




World Vision

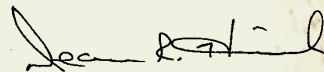
the first annual
world vision
award for
Innovation in Advocacy



It gives me great pleasure to introduce the five finalists for the first annual World Vision *Innovation in Advocacy* award.

The aim of this award is to highlight individual champions of advocacy whose personal commitment, drive and ingenuity have resulted in new and innovative ways of empowering communities to tackle social injustices. All five finalists are excellent examples of these qualities, and their five programmes exemplify our integrated focus as an organisation: Christian, child-focused and community-based.

Congratulations to all the finalists for their good work on behalf of the children we serve.



Dean Hirsch
President & CEO
World Vision International

bolstering children's citizenship in development and governance

AIMYLEEN GABRIEL

This citizenship and governance initiative empowers children in the Philippines to uphold their rights to participate in the development of their community and country, and to influence policies, strategies and programmes that safeguard their well-being.

The programme established children's associations at the community (*barangay*)

level, educating them on their rights and responsibilities, and developing competencies for leadership and skills to participate in planning, implementing, monitoring and evaluating policies. The project also worked with local government to institutionalise the representation of children in the Local Council for the Protection of Children.

At the national level, the project works with the National Coalition of Children's Associations in the Philippines which brings together all the local associations to actively promote child rights and the children's own agenda.

The associations have been extremely effective in

educating children on their rights and giving them a voice to express their concerns. This has also increased children's confidence and broken down barriers between religious groups. The programme was not without its obstacles: some government partners resisted truly engaging children in issues of governance; to them, children are meant to be only in school or spending their time in the playground or socialising.

Through regular dialogue with government leaders and providing the space for children and authorities to interact, the programme has emphasised to the government the value of listening to children to be truly responsive to their well-being.

The programme was led by Aimyleen Gabriel who showed leadership, resolve and diplomatic skills when engaging with government. Through working in partnership with other NGOs, government bodies and with the children themselves, Aimyleen has helped deliver a programme and a network of children that empowers them to participate in the decisions that affect their lives. ●

channels of hope

CHRISTO GREYLING

The Channels of Hope initiative reduces stigma towards people living with and affected by HIV. By educating and informing religious leaders on the issues of the pandemic, the programme mobilises the infrastructure, organisational capacity and pool

of volunteers belonging to local churches and faith communities, helping them to provide compassionate care and support to people living with or affected by HIV and AIDS.

The Reverend Christo Greyling has worked to reduce HIV-related stigma among religious leaders for over 10 years, the last five of them with World Vision. During that time, he and his team – including partners at the Christian AIDS Bureau of South Africa (CABSA) – have developed and refined Channels of Hope and included workshops and other learning mechanisms to increase the impact of this programme.

In the 12 months prior to October 2006, the programme worked with religious leaders of over 7,500 congregations worldwide, reaching an enormous number of churchgoers. Rev Christo and his wife Liesl have led a growing team, dramatically increasing the number of trainers and workshops engaging with religious leaders.

Channels of Hope has expanded from its home in South Africa and is now replicated in all World Vision offices in sub-Saharan Africa and is being trialled in Latin America, Eastern Europe and Asia.

Addressing stigma through the traditional church audiences is an important and strategic approach to breaking down barriers and Rev Christo's personal ministry has ensured there is a new understanding of HIV and AIDS. He is passionate to provide religious leaders with an understanding of the AIDS pandemic through a Biblical perspective, a sound HIV knowledge and a living experience. ●



prevention of infant abandonment and deinstitutionalisation

MAIA TSERETELI

The Prevention of Infant Abandonment and Deinstitutionalisation (PIAD) project aims to prevent infants being abandoned to institutions in Georgia. The project has offered an alternative to vulnerable mothers who risk abandoning their children. PIAD accepts referrals from maternity clinics and other medical facilities, churches and consultation services to help mothers. Support mechanisms include facilities to help find jobs and child care options, and social advisers who act as go-betweens in family disputes, helping to reunite mothers and babies with their extended families to ensure long-term, permanent relationships.

The programme has three major facets: prevention of abandonment; reintegration of children from institutions back to communities; and the development of community-based services that support family-based care for children, including small business development.

Two of the major achievements of the initiative have been: addressing corruption within the children's institutionalisation programmes; and convincing the govern-

ment of Georgia to provide support mechanisms to mothers as part of the government's social services.

The institutions were unwilling to help return abandoned children to their communities as this reduced the institutions' revenues; the more babies admitted, the more funding they received. There were also allegations of corruption with suspicions of illegal adoption rings. Records for the institutions were not transparent. The PIAD project has played a significant role in changing the admission criteria, increasing transparency and gaining support from within institutions for World Vision's deinstitutionalisation policies.

Maia Tsereteli's leadership and perseverance were instrumental in convincing the government to alter its policy on children in institutions, which led to the inception of a full-fledged welfare system overhaul. Her commitment and willingness to tackle strong opposition, in partnership with her team at World Vision and other agencies such as UNICEF, ensured that the government would protect children in institutions and implement the programmes provided by the project. ●

orphans and vulnerable children advocacy programme

JAIMÉ CHIVITE

This programme was established to develop the capacity of World Vision staff and community members, including children, to advocate for the rights and needs of orphans and vulnerable children (OVC).

The programme began in Mozambique in 2003 and created Advocacy Councils of community members, which safeguard OVC from problems such as land-grabbing and support government initiatives like birth registration. Beyond these Councils, the programme created a movement of children and youth named "Children with Vision" which provides space for peer-to-peer education and community awareness of the rights of those affected by HIV and AIDS. The project also supports the provincial Children's Parliament which engages the government on issues related to orphans and vulnerable children.

In addition to educating and supporting the rights of OVC, the Councils have been instrumental in collecting information on the situation of OVC which was then used to lobby (nationally and

internationally) in relation to the OVC commitments made by governments at the 2001 UN General Assembly Special Session on HIV and AIDS.

Jaime Chivite and his team have developed a strong community-based initiative that addresses the key issues of vulnerability of OVC in communities. Jaime has shown leadership and understanding of community-level interventions to improve the situation of OVC. And by gathering information at the community level, he has leveraged the ability of the communities to affect national- and global-level policy development. Jaime has demonstrated servant leadership: strong motivation, dedication to the task, patience, tenacity and encouragement. ●

photos (left to right):

Group teambuilding session for child leaders
photo: Aimeleen Gabriel/World Vision;
After Channels of Hope training, Pastor Asaph found his view of the community, HIV and orphans was transformed.

He is trying to look after 20 orphaned children and their guardians in his church.

photo: Nigel Marsh/World Vision;
Visit to the Infant House,

where the project staff works to reintegrate children back into their families or find alternative care for them

photo: John Schenk/World Vision;
Children with Vision volunteer cyclists on the road for the 2004 AIDS Cycle Relay
photo: Karin Pretorius/World Vision

front cover photo:

Preparing food, Niger
photo: Jon Warren/World Vision



collaborative mining advocacy for the children's protection and development

BERNADETTA ANZALE-TEJADA

This initiative arose spontaneously from children's own concern about their safety and protection, which was being threatened by the growth of commercial mining in the Philippines province of Palawan.

The programme supported children to voice their concerns. It also challenged the views of political leaders and other stakeholders on governance, particularly in implementing and enforcing child-friendly and environmental laws. By using the media, including local radio, theatre, arts and meetings at the village and provincial level, the children expertly advocated for themselves with authorities.

The initiative, working at the community level and then through strategic partnerships with other actors, increased the pressure on local and national governments to act in the interest of the communities rather than the mining industry. The creation of children's associations allowed a wider scope for community mobilisation, eventually engaging with local authorities through dialogue and political lobbying.

This effort was eventually rewarded with the Senate Resolution mandating a Senate inquiry on mining operations in southern Palawan. In addition, a draft bill has

been drawn up which would preserve the nickel reserves of Palawan for future generations, and which details a mining moratorium. At the same time, the lobbying activity has led to local authorities seeking alternative sources of income for the region, including agro-forestry and developmental tourism.

Bernadetta Anzale-Tejada's leadership has been critical to the project's development. Through helping the communities to form children's associations and facilitating their partnership with other such councils,

Bernadetta has helped leverage the community to engage in provincial and national issues. This was at no small risk to the community, which was exposed to some political harassment. However, this only strengthened the resolve of the community to ensure the authorities took their concerns seriously and acted in the interests of children. ●

Artists of Palawan underscore mining as destructive to its rich natural resources. World Vision's poster-making contest for students capped a 3-day Provincial Children's and Parents' Congress.
photo: Cecil Laguardia/World Vision



World Vision is a Christian relief, development and advocacy organisation dedicated to working with children, families and their communities worldwide to reach their full potential by tackling the causes of poverty and injustice.

World Vision is dedicated to working with the world's most vulnerable people, and serves all people regardless of religion, race, ethnicity or gender.

In the context of World Vision, advocacy seeks to address the structural and systemic causes of poverty by changing policies, systems, practices and attitudes that perpetuate inequality and deny justice and human rights.

To be successful, we believe advocacy should work at two complementary levels: **policy influence** and **citizen empowerment**.

International Liason Office

6 chemin de la Tourelle
1209 Geneva
Switzerland

Tel. 41.22.798.4183 Fax 41.22.798.6547

Partnership Offices

800 West Chestnut Avenue
Monrovia, CA 91016-3198
USA

Tel. 1.626.303.8811 Fax 1.626.301.7786

www.globalempowerment.org

e-mail: policy_advocacy@wvi.org