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## 'You see kids on the rubbish dumps fishing for something to sell'

Oct 24 2007 by Katie Norman, South Wales Echo

DYFED Aubrey has dedicated his life to helping desperate people in Third World countries.

The dad of two worked in war-torn Kosovo and tsunami-devastated Sri Lanka before undertaking his current job helping slum communities in Nairobi, Kenya.

Dyfed, from Caerphilly, works for the humanitarian charity Goal UK. He is part of a team improving the drainage, sanitation and water supply for thousands of people living in poverty.

He said: "The way they live is absolutely terrible. There are often families of nine people living in a tin shack, 10ft by 10ft.

"HIV Aids is a huge problem and people are dying of it.

"There's no sewage system so people use latrines and the waste gets dumped in the river. It's the same river people use for washing.

"And because the slums are considered illegal, there's no real access to healthcare or proper schools.

"Sometimes you distance yourself from it but you always come across things that shock you.

"The other day there was a body being carried on a cart.

"I asked if he was alive, but they said that if he was dead he would have a hanky in his mouth to stop the flies going in.

"You see kids on the dump sites just fishing around for bits of glassware, metal or anything they can wash in the river and sell. You can't help but be affected by these kids.

"But there's so many people in the slums walking with their heads held high. The youth groups there have so much energy, pride and ambition, it's amazing."

Dyfed, 36, has lived in Kenya for the last two months with his wife Jo, 34, a nurse, and their children Josh, three, and Evie, 18 months.

The family plan to stay for the next few years.

Before he became involved in humanitarian work, Dyfed, whose parents Joy and Edmund live in Caerphilly, was an architect working in London.

He was inspired to work abroad after doing voluntary work building an eye clinic in Ecuador and a centre for street children in Bolivia.

His first full-time role involved building 1,000 houses in Kosovo for people displaced by the war.

Dyfed then returned to work in the UK but when the Asian tsunami struck in 2004, he was inspired to help, and spent nearly two years helping people rebuild their homes in Sri Lanka.

He said: "Kosovo was depressing because we saw villages that were completely burnt out.

"You realise how nasty people can be in war.

"Then we went to Sri Lanka and saw how cruel nature can be. The devastation was unbelievable."

Goal UK is holding an information evening for potential overseas workers at Cardiff University at 6.30pm on Friday.

To attend, register on [makeadifference @goal-uk.org](#)

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