



what can
you do?

9.1 Eliminating world poverty is a job for everyone, not just governments. In 2005, people all around the world raised their voices to demand change. Many people will have a direct role to play in helping deliver the commitments we have set out in this White Paper. NGOs will help deliver services, especially in fragile states. Businesses will need to invest and create jobs. Parliament and civil society groups will hold the Government to account in the UK, and encourage their counterparts in developing countries to do the same.

9.2 But eliminating world poverty is not just about people who work on development. For most people, development is not their day job. Nevertheless, in today's increasingly interconnected and interdependent world, our lives in the richest countries are affected by what happens in developing countries, and we also have an impact on the lives of people there. Making progress in the fight against poverty will mean harnessing this relationship. And the best way to make a

difference – to understand how poor people live and how to turn seemingly impossible problems into manageable tasks – is to get involved.

Seeing development for yourself

Jon Snow, a Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO) volunteer as a young man and now presenter of Channel 4's evening news, had his life changed by his first visit to a developing country. "I had never been on a plane, and had only once been out of England. Yet suddenly here I was standing in the tropical sun, next to a couple of rusting customs sheds at Entebbe airport in Uganda. I was waiting for a priest in an old Volkswagen who would drive me the 200 miles to the school in the bush, on the banks of the Nile, where I was to teach for the next twelve months. VSO and Uganda have informed my life ever since. I only became a journalist to find a way back to Africa."¹



9.3 There are many ways to do this. Schools, universities, clubs, churches, temples and mosques can debate the issues, generate new ideas, and ultimately influence opinion. And people can help organisations that need their skills. A link between Nottingham City Hospital and Jimma University Teaching Hospital in Ethiopia, for example, has helped build capacity for better nursing, midwifery and management training. Links between schools can help children learn and help each other, and change the way they see the world. Links between trade unions can help build capacity. Volunteers – whether they are campaigning in this country or sharing skills in developing countries – can affect the lives of hundreds of people. In times of crisis or disaster, people can give money, volunteer their time in the UK, or in the affected area if they have specialist skills.



The world in your classroom

Dornton House School in Sevenoaks is partnered with the Milton Margai School for the Blind in Freetown, Sierra Leone. Both schools are working to broaden the experience of blind and partially sighted young people. Students have been exchanging Braille letters, and some have formed lasting friendships. And the schools are looking together at how to deal with conflict. Dornton House is just one of many schools in the UK that are using the 'Global Dimension' to teach our children about the world they live in.²

The UK will

- Double our investment in development education, as we seek to give every child in the UK the chance to learn about the issues that shape their world.
- Set up a scheme to help other groups – such as faith groups, community groups, local government, business and charitable organisations – build links with developing countries.
- Expand opportunities for young people and diaspora communities to volunteer in developing countries.
- Support internship programmes for young people to work with NGOs.

9.4 Everyday choices matter too. In 2004, DFID and the Rough Guide launched 'The Rough Guide to a Better World', setting out how you can use your money, time and influence to change the world – giving to charities, buying fairly traded products and goods made without child labour, taking part in local campaigns and events. All these actions raise money for good causes. But they also help build commitment to change, and make that change happen.

To get further information on how you can make a difference, go to www.dfid.gov.uk

