

Press Release

Date: XX July 2006

SCOTLAND SHARES IN £5 MILLION FUND TO RAISE AWARENESS OF POVERTY IN THE DEVELOPING WORLD

Three organisations based in Scotland have won grants from the Department for International Development (DFID) to teach schoolchildren about the lives of people in Africa and Asia. Pupils will learn about challenges to reduce poverty in the developing world and will be encouraged to see how their actions as consumers can reduce global poverty.

The grants are from DFID's Development Awareness Fund which aims to raise awareness and understanding of development issues among people in the UK:

- **£99,506 for Mercy Corps**, to empower schoolchildren in Edinburgh and the Lothians to form the links between good governance, poverty eradication and active citizenship. Scottish pupils will share lessons with schoolchildren from East Timor and learn how young people there are advocating for inclusion in decision making.
- **£195,000 for Scotdec – the Scottish Development Education Centre**, to increase awareness of the impact of HIV/AIDS and other health challenges on young people in developing countries. Schools in Scotland will learn from the experiences of South Africa and take part in joint research projects.
- **£36,447 for VETAID** to work with pupils and teachers in ten Scottish primary schools to explore the importance of tackling poverty in developing countries. Drama sessions will explore how children want the world to change in the next 10 years and what they can do to make it happen.

Gareth Thomas, International Development Minister, congratulated the projects and welcomed their work:

DFID, the Department for International Development: leading the British government's fight against world poverty. One in five people in the world today, over 1 billion people, live in poverty on less than one dollar a day.

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“The elimination of extreme poverty is one of the greatest challenges the world faces – a challenge that the children of today will be taking forward in the future. In an increasingly interconnected world, it is essential that all young people are given the opportunity to learn about the global community of which they are a part. The problems of the developing world become ours, as our problems become theirs – people desperately seeking refuge because of conflict, farmers trapped in crippling poverty because of subsidies in the West, the global problems of climate change and terrorism.

“The Department for International Development is pleased to give funding to these projects. Through them young people in Scotland will gain a global perspective and will understand how their actions can make a difference.”

Notes to editors:

1. Through the Development Awareness Fund (DAF) DFID has awarded £5 million to development awareness projects in the UK starting in 2006 and lasting 2-3 years. The DAF is a UK-wide competitive funding scheme. Proposals are assessed in accordance with published criteria.
2. Applicants should meet a proportion of project costs from their own resources or from other sources. The total costs of the projects are:
 - Mercy Corps Scotland: £157,420
 - Scotdec: £355,816
 - VETAID: £50,379
3. For further information on each project please contact:
 - Mercy Corps Scotland: Mary Stewart, Communications Officer, 0131 558 8244
 - Scotdec: Susan McIntosh 0131 557 6087
 - VETAID: Sarah Brown 07766 576679
4. DFID is the part of the UK government that manages the UK’s aid to developing countries, working to get rid of extreme poverty.
5. The Government’s White Paper on international development, published on 13 July, set out that the government will double investment in development education in the UK.

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For further information, contact 020 7023 0233, e-mail d-murray@dfid.gov.uk or call our Public Enquiries Point on 0845 300 4100.