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London Basin Aquifer

London takes its water from an underground aquifer. Lately, due to industrial processes, the aquifer is not being used as much and the water table has risen. In the past, pumping from the aquifer lowered the water level by 70m but now it is rising again and if this continues, in 30 years the water could cause movements resulting in damaged buildings and flooding.

This can be prevented by additional pumping or Capital Expenditure (installing wells). In order for this to work, the additional pumping would need to be 31.5 mega litres per day. There would be 30 wells costing 10-30 million pounds.

If this problem was not sorted the damage would occur in central London because the clay is thinner and building foundations are closer to the aquifer. In 2005, 200 million litres were pumped to satisfy 10% of London's needs.
Kobe, Japan

Kobe, Japan suffered an earthquake on the 11th January 1995 at 5:46am. It measured 7.2 on the Richter scale and lasted for about 20 seconds or 2-3 minutes on reclaimed land.

Primary effects included 6434 deaths and 40,000 people injured. Land moved 1m up and 50cm across and gas and water pipes were ruptured. The worst affected area was central Kobe as the ground practically liquefied, allowing buildings to collapse and sink.

Secondary effects included 300,000 people being homeless in -2ºC weather, 2 million homes without water for 10 days and 1 million people without electricity. The Hanshin Expressway also collapsed and road and building damage was £100bn. The total damage was approx. £150bn.

People were digging around for friends in rubble and had to sleep in cars and tents. Emergency aid was unreachable due to the damaged roads and

As a result, more earthquake monitoring devices were set up so that people could be effectively prepared if another disaster happened. Also, the HEW was replaced within a year and gas and electricity was back by July 1995 and 134,000 houses were built by 1999. Many new buildings and houses in the last 20 years were built to be earthquake proof. Japan refused all international aid and sorted the damage out itself.
Kibera is in Nairobi in Kenya. It is a squatter settlement where 800,000 to 1 million people live in a small area of 225 hectares.

Over the years, Kibera has been improving. A British charity called Practical Action has been selling low cost roof tiles made from shale, clay or natural fibres. This provides a better quality of life as the residents are protected from harsh weather conditions.

Also, the local council has provided a local pipe of water to use as a method of self-help. Along with this, the World Bank has provided another pipe, which provides 20 litres of water for 2 pence. This provides more people with clean water, preventing diseases like cholera and dysentery.

In 2003, a project lasting 15 years has rehoused 770 families in flats with running water, electricity and sanitation. The families now get basic human rights and a better quality of life.

Affordable electricity is being provided by the UN-Habitat for £2.25.

Gap year students are also encouraged to go to Kibera and bring awareness to the issue so more charities would be informed and willing to help.
Over 100,000 children are orphaned because of the high rate of HIV/AIDS due to poor medical care.

Most houses are made from wood, corrugated iron and any other materials that are found on the land. Paths are irregular and sewage is found in the streets.

Birmingham was redeveloped because it wanted to gain more attention and footfall as new attractions were being created.

It was redeveloped in 2003 and cost £530m pounds. It was known as Europe's largest retail redevelopment project and was very successful with its 50 million shoppers in the first year.

140 shops, cafes and restaurants were built and 8000 members of staff work there. It contained shops like Selfridges, Zara and Next. There is 110,000 square feet of retail space available.

Advantages include a run down area being redeveloped to look pleasant. More jobs were created so unemployment rates dropped. It is famous so more tourists visit, resulting in an economy boost.

Disadvantages include safety hazards due to the amount of people in a busy environment. It is expensive to maintain and contains lots of traffic and pollution. Less popular areas will suffer such as the palisades, pavilions and high street shops.