



## **Bridges –A Short History**

Bridges was founded in September 2003 by Shropshire based international development charity Harvest Help (now Self Help Africa) in response to a need and demand for education around global issues in Shropshire. Those of you who remember us from our beginnings will remember our Fairtrade Shop and Resource Centre in Wellington, Telford.

Bridges became one of a network of fifty Development Education Centres across the UK, and a member of the Development Education Association. In its early days the centre focused on bringing the global dimension to the curriculum in schools and promoting an understanding of Fairtrade in the County of Shropshire.

Bridges became a registered charity and company limited by guarantee in 2005 and moved to its current independent offices in October 2006.

Our work with schools continued to grow, with a number of funded projects up and running and a growing range of services for schools and colleges. One of our first projects, 'The G8 Challenge' was taken on enthusiastically by eight project schools in the area, and their good work was shared through a conference and resource.

Since that time, Bridges has worked on a number of innovative bodies of work with primary schools, secondary schools and colleges in the area. In the last few years our approach has emphasised the role of schools and communities working together to understand and tackle global issues.

Our work with communities has also grown and in 2006, our first community focused project, Views from Shropshire, was launched. In 2009 we appointed our first full-time Community Officer.

Major funding from the Department for International Development has meant we can consolidate our work with schools and surrounding communities, through looking at the global issues raised by the Millennium Development Goals. We now train hundreds of teachers and facilitators each year, and directly reach thousands of young people and adults in formal education and the community.

Thanks to the skills of our staff and volunteers and the support of our funders we now offer a range of services and projects to educational organisations, community groups and interested individuals covering global issues, diversity and what we can all do to build a fairer world.

Bridges promotes knowledge and learning for a fairer world.  
Our vision is a world where all people are respected, learn together and are able to take action.