

# Is **THIS** the cause of poverty? **Group 2:** Insufficient Aid

## Case Study

Gordarkul village in Bangladesh is particularly vulnerable to flash floods. When the village school was destroyed by flooding, CAFOD's partner, Caritas Bangladesh, offered help. The 150 families that live there rebuilt their school on a raised platform, in case of future floods. Caritas gave £300 (30,000 Taka) for the community to build their school out of shiny corrugated iron and bamboo fence. The community contributed by giving bamboo fences, furniture and labour.

## Long-term effects

Hundreds of communities in developing countries are working hard to help themselves. They need only a little support from us to make new projects possible. And these projects can reduce poverty long term. Schools like the one in Gordarkul will educate the doctors, nurses, teachers, engineers and wise leaders of the future.

## Give and take?

UK aid (financial help) to Mozambique was £35m in 2003/4. In the same year Mozambique lost £21m because EU subsidies to our own farmers made it impossible for Mozambique to sell its sugar in the EU at a profit.

*"Aid helps impoverished communities to fight poverty; but poor countries also need debts to be cancelled and trade rules to be made fairer."*

George Gelber, CAFOD

## UK fails to meet the mark

### Facts:

- The United Nations agreed that each member country should give 0.7% of its income each year to help developing countries. This target was set in 1970.
- In 2002 Denmark, Norway, Sweden, the Netherlands and Luxembourg all gave more than 0.7%.
- In 2002 the UK gave just 0.31%.
- 0.7% in the UK represents around £3.5 billion per year – less than was set aside for the Iraq war.
- £3.5 billion is enough to lift almost 1.5 million people out of poverty.

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## The task:

Your group must prepare a two-minute presentation explaining the above passage to the rest of your class. You have 10 minutes to prepare.

## What to do:

- In your group, read the passage about giving aid (financial help) to developing countries.
- Jot down the three or four points in the passage that struck you most.
- Decide who will read out each point and whether they need to say anything else in order to explain it more clearly.
- Have a quick run-through to check that your presentation makes sense!