

# For the Well-being of Children

Annual Review 2012





With best wishes.

Paolo Ferraris
National Director

## From the Director

It is my pleasure to present the highlights of 2012. This is my third year leading the World Vision Georgia team and I feel great satisfaction about the positive impacts of our work. I have spent more than six years working in the Caucasus region in various capacities and will continue another year as I consider this part of the world my second land.

Throughout this past year the World Vision team has been committed to their work and to pursuing opportunities to protect and improve the lives of the most vulnerable children and their families across Georgia. Great strides have been made in the sphere of poverty reduction in recent times, however we know that large numbers of children in Georgia continue to live in extreme poverty and social protection systems are not adequately addressing the needs of poor families and their children. There is more urgent work needed to address this problem and ensure all children have the opportunity to thrive in life.

Our work in 2012 has supported the establishment of the National Coalition on Child and Youth Welfare, which comprises 23 local and international NGOs, all committed to collective action and advocacy to further children's rights in Georgia. We also embarked on an exciting new initiative with UNICEF to better address the needs of children living or working on the street, through provision of enhanced specialised services and technical assistance.

One of the major highlights of 2012 is that World Vision Georgia merged with World Vision Azerbaijan, enabling strengthened regional collaboration and engagement and I am sure our future work will be more efficient and bring real and lasting positive change to children across the two countries.

I want to extend a special thank you and recognition to our Support Offices and donors as they have continued their persistent and committed support for the well-being of children in Georgia. The positive changes we report would not be possible without them.

At the beginning of 2013, World Vision embarked on a new strategic plan focused on achieving child well-being through strengthening child welfare services for the most vulnerable, empowering youth, and community development. Our overarching aim is to ensure that children in Georgia live in a healthy and active society that is inclusive, tolerant, and provides equal opportunities for all.

World Vision Georgia will continue to work with communities, families, and children to fulfill this goal, and I look forward to leading them on this road through 2013.

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## **OUR GOAL**

Word Vision is committed to achieving the sustained well-being of children within families and communities, especially the most vulnerable

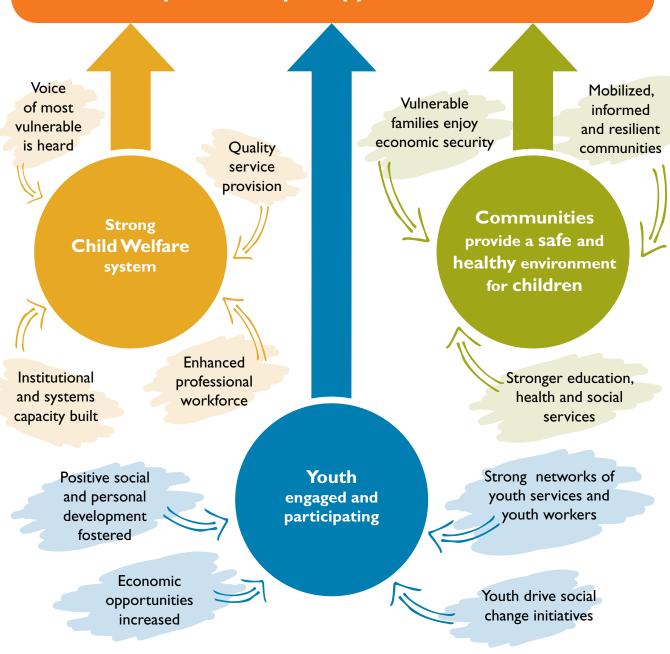
## **WORLD VISION IN THE SOUTH CAUCASUS**



## **WORLD VISION GEORGIA**

## STRATEGY 2013-2018

Children live in a healthy and active society that is inclusive, tolerant and provides equal opportunities for all



#### **Cross-cutting elements are:**

inclusion of most vulnerable, gender, advocacy, improved evidence base and increased collaboration and sharing

## VOLUNTEERISM AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT THE HEART OF WORLD VISION'S WORK

Area Development Programs (ADPs) are World Vision's signature approach to fighting poverty and transforming children's lives through community development. Our work focuses on the principles of active and participatory community engagement and mobilization. Through formation of Community Initiative Groups, World Vision partners with communities to listen to their voice, hear their real needs and work together to address them. ADPs provide access to knowledge and resources needed to combat poverty and improve the well-being of children. World Vision is committed to partnering with local communities for a 12 year period, ensuring long-term sustainability for the children and families who live there.

In 2008 World Vision launched Area Development Programs in three regions of Georgia – Kakheti, Imereti, and Samtskhe-Javakheti. To date, these three ADPs are working through 52 communities, including a network of over 1000 community volunteers who serve as Community Initiative Group members, Child Development Workers and Peer-to-peer Educators. The Area Development Programs are funded though child sponsorship which sees pooling of funds to support and empower rural communities and improve the environment for children who live in them.





















WE HAVE
IMPROVED THE
EDUCATIONAL
ENVIRONMENT
FOR MORE THAN
10,000
CHILDREN

In 2012 World Vision expanded its reach to 45 schools – up from 28 schools in 2011 – across Imereti, Kakheti, Samtskhe-Javakheti and Shida Kartli regions. Our work has ranged from supporting youth clubs and increasing civic participation, to assisting schools to become more child-friendly and conducive to learning.

46 SCHOOLS AND KINDERGARTENS REFURBISHED AND EQUIPPED

MORE THAN 480 TEACHERS TRAINED IN CHILD RIGHTS, CHILD PROTECTION, SAFE INTERNET USE AND INTERACTIVE TEACHING METHODOLOGY

**10 SCHOOLS** ADAPTED SO THAT PHYSICAL BARRIERS FOR CHILDREN WITH DISBILITES ARE REDUCED

17 SCHOOLS EQUIPPED WITH MODERN ANTI-FIRE EQUIPMENT AND MORE THAN 100 TEACHERS AND 120 STUDENTS TRAINED IN DISASTER RISK REDUCTION AND ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION



World Vision made physical alterations to Dimi school, worked with teachers, and provided medical equipment to one girl, Mariami, so that she could overcome social and physical barriers and attend school. "Now I can attend school lessons, enjoy being together with my peers and even attend Sunday school sessions every week" said 10 year old Mariami.

Before the intervention Mariami stayed at home all day, everyday, with only her mother for company.

World Vision funds: WV Canada, WV Switzerland, WV Hong Kong

# INSPIRING YOUNG PEOPLE TO BECOME CATALYSTS OF CHANGE



Youth empowerment is fundamental to what we do. World Vision works with young people in communities to increase their confidence and civic engagement. By empowering young people we are making communities stronger and more likely to thrive in the future.

Last year World Vision worked through 44 school-based youth clubs, which reached more than 1200 children, to promote the development of life skills.

These essential skills included:

# CRITICAL THINKING EMOTIONAL MANAGEMENT COMMUNICATION SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY RELATIONSHIP BUILDING

Participation in these clubs enabled youngsters to become catalysts of change who can influence their peers to also become engaged and responsible citizens.

World Vision has created one of the biggest peer educator networks that unites 500 young people throughout Georgia. Thanks to their knowledge, dedication and hard work in the past years, these young men and women are the experts, and have earned the right to train the next generation. The training for peer educators encompasses many



ENGAGEMENT OF YOUTH IN **COMMUNITY INITIATIVE GROUPS** PROVIDES YOUNG
PEOPLE THE OPPORTUNITY TO BE PART OF
DECISION MAKING PROCESSES THAT AFFECT
THEM, AND TO HAVE THEIR VOICE HEARD
WITHIN THEIR COMMUNITIES



DUE TO EFFECTIVE ADVOCACY DONE BY YOUNG PEOPLE IN IMERETI, THE GOVERNMENT MADE THE DECISION TO **COLLECT WASTE** IN 4 VILLAGES



SCHOOL CLUBS ARE ACTIVE IN HELPING
OTHER PEOPLE, INCLUDING VISITING
AND DESIGNING PROJECTS TO HELP VERY
VULNERABLE KIDS IN THEIR COMMUNITIES



YOUNG PEOPLE FROM SAMTSKHE-JAVAKHETI SUCCESSFULLY ADVOCATED FOR THE BUILDING OF A **BUS STATION** IN MOKHE COMMUNITY

different topics such as HIV and AIDS, advocacy, human rights and reproductive health.

With years of experience behind them as World Vision volunteers or members of the youth clubs, these young people have proven their commitment, maturity and capability to write and implement small projects or develop advocacy and fundraising campaigns for their communities.



## **EDUCATION** AND **YOUTH** EMPOWERMENT



## Davit Gozalishvili, 17, Samtskhe-Javakheti:

"One day our school principal informed us that World Vision was planning to create a school club. At that time, I could not even imagine that sometime later I would receive so much experience, skills and support."



## Anna Machitidze, 16, Imereti:

"As well as theoretical knowledge, we have gained communication, interpersonal and other significant life skills. We feel like we are more developed, self confident, strong willed, hard working. We have started thinking out of the box."



## Nana Gaurashvili, 16, Kakheti:

"Children from grades 5 to 7 have the desire to attend trainings held by the school club and participate in the activities initiated by us. We from our side try to teach them whatever we know and involve them in the activities maximally, since after we leave to continue education, these children have to lead our school club, trainings, activities and initiatives."

## **YOUTH EMPOWERMENT LEARNING HUB**

Recognizing youth empowerment as an essential aspect of child well-being, World Vision Georgia was selected in 2012 to host the Youth Empowerment Learning Hub for the Middle East and Eastern Europe Region. This will form part of a network of ten thematic learning hubs across the region which will focus on various sectors including Health, Child Protection, Economic Development and others.

The hubs are a collaborative action between national and regional level, and aim to reach the following key goals:

- a) generate learning and evidence from various initiatives
- b) transform learning into refined programming leading to high quality results
- c) transmit learning to a wider audience within and outside of World Vision countries

World Vision Georgia looks forward to leveraging the learning hub to identify, pilot and share information on youth empowerment models over the coming years.



## **PROTECTION STARTS AT HOME**

Children need a safe and protective environment at home and in their communities, that promotes their well-being and provides the highest levels of care. Ensuring that children and youth are safeguarded against harm and abuse is a key priority for all World Vision programming. Promotion of child-friendly communities through community development which acknowledges that 'child protection is everybody's business' is a key means to preventing child abuse. Through strengthening community support systems, involving children in running their communities, and exploring the place of children in society so they are respected and listened to, whole communities are empowered and mobilized to take responsibility for the care and protection of children.

#### KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE ONLINE

World Vision has been making significant progress in creating greater awareness of safe use of the Internet for children and their caregivers through the Keeping Children Safe Online project. Using the internet, mobile phones and other devices is now an everyday part of young people's lives. However there are risks involved and people need to know how to protect children effectively and avoid any dangers posed such as cyber bullying, seeing disturbing images or information and grooming by adults for sexual purposes.

Through a series of trainings with over 1500 parents, children and teachers, new knowledge and skills about the risks of internet use and how to avoid them has been disseminated. A strong network of peer educators allows key messages to be passed to wider audiences.

Through cooperation with the Ministry of Education and Science, training materials are available through the state educational website <a href="www.buki.ge">www.buki.ge</a>, which has already received 2000 visitors.

World Vision funds: WV Australia

## 111111111120,000 CHILDREN LIVE IN A MORE CHILD-FRIENDLY ENVIRONMENT

## NATIONAL COALITION FOR CHILD AND YOUTH WELFARE

In 2012, World Vision supported the coming together of 22 leading child focused organizations to form the National Coalition for Child and Youth Welfare. The Coalition aims to substantially increase the participation and relevance of civil society actors in policy dialogue and more accurately represent the needs and interests of vulnerable children and youth. The Coalition will leverage its collective expertise to act and advocate jointly in order to drive forward child welfare reform in Georgia.

World Vision funds: WV Australia







## PREVENTING CHILD ABANDONMENT

In 2012, World Vision continued supporting vulnerable children and their mothers though the Family Strengthening and Prevention service. This service provides a range of support which ensures highly vulnerable parents have the skills and resources necessary to care for their young children and prevent them from entering the state care system.

The provision of a Day Care Centre for infants from 0-3 is the only service of this type in Georgia. The centre allows single parents who lack extended family support to leave infants in quality care while they pursue income generating activities.

Vulnerable parents, especially young mothers, are simultaneously provided with assistance in microenterprise development, vocational trainings, and tailored job placement opportunities. Additional specialist medical and psychological services are provided where necessary. 162 parents and 230 children have benefitted from these services. Parents are equipped to care, protect and provide better for their children.

World Vision funds: WV Germany

# REACHING VULNERABLE CHILDREN IN GEORGIA

#### CHILDREN LIVING OR WORKING ON THE STREET

World Vision launched a new project which aims to assist and support children and youth living or working on the street. This initiative is funded by the European Union, led by the Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs with UNICEF, and implemented in cooperation with partners Caritas and Child and Environment.

The project, through state/NGO partnerships, will see the establishment of pilot services and mechanisms to address the complex needs of highly vulnerable children, with a focus on children living or working on the street. The project uses a comprehensive approach to meeting these needs and includes the involvement of a wide range of state agencies and ministries.

World Vision, as part of this initiative, will lead the development of service provision conceptual frameworks and capacity building packages for frontline service and state personnel, as well as support the outreach activities of mobile teams and establish Day Care/Crisis Intervention Centres.

It is estimated the project in its entirety will reach over 500 children, assisting them to move off the streets and have access to essential services and a safe and caring environment which meets their rights to health, education and protection.

This project is generously supported through the European Union, UNICEF, and World Vision funds.

**Donors:** EU (administered by UNICEF)

World Vision funds: WV Switzerland, WV Australia, Credo



## Family strengthening

The first thing that comes to your mind when you enter the tiny seven square meter dark room with muddy floors and a plastic ceiling, with only two small beds inside, is how can a family with five children fit into this room? Mamuka Turmanidze, the head of family, explains that three children sleep on one bed, the other two on the second bed, and he with his wife, Ketevan, lie on the floor.

Tamar, II, is the first child in the family. She confesses that sometimes children laugh at her because she is not well dressed. And, for this reason, she prefers sitting home and taking care of her sisters and brothers together with her mom.

The family suffered from the constant struggle to make ends meet. The government allowance of \$140 (the minimum living wage for the family of 4 amounts to \$170) was the family's only income when World Vision began working with them.

After being approached by a state social worker, World Vision Day Care Services for Socially Vulnerable Infants/Toddlers began evaluating the needs of the family. "Our main purpose was to create

a stable income for the family," explains Marina Menteshashvili, the project manager. The project began to equip Mamuka with small business development skills to be better able to provide for his family's needs. At the same time, the service provided food and hygiene supplies for the family's youngest member, 9-month-old, Nika. "Without World Vision's assistance I do not know what I would have done," says Ketevan.

For long-term sustainability, World Vision supported Mamuka with agricultural products and rented him a small place in the market to help facilitate income generation. This initial support to start his small business was all Mamuka needed to succeed. After his endeavors in the market, Mamuka, together with his friend, rented a car and began purchasing products in rural areas and selling them in the Tbilisi market. Thanks to his entrepreneurial activities, his family's income has more than doubled to \$300 a month. They have a big family so there is still a lot of work to be done. Mamuka is hopeful that through his hard work and the support from the government, his family's dream to have their own house can come true.



## HEALTHY COMMUNITIES HEALTHY CHILDREN

World Vision's core purpose is to improve child well-being. In 2012, with this in mind, World Vision's 44 parents clubs continued to work in our 3 target regions in order to raise awareness about maternal and child health. These clubs were previously established by World Vision as an integral approach to home and community messaging and counseling on maternal, infant, child and adolescent health and nutrition. Over 400 active parents work on a volunteer basis to improve their communities. More than 3000 community members have participated in awareness raising activities as a result of the parents clubs.

A variety of trainings were provided to primary health care and medical personnel in Imereti, Kakheti and Samtskhe-Javakheti to build their health care capacity.

World Vision funds: WV Canada, WV Switzerland, WV Hong Kong

#### Since we began:

BREASTFEEDING HAS INCREASED BY 20%

VACCINATION HAS INCREASED BY 6%

PRACTICING APPROPRIATE HOME
CARE FOR CHILDREN UNDER FIVE HAS
INCREASED BY 10%

USAGE OF RECOMMENDED REGULAR MEDICAL AND NURSING CARE DURING PREGNANCY HAS INCREASED **BY 33** %

In addition, at the household level, World Vision has worked with communities to improve access to safe water and sanitation infrastructure, while also promoting good hygiene habits. This means that mothers are able to raise their children in a healthier environment with a reduced risk of disease and infection.

# Bringing drinking water to a remote community

Safe drinking water is only a few steps away for over 359 residents of Khodasheni, a remote community in Kakheti region, after the rehabilitation of their irrigation system with support from World Vision.

In the past community residents had to travel between one and two kilometers to retrieve water. That was before World Vision tapped a natural spring and laid a pipe to carry the water to a reservoir, from where it is then distributed to community members. Work on the water system was carried out in partnership with the local community and the municipality.

"From meetings with community members we knew that water was the major issue in this village. So we began working on solving this problem together with the local municipality, and today I am happy this very important project has been implemented successfully and I see so many people who have benefited" said Kakheti ADP coordinator Nana Atuashvili.

"Nobody else has done so many good things for this village as World Vision", added village mayor Zaza Burnadze.

The new irrigation system in Khodasheni recently prevented several hundred people from being without drinking water for days following a tornado that struck the region.

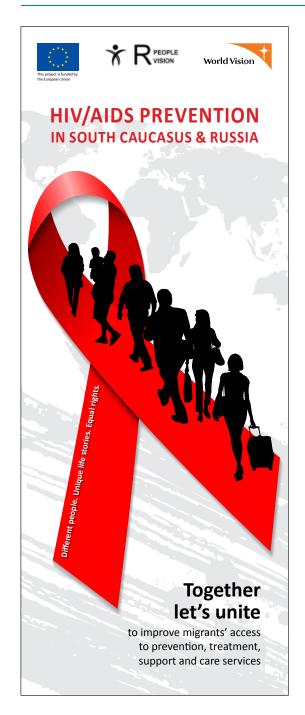
Nona Jokharidze, who has lived in the village for 10 years, recalls that she used to walk more than 1 km to retrieve water and sometimes she had to go three or four times a day.

"For me it is a miracle, we have never had water in the house in the village. Now every day I am happy to turn the tap and see the running water", she said.

With the water system now in place she does not have to worry about the burdensome everyday routine of gathering water and can spend more time with her children and family.



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## FIGHTING HIV/ AIDS MULTI-COUNTRY ADVOCACY

Migration plays a large role in increasing child vulnerability in Georgia, with many parents leaving children temporarily while seeking income generating activities elsewhere. Vulnerable youth, especially from ethnic minorities, migrate across the Caucasus region in search of work or other opportunities. Widespread seasonal labour migration of men and women in the South Caucasus is a fuelling factor of the HIV epidemic. World Vision, supported by the European Union, is working to reduce HIV infection rates in the South Caucasus through multi-country action covering Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan and the Russian Federation.

Engaging in **multi-country advocacy** efforts to promote a joint response to mobility and the HIV/AIDS issue is a key aim of this initiative.

Project partners form a **regional Caucasus network** that has the opportunity to exchange information, best practices and monitor and analyse emerging issues and trends from a regional perspective. **Research initiatives** have looked at socio-cultural vulnerabilities and risk factors of migrants as well as human rights violations and challenges accessing essential health and social services in home as well as destination countries.

### **QUICK FACTS: GEORGIA**

THE ESTIMATED NUMBER OF **PEOPLE LIVING WITH HIV AND AIDS IS** AROUND **5000** 

YOUNG PEOPLE DO NOT HAVE THE KNOWLEDGE TO PROTECT THEMSELVES; ONLY I IN 10 YOUNG PEOPLE IN TBILISI KNOW HOW TO PREVENT HIV TRANSMISSION

RISKY SEXUAL BEHAVIORS ARE PREVALENT;
NEARLY HALF OF ALL SEXUALLY ACTIVE BOYS REPORTED
HAVING SEX WITH COMMERCIAL SEX WORKERS

## **CHILDREN AND HIV/AIDS** - NEW RESEARCH REPORT

In 2012 World Vision facilitated a rapid evaluation study on children affected by HIV/AIDS in the South Caucasus. The report was unique and showed that the special needs of these children are largely ignored across the region and they face violation of their rights at all levels. There are considerable gaps in access and provision of medical and psychosocial services and care and an overall lack of qualified professionals to deliver them. Children and youth who are HIV infected/affected face huge stigma and discrimination, and a distinct lack of any structured support systems.

**Donors:** European Union. **World Vision funds:** WV Australia, WV Germany

## EARNING FOR THEIR CHILDREN'S FUTURE



Continuing its work with vulnerable communities, (IDPs) in 10 settlements in Shida Kartli. This initiative, funded by the European Union, focused upon reducing poverty by promoting the economic inclusion of youth and increasing the economic security of vulnerable families.

farming technologies, vocational and marketing chain operations. A Farmers Regional Information Centre was initiated to offer a platform and forum for information dissemination and expert advice to local communities. A number of families and groups were supported to establish agricultural income generating initiatives and small businesses through limited companies. The project saw the creation of:

- RABBIT FARMS
- BEEKEEPING FARMS
- LARGE GREENHOUSE
- **FRUIT STORAGES**
- 4 FRUIT DEMOSTRATION PLOTS

## ENGAGEMENT OF YOUNG PEOPLE **IN AGRICULTURE**

**6 YOUNG FARMERS SCHOOLS WHERE 845 YOUTH LEARN MORE ABOUT** AGRICULTURE CREATED IN SHIDA KARTLI

3 MODERN GREENHOUSES WITH **UP-TO-DATE GREENHOUSE TECHNOLOGIES BUILT PROVIDING LEARNING SITES FOR** 800 CHILDREN AND 1000 FARMERS IN IMERETI AND KAKHETI

**45 PER CENT** OF ALL THE HOUSEHOLDS IN GEORGIA LIVE UNDER THE NATIONAL **POVERTY LINE** 



#### **STRONG WOMEN** – STRONG INTEGRATION

Unemployment remains one of the biggest problems for female IDPs in Georgia. Many displaced women have had to assume new roles and responsibilities, including in the socio-economic sphere. Experiences of war and displacement have seen many IDP women increasingly become the primary breadwinners in their households.

World Vision, funded by the Austrian Development Agency, began a project in 2012 that aims to enhance economic security and empowerment of IDP women in Shida Kartli. Highly vulnerable IDP women including single parents, widows, women with disabilities and households with many children, will receive professional development and business skills training. More than 27 local business start-ups will be supported in the coming two years. Mentoring programmes for new female entrepreneurs and local level advocacy and community mobilization activities will also be established throughout the project duration.

#### LIVELIHOOD DEVELOPMENT **IN REGIONS**

IN SAMTSKHE-JAVAKHETI AND KAKHETI **REGIONS 65 FARMERS RECEIVED** SMALL GRANTS TO SET UP OR EXPAND **BEEKEEPING ACTIVITIES** 

HONEY FESTIVALS IN KAKHETI AND SAMSTKHE-JAVAKHETI ARRANGED TO CONNECT FARMERS WITH PRIVATE AND **PUBLIC SECTOR ACTORS** 

KAKHETI EMERGENCY RESPONSE REACHED 160 HOUSEHOLDS

**Donors:** European Union, Austrian Development Agency

World Vision Funds: WV Austria, WV Germany, WV Hong Kong, WV Canada, WV Switzerland



## **LIVELIHOODS**



## Kate Prodeuli, Kakheti:

"I was really really happy when we first harvested our mushrooms; I realized that we had succeeded. At the beginning I didn't believe that we young people would be able to run the greenhouse together. Now, together, we are planning how to spend our income wisely so that we can improve our educational environment."



## Lali Tsukhishvili, Samtskhe-Javakheti:

"The income received from the beekeeping gives me confidence in the future and my example inspired other community members."



## Lamara Tetunashvili, Kakheti:

"Our rabbit farm gives us hope for a better future. Other community members are coming to see how we manage it and some members even plan to build their own farms as they see that this business has potential."



World Vision supports a holistic approach to child social and personal development. As such, World Vision recognizes that nurturing a child's spiritual well-being can play an integral part of holistic care.

World Vision works with multi-denominational partners such as the Georgian Orthodox Church as well as the Catholic Church, the Baptist-Evangelical Church, and Lutheran-Evangelical Church to support child and youth education and leadership participation in their local neighborhoods.

#### **AWARENESS RAISING**

World Vision is successfully working with the Georgian Orthodox Church to disseminate information and increase understanding about HIV/AIDs. In 2012 more than 100 joint workshops were organized, which aimed to increase awareness of and decrease incidents of rejection and stigmatization of people living with HIV/AIDS in communities.

#### INFORMAL EDUCATION AND YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

Extra curricula activities are in short supply in most rural areas across Georgia. In cooperation with community groups and the Georgian Orthodox Church, World Vision expanded the Educational Sunday Schools project in 2012.

Sunday schools offer a range of activities including arts and crafts, music, computer classes and homework assistance. The Sunday schools are inclusive, and provide rare opportunities in some rural areas for children with disabilities to engage in social, learning and development activities with other children of similar age.

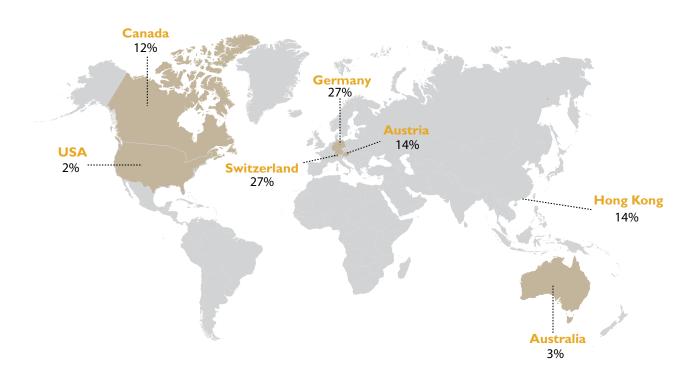
In cooperation with the Georgian Orthodox Church, World Vision supports interactive events for youth to meet with religious, cultural, artistic and scientific leaders within Georgia.

World Vision funds: WV US

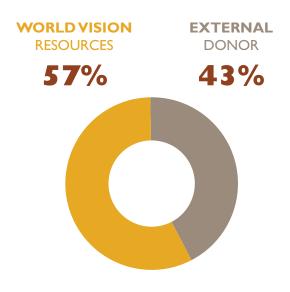




## **WORLD VISION FUNDS**



## TOTAL BY **FUNDING SOURCE**



## **DONOR ORGANIZATIONS**

THE UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND
EUROPEAN UNION
UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES
UNITED NATIONS WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME
UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME
AUSTRIAN DEVELOPMENT AGENCY
SWEDISH INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION AGENCY
GERMAN EMBASSY

TOTAL OPERATIONAL BUDGET FOR FINACIALYEAR 2012 WAS \$6,056,709





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