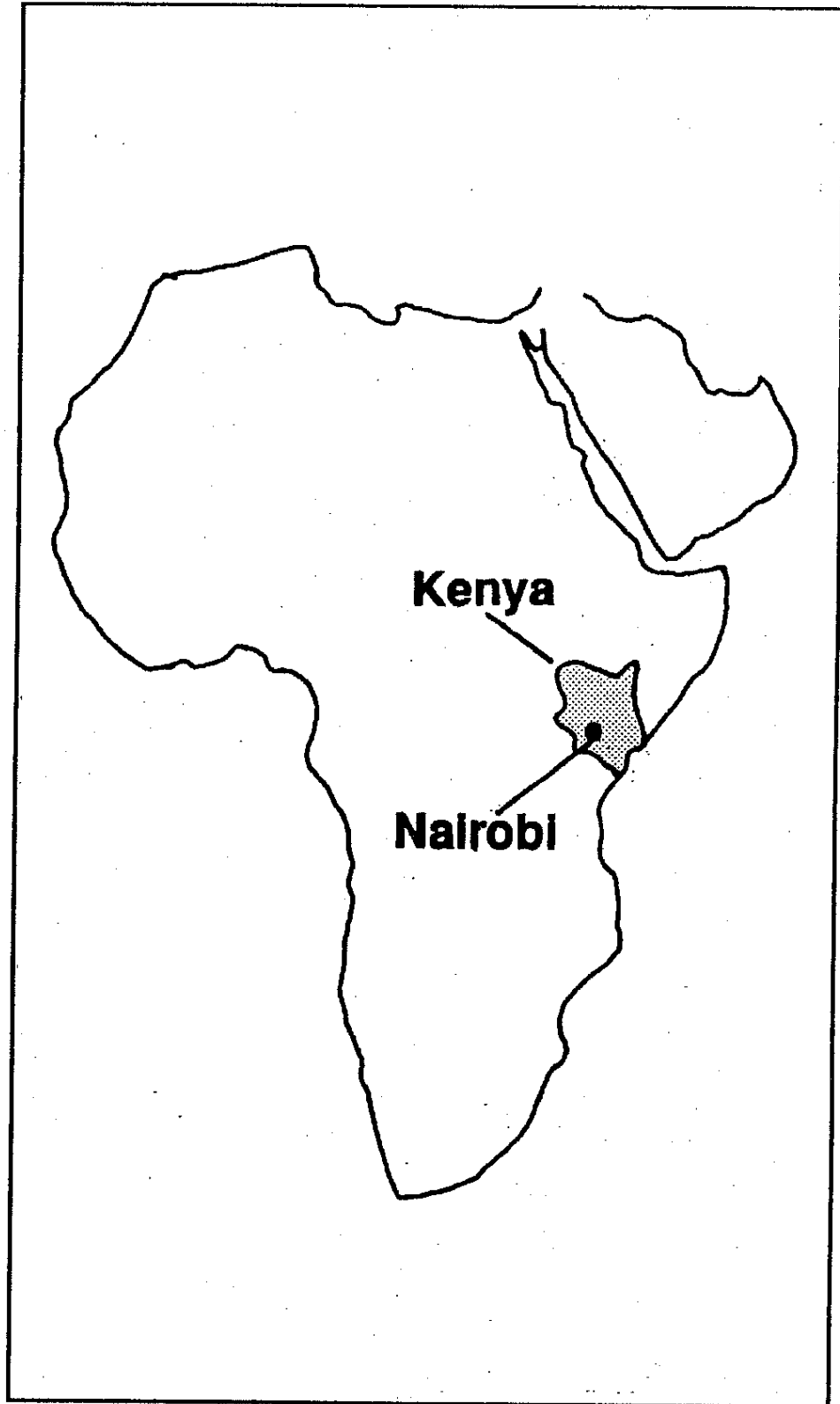


Nairobi Information



Giving
People
Choices



ACTIONAID

Introduction

ACTIONAID, Britain's fourth largest overseas development charity, assists communities in some of the poorest parts of the world. Its approach is to work in partnership with communities to reduce poverty and bring about sustainable development.

Working alongside communities allows ACTIONAID to collect information about the problems facing poor people and the way of life in developing countries.

The photographs in *Nairobi, Kenyan City Life* illustrate the Kenyan capital of Nairobi, and in particular the slum area of Kariobangi. By studying this information pupils will be able to examine the following features:

1. **The different ways of life in a Kenyan city.**
2. **The problems facing poor people and the actions they are taking to overcome poverty.**

It is important to stress that this pack does **not** provide information on the whole of the city, but rather it shows **selected** aspects of life.

Teachers should be aware of the element of bias in these photographs. Activities described in the '**Teacher's Notes**' allow teachers to explore this issue further. A contact list of addresses for further resources on Kenya has also been included.

It is recommended that teachers read carefully the background information provided. This will allow them to explain fully what may be unfamiliar images, place the

photographs in a context and develop their own teaching ideas.

The photographs show different lifestyles across the city from the business centre to the slum of Kariobangi. These two areas are linked by tracing the work of Mrs Donata Obara. She is an adult literacy officer who works from ACTIONAID's office in Kariobangi. While her work is with poor communities she lives in an affluent area of the city and leads a relatively prosperous life.

Please remember that all the people represented in this pack are real people who, while living in circumstances which may be different to our own, do not wish to be presented as 'curiosities' who live in an exotic land.

ACTIONAID

ACTIONAID has been working in the slums of Kariobangi since 1990.

Poverty is a complex feature and can be measured in many different ways. ACTIONAID views poverty as being the combination of many features, some of which are listed here:

- high levels of childhood mortality and malnutrition
- high levels of unplanned births
- high levels of illiteracy
- limited access to clean water and sanitation
- limited access to basic health services
- limited access to education
- limited access to credit
- a poor quality of environment

- limited access to government services or legal rights

After extensive consultation with all the members of the local community, and the Kenyan government, ACTIONAID provides a commitment to work in an area for ten years. This ten year perspective is very important because it allows long term development schemes to be planned and implemented.

A great amount of consultation is needed before any work is started. This is so the local community can clearly identify the problems facing them, and be actively involved in drawing up appropriate development schemes.

Funding for the development work in Kariobangi comes from ACTIONAID's UK supporters and Ayuda en Accion (ACTIONAID's Spanish sister organisation).

Nairobi

Nairobi is Kenya's capital city. Its name comes from the Maasai term for the valley it is located in called *Ewaso Nairobi*, 'stream of cold water'.

The settlement was started by the European colonists in 1899 at 'mile 327' of the East African railway. The city started as a staging post along the railway and a campsite for the 36 000 Indian workers employed by the British to build the railway. From this small beginning the settlement grew and in 1907 Nairobi was declared the capital of what was 'British East Africa'. Present day Nairobi illustrates these beginnings with an European and Asian architectural style to many buildings. Recent developments have lead to a large expansion of office blocks and hotels alongside the

growth of slum dwellings.

With a population of over two million Nairobi is one of the major cities in Sub Saharan Africa. It is one of the four United Nations 'World Centres' and holds international conferences in the Kenyatta Conference Centre.

Nairobi has all the attractions of a major city including cinemas, museums, theatres, shopping centres and parks. It also has additional features such as the 113 Km² game park which contains animals including rhinos, zebra and lions.

Nairobi has good communication links via the Jomo Kenyatta international airport, road routes and rail links to Mombasa on the coast and Uganda in the west.

Nairobi's population is mainly made up from African people although there are important minority groups of European and Asian descent.

It is important to recognise that the ACTIONAID's staff are drawn from the local population. As the photographs show many Kenyans, such as Mrs Donata Obara a literacy worker for ACTIONAID, are aware of poverty in the city and working with poor people to overcome these conditions.

Kariobangi

The area of Kariobangi lies to the north east of Nairobi about 8 Kms from the city centre. It is one of the many slum areas on the outskirts and covers about 10 Km². Settlement started in the 1920s although it was only until the 1970s that

its population started to grow significantly. Kariobangi is made up of seven 'villages'. These areas are not like rural villages but rather administrative areas which have their own character. Over 60 000 people live in this area which has no sewage system, health centre, paved roads or pavements, electricity, running water, street lights and only three primary schools. The average family lives on a income of Ks 50 (£1) a day.

Even though Kariobangi has high levels of poverty there is a great amount of activity which takes place. The goods and services provided in this area make a contribution to the economy of the city and the streets are full of people working. It would be wrong to imagine that while Kariobangi is a slum its inhabitants do not strive to earn a living and provide for their families.

Compared to poverty in rural areas the environment of Kariobangi is very poor. Rubbish and human waste litter the streets. Houses are cheaply built from mud with wood or corrugated iron roofs. The large numbers of people living in single story buildings produces a high population density of 6000 people per Km². It is common for a family of six people to share one room which would cost Ks 150 to rent a month.

People in Kariobangi have no legal rights to the land they have built their houses on. The only reason that they can use this space is because this area is undesirable being next to the cities rubbish dump and sewage works. However, although Kariobangi is located next to these services it has no rubbish collection or sewage system of its own. There are a small number of open sewers but they are wholly inadequate, usually filled with rubbish and overflow

when it rains. The government has built some toilet blocks but they were poorly planned with no consideration of who would look after them. As a result the blocks were not maintained and fell into disrepair. An ACTIONAID worker described this failed government scheme as an 'environmental nightmare'.

Access to drinking water is very limited as there are only 200 water taps to serve a population of 60 000 people. People in Kariobangi not only have to walk for distances, often over two kilometres, but also have to pay high prices for their water. It costs Ks 20 to fill a ten litre container from a communal water tap in Kariobangi. For a middle class inhabitant, living in Nairobi's suburbs, the same amount of water would cost only Ks 7 from their own private supply.

People work in the 'informal' sector of the economy. This covers many small scale trading, *jua kali* (craft) and service activities. Over 80 per cent of the population are self employed, the remainder either work for small businesses or are unemployed. The main streets in Kariobangi are busy with people working as carpenters, cobblers, artisans, selling a variety of foods and household goods or providing services such as food stalls, barbers and small restaurants.

It is a common sight to see women selling goods from *kiosks* which are built onto the sides of their houses. The returns on these activities are very small and people often have to borrow, from relations or friends, a small amount of cash in order to buy the stock they will sell during the day.

Unlike poverty in rural areas, where farmers usually have the means to provide basic food for their families, urban families have to live in a cash economy. Low incomes, an

average wage being Ks 50 (£1.00) severely restricts the options available to people.

Poor people do not have the available funds to open bank accounts, which would allow them to borrow money and invest in their small businesses. A Ks 20 charge to visit a clinic, which are all outside the Kariobangi area, also restricts peoples' access to health care.

People living in Kariobangi have a clear understanding of the conditions in which they live. Through working with ACTIONAID they are beginning to prioritise the problems which make the greatest impact on their lives. Development projects can then be planned to overcome these problems.

Photographs of Nairobi

Centre of Nairobi and middle class life.

1. Nairobi City Centre. Nairobi is Kenya's capital city. This view is over the Law Courts and towards the shopping and office centre. Nairobi's population is over two million people. Buildings range from luxury highrise blocks to poor shanty towns.

2. Park View Towers. This new office block and hotel is on Uhuru Highway. Nairobi has seen an expansion of new offices and hotels. They provide services for Nairobi's business people and tourists. The wealth of some of Nairobi's population can be seen in the Mercedes outside the hotel.

3. Communications. Here people are queuing to use telephone boxes. Kenya has four daily newspapers, printed in Swahili, an African language used across Kenya, and English. Radio and TV are also popular, with the choice of two TV stations.

4. ESSO Garage. Many international companies have outlets in Kenya. Here ESSO is running a petrol station. The building in the background is a shopping centre called The Mall. It has 20 different shops and restaurants, ranging from TV and electrical shops to a Cappuchino bar and a supermarket.

5. Nairobi Bus Station. Buses are a common form of transport in Kenya. Small minibuses, called *matatus*, operate in the city while larger buses, such as this one, run longer journeys. The cost of a fare across Nairobi is Ks 5. This bus is travelling to Kisumu, in the west of Kenya.

6. Traffic. Nairobi is a very busy city. A common complaint is that the roads are always full of traffic. Nairobi also has an international airport and rail links with Mombasa, on the

coast and Uganda to the west.

7. Two Past Rulers of Kenya. As Queen of England, Queen Victoria ruled over Kenya when it was a British colony. Her statue is in the Jeevanjee Gardens. Kenya was led to independence in 1963 by Jomo Kenyatta. He had been imprisoned by the British and was elected as Kenya's president at independence.

8. All Saints' Cathedral. Over 70 per cent of Kenya's population are Christians. All Saints' cathedral was built during the time when Kenya was a British colony. It is one of the oldest buildings in the city and overlooks Uhuru park.

9. The Jamia Mosque. A large minority of Kenya's population are Muslims, and the Jamia mosque is one of many mosques in Nairobi. People worship here every Friday.

10. Rich Housing. This is the type of housing rich people, such as business people or high ranking officials live in. An *Asgari*, or security guard is a common sight outside homes, offices and shops. This house costs Ks 10 000 rent a month. To hire an *Asgari* costs Ks 800 a month.

11. Mrs Obara in Her Office. Mrs Donata Obara is a literacy officer for the charity ACTIONAID. She organises literacy classes for adults who never went to school. She is at ACTIONAID's office in the slum of Kariobangi. The sewage works which dominate this area can be seen through her window.

12. Nairobi University. Mrs Obara's husband, Dr. D. Obara is a Professor of geography at Nairobi university. There are over 20 000 students at the university.

13. Mrs Obara at Home. This is the Obara family's dining room. Mrs Obara is helping David and Marie with their homework. There are two other children in the family, Evelyn, who has just finished secondary school, and Dolphine, who is studying law at Nairobi University.

14. Hurlington Shopping Centre. The Obara family do most of their shopping at this local centre. As well as the video and greengrocers shops, shown here, there is also a supermarket, garage and bakery.

The slum of Kariobangi

15. Kariobangi. This is one of the slums which surround Nairobi. Forty per cent of the city's population live in similar areas. Sixty thousand people live in Kariobangi which has no sewage system, running water, electricity, health centres, street lights or pavements, and only three schools.

16. Nairobi Rubbish Dump. Kariobangi is next to the city rubbish dump and sewage works. As this area of land is undesirable poor people build their homes here, although they have no right to the land. Often six people rent a room, costing Ks 150 a month.

17. A Sewer. While Kariobangi is next to the city's sewage works it has no proper sewage system. There are some open sewers, like this one, but they are blocked with rubbish and overflow when it rains. This leads to health problems, and preventable diseases, such as typhoid and cholera, are common.

18. Korogocho Womens' Self Help Group. To improve their lives many poor people form community groups. This group runs, with ACTIONAID's help, a savings and credit scheme. Each week everyone saves Ks 20. A member can then take out a loan to buy goods, such as *sufurias*, cooking pans.

19. Kiosk. Poor people in Kariobangi live on Ks 50 (£1) a day. Many women run kiosks. Mrs Veronica Syombua, a widow with three children, sells sweets and wirewool. Her Ks 50 profit is spent on school fees, rent and living expenses. Other women sell fruit, vegetables and charcoal.

20. Tailoring. Mrs Phylis Njambi earns money making childrens' clothes. She receives Ks 8 for each dress. The interior of her house is dark as there are few windows. Houses are simply and cheaply made with mud wall and corrugated iron or wooden rooves.

21. Mwinyiha Womens' Group. This is a 'fire-less cooking' programme. The cookers reduce the amount of fuel needed for a meal. They are made from insulated boxes. A *sufuria*, pan, of food is boiled on a *jeko*, stove. It is then covered with a plastic sheet and put in the cooker for 30 minutes to cook.

22. The Finished Meal. Nancy Kagara says 'I used to spend Ks 49 a week on charcoal but now with the fireless cooker I spend Ks 21. The cooker also allows food to be left for my children, while I work, without the risk of burns to the children.' The group also runs literacy classes organised by Mrs Obara from ACTIONAID.

23. Toilet Construction. Over 60 00 people live in Kariobangi which has no sewage system. ACTIONAID, working with the local people, identified toilets as a priority. The local scouts are building this block. One block has been finished and it costs Ks 1 to use. This money is used to maintain the toilet.

24. Korochoho Soil Block Making Group. The bricks for the toilet block are made by this group. Marrum , a special type of soil, is mixed with water and cement and then compressed in the press. The blocks are dried for seven days. For these men this work is one way of earning a living.

25. Kariobangi Market. There are market stalls selling fish, meat, fruit, vegetables, clothes and household goods. Mr. Peter Wamburi, a savings group member, says 'I'd like to take out a loan so I could travel to the rural areas and buy goods for myself. I'd be saving a lot, the costs would be cheap and my profits higher.'

26. Jua Kali. *Jua Kali* means 'hot sun'. It refers to workshops running in the street. Mrs Damaris Okello is the only woman manager of a metal working business in Kariobangi. She makes 'burglar proof' window grills. Her firm has grown using a loan to buy new materials and equipment.

27. Martin Ondiek. Martin moved to Kariobangi from the countryside. Originally he failed to get a job and then set up this carpentry business. He makes beds, wardrobes, school desks and chairs. Much of his work is for ACTIONAID, such as an order to furnish a classroom which required 35 desks.

28. Go Cart. Anything which can be used again is recycled in Kariobangi. These boys are playing on their home made go cart. There are only dirt roads in Kariobangi. When it rains these roads turn to mud and vehicles cannot use them.

29. Football. During break time at Baba Dogo primary school these boys play football. The ball is made from plastic bags and string. Football is a very popular sport in Kenya. Martin Musila, who made the football, says 'Gormahia F.C. is the best football team to support!'

30. Felix Muriuki Festo. Felix, in the centre of the picture, is 15. He is in his last year of primary school. Felix is a scout. He says 'I help people with first aid and also raise the Kenyan flag on parades'. Only 40 per cent of children in Kariobangi go to school. Poor families cannot afford the fees of Ks 1000 a year.

Development Schemes

ACTIONAID's approach to poverty is to involve local people in identifying the problems they face, planning what activities need to be implemented and the running of development projects. If sustainable development is to take place, particularly as ACTIONAID aims to eventually pull out of Kariobangi, the local community must be able to plan their own approaches to overcoming poverty. By focusing work on the different aspects which make up poverty the aim is to reduce the different constraints on peoples lives. There are four main areas which have been identified covering community organisation, livelihood, health and education.

Community Organisation

'From the chair lady to the last member we are all equal.'

Joyce Wanjiru, secretary Mwinyiha women's group

Unlike rural Kenya, where people tend to live in their home area for a long period of time, the urban population is very fragmented. People in Kariobangi have moved into this area from all over Kenya and there is a diverse ethnic mix. Often people do not know their own neighbours and, while there is some community action, its level of organisation is low.

ACTIONAID has two aims with this area of its work. First to enable the community to control its own development, through participating with interventions supported by ACTIONAID, and secondly to support policies which will allow community groups to improve their own quality of life.

There are some development groups already established and ACTIONAID seeks to support them by providing management training and also helping to develop a sense of community by supporting events such as cultural festivals.

The main aspect of supporting community organisations was setting up of Key Information Panels (KIPs). Each village has a KIP and it represents the views from its area. The KIPs are made up from local people and half of their members are women.

These groups provide information on the development needs of each of the areas, the facilities (or lack of them!) in each village, and the size of the population (official figures being very unreliable). ACTIONAID's aim is that after ten years the KIPs will be able to plan, secure funding for and manage their own development activities.

Currently their main work is providing the information for a census of Kariobangi and deciding the needs of people who are asking for loans from savings and credits groups.

These groups form the basic building block for the rest of the development schemes in Kariobangi. Without the strength of the community expressed through the KIPs there would be no credit and savings schemes, no organisation of labour to build toilet blocks, or groups available for literacy and vocational training. The KIPs also select volunteers who train as health or literacy workers and then share their knowledge with the local population. An example of these groups in action can be seen in photographs 18, 21 and 22.

ACTIONAID has also supported the redevelopment of Kariobangi market which is a central aspect of this community. An example of a market stall can be seen in

photograph 25 and the long term aim is to upgrade the stalls using soil blocks and piped water.

The KIPs may also become a focus for people from Kariobangi to lobby the Nairobi City Council to implement policies which would support the development work in this area. This lobbying could try to secure refuse collections, or the provision of a water supply and sanitation.

Livelihood

'ACTIONAID's offering loans and I'm interested in borrowing the 2000Ks ... I'd hire a vehicle and buy cheap goods from the rural areas.'

Peter Wamburi, vice chair KIP

Kariobangi is a thriving business area. The streets are lined with small craft workshops and *kiosks*. However business people in Kariobangi have no access to bank loans. This would allow them to invest in their business, earn more money and provide more job opportunities.

ACTIONAID views supporting these small businesses as a vital aspect of reducing poverty . It has set up a series of 'saving and credit schemes' to provide business loans for the local community. The two groups currently being offered loans are:

1. People running small businesses who need credit to expand. They usually employ two or three people and are part of the *Jua Kali* sector. The long term aim is to provide these business people with formal bank accounts, which at present they have no access to.

2. Petty traders. The aim with this group is to set up co-operative structures to organise the joint transport and purchasing of goods.

So far there has been a hundred per cent success rate in the repayment of loans. Credit group members are organised into small teams who are all responsible to cover each others loans. This means that individuals have a responsibility to keep their payments up to date, and also the support of their friends if they are finding payments difficult to meet. Photograph 18 shows members of the Korogocho Women's Self Help Group paying money into the loan fund.

Examples of the activities eligible for these loans are shown in photographs 19, 20, 25, 26 and 27.

The overall effect is to increase business efficiency through training courses, increase the number of job opportunities and create a saving and credit scheme for each village. Ten thousand people will be covered by these credit and savings schemes. It is expected that the impact of increased business opportunities will create up to 3 000 new job opportunities over the next ten years. An example of the type of job opportunities is the Korochocho soil block making group shown in photograph 24.

Health

'The scouts go out to help teach people to be clean, they also look after the toilet block.'

John Mwangi, scout leader

New ideas about health care cannot be simply imposed onto

a group of people, and if they are to be effective they must involve the whole community. ACTIONAID's aim is to enable the community to improve its own health by upgrading the environment, reducing the incidence of communicable diseases, and improving womens' maternal health.

This will be achieved by involving the whole community in decisions about health care, the involvement of children and youths in health education and improving the physical environment through the building of toilet blocks, cleaning of drains, rubbish collection and public health campaigns.

Each village has a health committee which selects people to be trained as health workers. Already 80 community health workers have been trained.

Currently the main project is the provision of public toilets. ACTIONAID assists by providing the materials while the local community contribute the labour necessary to build the blocks and organise their running. See photographs 23 and 24 for an example of this work.

By involving the local community in building and running the toilets they will feel that these facilities are their own and take care over their maintenance.

Since the environment is littered with human waste the local community are deeply appreciative of this scheme. The toilet will help reduce the levels of communicable and parasitic diseases and improve the general environment.

Another scheme is based on selling discarded vegetables from market traders to farmers rearing pigs or rabbits. Sanitation can also provide job opportunities such as paying

people to take care of toilets. This idea has already been started with the Tegemeo scout group where the scouts charge Ks 1 for people to use the toilet block in the scout compound. This money is used to maintain the toilets and to pay the scouts for their services.

After ten years each of the seven villages should have three toilet blocks. Water provision is also to be upgraded so that no one has to walk more than 250m to a tap.

There will also be a health centre built in Kariobangi providing a family planning and immunisation service.

Education

'My favourite subjects are English, science and agriculture. Agriculture is good because I can become a farmer and train to be an agricultural officer.'

Felix Muriuki Festo, pupil Baba Dogo primary school

In Kenya most parents try to send their children to primary schools. Only children whose parents can afford the expensive secondary school fees can afford to continue their education. 'Primary school' takes eight years to complete and pupils are usually 15 or 16 by the time they have finished school. Although primary education is 'officially free', in practice parents have to pay about Ks 10000 in school fees.

In Kariobangi there are three primary schools, supported by ACTIONAID, each with an intake of 1000 pupils. However this is inadequate for the numbers of children in Kariobangi. As a result of poverty and the lack of school places only 40 per cent of children attend school.

ACTIONAID's overall aim is to improve the quality and quantity of education. Three new primary schools will be built providing 3000 additional places (and job opportunities for construction workers) and vocational courses will be offered to school leavers. To help parents afford school fees a savings scheme is to be set up

Education does not just take place in schools and so literacy classes are to be established for adults who have never had the opportunity to attend school. They are linked to other development schemes such as health or savings groups. This means that while people are learning about the importance of sanitation they will also learn how to read and write relevant words such as 'water', 'toilets', and 'sewer'.

The aim is that after ten years 75 per cent of children will attend school, there will be an adult literacy centre in each village and two youth vocational training centres.

The success of ACTIONAID's educational work is shown by one of Kariobangi's schools coming top of the district examination results.