



Comic Relief was launched in 1985 from a refugee camp in Safawa, Sudan. Since then, over £174 million has been raised primarily through Red Nose Days, for some of the poorest and most vulnerable people across the UK and Africa.

Comic Relief is committed to supporting long-term projects, helping people to help themselves. It's about giving people a leg up not a hand out. They also aim to tackle the root causes of poverty by raising awareness around some of the key issues, such as unfair terms of trade and debt relief.

Why Comic Relief

Comic Relief was set up by comedians and uses comedy and laughter to get serious messages across, as well as making sure that everyone can have some fun at the same time. Over the years, more than 2050 celebrities have given their time and talent to Comic Relief, you name 'em, they've helped us. From Lenny Henry, Billy Connolly, John Cleese and Jerry Springer to Johnny Depp, Ali G, Davina McCall, Robbie Williams, Steve Coogan, Paul Whitehouse, Whoopi Goldberg and Woody Allen. Top comedy teams who've given us a lorry-loads of laughs while helping us raise a lot of cash include the League of Gentlemen, The Fast Show and Smack the Pony.

Red Nose Day

Red Nose Day is a UK-wide fundraising event organised by Comic Relief every two years which culminates in a night of extraordinary comedy and moving documentary films. It's the biggest TV fundraising event in the UK calendar. On Red Nose Day everyone in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland is encouraged to cast inhibitions aside, put on a red nose, and do something a little bit silly to raise money - celebrities included. It is an event that unites the entire nation in trying to make a difference to the lives of thousands of individuals facing terrible injustice or living in abject poverty.

Beyond Red Nose Day

Most people know only of Comic Relief as the organisation behind Red Nose Day, and have probably done something outrageous to help us raise Red Nose money, but Comic Relief does loads of other stuff, too. From Fair trade to Debt Wish and from Robbie the Reindeer to Robbie Williams, they've got their fingers in loads of pies, so make sure you check out their website to find out what else they get up to.

Out of all the money Comic Relief raises, one third of the money raised goes to projects working in the UK and two thirds to projects in Africa.



Across the UK Comic Relief has made over 4000 grants to projects in England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales. Over the years, Comic Relief cash has been put to work in 43 countries in Africa and every county in the UK. So far, they've made more than 5000 grants totalling over £174 million.

Although it's a large amount of money, it is not going to solve the world's problems. So Comic Relief target the money to reach those groups who often lose out most by setting up specific grants programmes and criteria to try to make the biggest difference possible.

Every two years the grant-making programmes are reviewed by consulting with leading professionals in the voluntary sector. This ensures that the money raised best meets the needs of the people and communities in need of help.

The public put their trust in Comic Relief to use the money raised wisely and well. Grant-making teams take that trust very seriously indeed. All grant applications go through a rigorous assessment process before a single penny is released.

After a thorough shortlisting process, grant applications are assessed by Comic Relief Grants Officers or assessors. Each assessment is then considered by the Grants Managers, Grants Director and discussed by the Africa or UK Grants Committees. Once the Committees are happy to recommend funding, Comic Relief's trustees make the final decision.

Comic Relief has 15 dedicated Grants staff, 25 expert external grants assessors, 35 specialist Grants Committee members and 11 trustees to help decide where the money goes.

This years Slogan was emblazoned across many a T-Shirt

