



### The Picturing Our World Project

#### What this project was about and why we're doing it

Picturing our World (2009 / 11) brought together Schools and community groups in Shropshire who have links overseas. The project works with 6 groups with links in Africa and India.

We set out to raise awareness and promote action on the development issues raised Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) like health and education. The groups learned about particular issues and then used photography to illustrate the state of play in their community. By sharing the photos with their link community we were able to appreciate the reality in different parts of the world.

We have held local exhibitions to raise awareness in the wider community about the MDG issues. In addition, we have held events where young people have performed stories and delivered presentations aimed at raising awareness with their peers, parents, community and other schools.

We used the photographs and the learning from the project to produce MDG Roadshows – a series of interactive stands aimed at engaging members of the public. At each we asked people an open question to learn about their experiences and views – then shared a piece of information on an issue with them and finally asked them to take an action. We are going to share the photographs on our website.

#### Participating groups

Broseley School and Conakry Refugee School, Guinea

Buntingsdale Infant School and Innis Education Institute, Kenya

Thomas Adams Secondary School and Miriu Institute, Kenya

St John's Catholic Primary School, Bridgnorth and Dr Ambedkar Model School, India

Sutherland Business and Enterprise College, Telford

Wrekin College, Medic Malawi and Omao Orphanage, Malawi

## Highlights

- This photograph is from the Dr Ambedkar Model School in India, it was taken at an annual fun day for the students organised by Mr DD Ahir and his family from Hadley, Telford.



*Annual Fun Day at the Dr Ambedkar Model School, India*

- Performer George Fiawoo worked with Broseley School, Barrow School and John Wilkinson School to celebrate the progress towards universal primary education. In one day a group of young people told 400 people about the need for universal primary education! It was a great day with a lasting effect on the young people involved.



*Performer George Fiawoo working with children from Broseley School*

- Storyteller Peter Chand worked with St John's Catholic School in Bridgnorth use stories to show how together we can make a difference.
- 500 local people took part in the national One Goal Campaign to promote universal education as a result of a series of roadshows.
- The 'What's your big issue?' roadshow engaged the general public in Telford Town Centre and found out which development issues people were interested in and why.
- Disposable cameras were given to some students at the Miriu School in Kenya – the photos they took give us a real insight into their reality. We use this photo all the time when we talk about disease prevention.



### Top tips

#### Use photography with groups with overseas links

- Photographs are a great way to explore an issue and also help communities get to know each other.
- Hand over the camera – even very young children can take pictures, and you'll get a different perspective.
- Visits are a good time to collect photographs and get activities going.

#### Get people engaged in development issues

- Take your photographs and issues to people – don't wait for them to come to you. By holding exhibitions and roadshows at in public venues like libraries and shopping centres you can reach a wide audience and save time and money.
- If you organise an event make it fun! Using a performance artist who understands the issues can really bring an issue to life, and bring in a crowd.
- Make your message really simple clear – it is easy to overcomplicate issues.

- Make sure that interaction always starts with listening – what are people thinking? Finding this out will help you to gauge what information to share with people. We always learn a lot and are therefore able to refine our approach for the next roadshow.

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Bridges promotes knowledge and learning in Shropshire for a fairer world.

Our vision is a world where all people are respected, learn together and are able to take action.