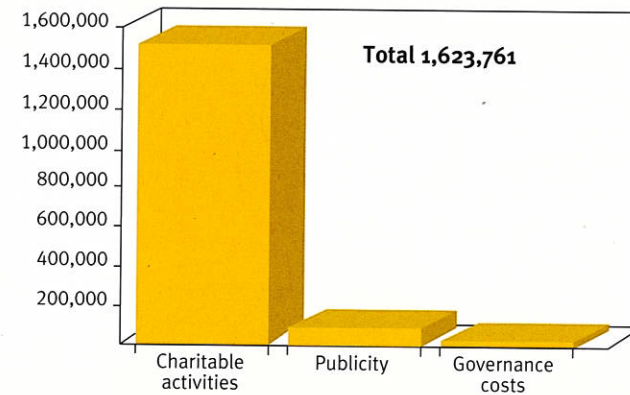
This year we achieved an income of £1.7m. However, primarily due to the global recession, we report our first ever deficit of £115,649.

We shipped 26,832 computers to educational establishments and community organisations in developing countries; a 6.5% decrease on the previous year. This has been due to companies deferring investment in new PCs which has resulted in less redundant PCs being donated to Computer Aid. Maintaining our Kenya office has been a key factor in our stability.

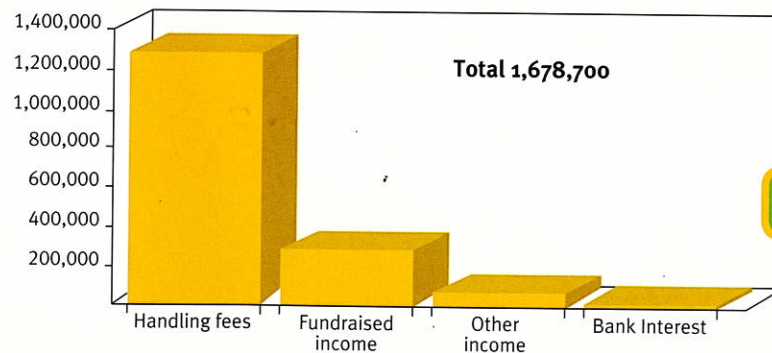
Receipts from handling fees – our principal form of income – decreased in comparison to last year's figures. We are, however, confident that the charity's fundamental position remains strong and that planned savings and investments will result in a much stronger 2009-2010. Early indications support this confidence.

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 and IT equipment. Unfortunately we are not able to list every single person and organisation here.

IT Donors Include:

Action for Blind People
Addison Lee
Areva
BBC Worldwide
Betfair
Boden
Bournemouth University
British Heart Foundation
British Medical Association
Brunel University
CAFOD
Cambridge City Council
Camelot
Charles Stanley
Christian Aid
City and Islington College
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College Of Law
Comic Relief
DfID
Diageo
Energy Saving Trust
Every Child
Fire Brigades Union

GE Money
Imperial NHS
Investec Bank
JD Wetherspoon
Kent County Council
Kent University
Kings College London
Korea Development Bank
Lloyds TSB
Met Office
Monsoon Accessorize
Mouchel
National Autistic Society
National Gallery
National Institute of Medical Research
New Look
NHS Direct
Ofcom
Office of Fair Trading
Old Mutual
Orange
Oxford University
Pizza Hut
RNLI
Royal Mail

Sainsbury's
Salvation Army
Save the Children
SOAS (School of Oriental and African Studies)
Sport England
The Pensions Regulators
Thomas Cook
Trade Union Congress
University College London
University of Glasgow
University of Warwick
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Vinci Plc
Virgin Active
WaterAid
Which?
WWF

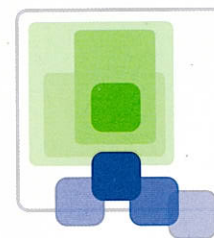
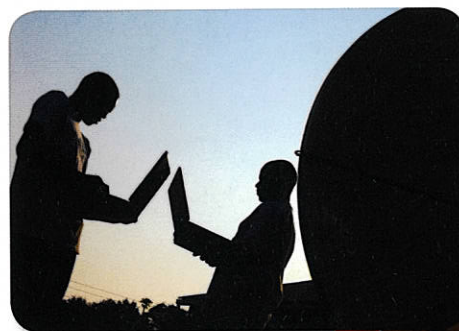
Financial Donors Include:

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Dagny Raymond Charitable Trust
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ESG Robinson Charitable Trust
Eva Reckitt Trust Fund
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Pennycress Trust
Peter Stebbings Memorial Charity
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Radley Charitable Trust
Rhododendron Trust
Rita and David Slowe Charitable Trust
Robert Kiln Charitable Trust
Royal Holloway Students' Union
Royal Masonic School for Girls
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Star Technology
Stephen Clarke Charitable Trust
Swire Charitable Trust
Taylour Foundation
Thomas Miller & Co Ltd
Thriplow Charitable Trust
Tikvah Trust
Tinsley Foundation
Tory Family Foundation
Trusthouse Charitable Foundation
TUUT Charitable Trust
Ulverscroft Foundation
Unison

Thank you!



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