

Louise Redknapp visits Uganda to see Red Nose Day 2011 cash in action

Earlier this month (September 2011), Louise Redknapp, travelled to Uganda to see how some of the money raised this Red Nose Day is hard at work changing lives across Africa.

Thanks to the generosity of the British public, Red Nose Day 2011 raised over £100 million. In response to the public's incredible support, the UK Government contributed £16 million to Comic Relief's work in improving health and education across Africa to match the £16 million Comic Relief has committed to these areas. As Louise Redknapp witnessed in Uganda, this money is already making a difference to the lives of poor and vulnerable people across Africa.

Louise visited the Jinja Women's Association where she met children and adults who are benefiting from Red Nose Day cash and was deeply moved by their stories and aspirations. At the project Louise met Dina, one of the 7,000 girls the project has helped to get an education. Dina is 12 years old and lives with her family in a slum, where every day is a constant struggle just to eat, but thanks to the project Dina is now getting an education which will give her opportunities for the future. Over the next year, the project will help a further 2,000 girls go to school.

Education gives children more opportunity and more choice, which can hold the key to beating poverty. Girls in particular are often denied an education but by getting more girls into school, this can have a transformational effect on a whole generation. The longer a girl stays in school, the more knowledge she has to help take good care of her family, to seek medical support when needed and to get a job that will help her support her family and send her own children to school.

Louise Redknapp said: "Seeing this project and meeting these girls has been an amazing experience. It's shown me that for these girls going to school isn't just about learning to read and write but also about gaining the life skills that will help them make more informed choices in the future. All the girls I met are so happy to be at

school and are really excited about their futures. Saying that, although they're really happy and huge steps are being made there is still a long way to go. I've seen a huge amount of poverty which will stay with me forever."

Secretary of State for International Development, Andrew Mitchell, said: "The Government has backed the British public's generosity in supporting initiatives such as the Jinja Women's Association's education programme for young girls. Education for girls is fundamental in the fight to lift people out of poverty. They grow up to make more informed choices about their own lives and those of their families. It can have a transformative effect on a whole generation."

This is just one of the projects that is helping people across Africa and with the extra support from the UK Government, Comic Relief can help twice as many people benefit from better healthcare and education across Africa.

-Ends-

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

Comic Relief Media Team
0207 820 5200
media@comicrelief.com

Notes to Editors

About Comic Relief

Comic Relief delivered another spectacular evening of top telly treats on Friday 18th March, as Red Nose Day 2011 entertained the nation while raising an incredible sum of money to help poor and vulnerable people in the UK and Africa. As the evening drew to a close £74,360,207 had been raised which is the highest total reached on the night in Red Nose Day's 23 year history. This has now risen to over £102 million.

Comic Relief was launched on Christmas Day in 1985, live on BBC One. At that time, a devastating famine was crippling Ethiopia and something had to be done. That something was Comic Relief. The idea was simple – Comic Relief would make the public laugh while they raised money to help people in desperate need. Before too long, Red Nose Day was created and the first ever event in 1988 raised a staggering £15m. To date, thirteen Red Nose Days have raised more than £600m. That money has helped, and is helping, to support people and communities in dire need both in the UK and Africa.

For more information go to www.comicrelief.com

Comic Relief, registered charity 326568 (England/Wales); SC039730 (Scotland)

About DFID

Helping to get girls into school in Uganda is just one way UK aid is changing the lives of the world's poorest children by giving them an education. Over the next four years, British aid will help 11 million of the world's poorest and most disadvantaged children to go to school. Find out how at www.dfid.gov.uk/changinglives