

# Comic Relief

## What Is Comic Relief All About?

Comic Relief began in 1985. The main aim was to help the very poorest people in the world and those who had been treated unfairly due to war or the way their country was run by their government.

The money that was raised would be used to improve people's lives.

In 1988, Comic Relief held its first Red Nose Day. Over one hundred and fifty celebrities and comedians joined in and a huge £15 million was raised!

## Who Did This Help?

Comic Relief have helped hundreds of charities over the last 31 years. Here are just some of the ways that the money has been used:

- helping homeless charities to buy washing machines,
- building schools in South Africa;
- training nurses and building hospitals in Africa;
- providing medicines to treat people with malaria.

## Comic Relief's Plans

Comic Relief wants to ensure that the money raised is also used to:

- make sure that all children receive a quality, safe and long term education;
- make sure children are protected from danger.

Many children do not have any education. They have to work long hours in unpleasant and unsafe places often earning as little as 70p a day.

Comic Relief want to help these people and communities to:

- grow their own crops so they have more food;
- own their own animals to provide them with fur and meat;
- stay healthy and know how to look after themselves.



## UK Support

Comic Relief has also put £300 million into projects in the UK.

The money has been used to:

- fund charities who help children that have experienced the death of a parent or brother or sister;
- help older people who need daily care and company;
- support children who look after a disabled parent.



Comic Relief also provides money for fun days out for poorer people, help to set up playgroups and support groups where people get the chance to get together and talk.

## Sport Relief

Sport professionals and comedians have all done their bit during Sports Relief including:

- David Walliams, who swam an amazing 140 miles along the River Thames in 2011;
- John Bishop, who raised an awesome £4 million cycling 290 miles in just 5 days in 2012;
- Eddie Izzard, who ran an astounding 27 marathons (each one 26 miles!) in 27 days in 2016!

Some other countries that have received money from Comic Relief are Bangladesh, Nepal and the Philippines.

## How Can You Help?

The money for Comic Relief comes from ordinary people holding fundraising events. Here are some ideas of how you could help:

**cake sales**

**sponsored sports**

**dress-up days**

**coffee mornings**

**head shaving**

**car washing**

# Questions

1. Name one way people might have been treated unfairly.

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2. How much was raised on the first Red Nose Day?

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3. Name two ways money from Comic Relief have helped people.

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4. Instead of being able to go to school, how much do some children earn by working?

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5. Why do Comic Relief want to help people grow their own crops?

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6. Comic Relief have helped people in the UK. Which of those ways do you think is the most important?

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7. Why is the fact about Eddie Izzard so amazing?

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8. Apart from the Philippines and Bangladesh, which other country has been helped by Comic Relief?

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9. Which of the fundraising ideas would you most likely want to do?

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# Answers

1. Name one way people might have been treated unfairly.

**People might have been treated unfairly because of war in their country or by the way their country was run by their government.**

2. How much was raised on the first Red Nose Day?

**£15 million was raised on the first Red Nose Day.**

3. Name two ways money from Comic Relief have helped people.

**Accept any two:**

- **helping homeless charities to buy washing machines,**
- **building schools in South Africa;**
- **training nurses and building hospitals in Africa;**
- **providing medicines to treat people with malaria.**

4. Instead of being able to go to school, how much do some children earn by working?

**Some children only earn 70p a day instead of going to school.**

5. Why do Comic Relief want to help people grow their own crops?

**Comic Relief want to help people grow their own crops because then they would have their own supply of food.**

6. Comic Relief have helped many people in the UK. Which of those ways do you think is the most important?

**Answers will vary but should reference one of these good causes:**

- **funding charities who help children that have experienced the death of a parent or brother or sister;**
- **helping older people who need daily care and company;**
- **supporting children who look after a disabled parent;**
- **giving money for days out and support groups for poorer people.**

7. Why is the fact about Eddie Izzard so amazing?

**It is so amazing because he ran 26 miles every day for 27 days!**

8. Apart from the Philippines and Bangladesh, which other country has been helped by Comic Relief?

**Another country that has been helped by Comic Relief is Nepal.**

9. Which of the fundraising ideas would you most likely want to do and why?

**Answers will vary.**