

# HELP SUSTAIN SUMMER CAMPS!

Amidst tough economic conditions and challenges within their families, many children are forced to grow up and shoulder responsibility much too soon. For these children, there is one joyful highlight in their lives – the Christian Summer Camps organised by World Vision.

It is almost 13 years World Vision turns the summer of

vulnerable children into moments of enjoyment, when games, food, intellectual and sport activities are all fun.

Bible study classes seem new to them, but so inspiring as the priests teach them Christian values and together with them pilgrimage to cultural and spiritual sites.

22,000 children from Gyumri, Tavoush, Stepanavan, Alaverdi, Vardenis, Gavar, Sisian, Kapan and Talin have participated in the camps since 1998. Today they all speak with one voice while sharing their excitement and unforgettable memories of the summer camp.

World Vision Armenia plans to seek out funding to ensure that summer camps are more sustainable into the future.



## annual review 2010





Over the past 22 years, World Vision has partnered with communities, families and individuals across Armenia to improve the well-being of children. Today, World Vision staff in 11 Area Development Programmes (ADPs) located in six regions and the Armenian capital Yerevan, work with more than 190 impoverished communities to support families and children in need.

Through several community-driven projects, primarily supported by child sponsors in the United States, Canada, United Kingdom, France, Taiwan, Germany and Switzerland, World Vision supports more than 23,000 children with the goal that they;

- ✓ Enjoy good health
- ✓ Are educated for life
- ✓ Are cared for, protected and participating
- ✓ Experience love of God and their neighbours

Throughout 2010, World Vision carried out projects that strive to create better conditions for children in Armenia. Children living in the poor communities of Kapan, Sisian, Gyumri, Yerevan, Talin, Aparan, Gavar, Vardenis, Ijevan, Stepanavan and Alaverdi witness ongoing changes in their lives as they see their schools and kindergartens renovated, improved health posts, their families enjoying a stable income, while they themselves actively participate in making crucial decisions for their communities.

By understanding the roots of community issues, World Vision helps communities to make their voice heard to policy-makers through local and national level advocacy campaigns with World Vision Armenia working hand-in-hand with the Government of Armenia, local authorities, partner NGOs and citizens.

World Vision in Armenia partners with international donor organisations and World Vision support and coordinating offices to effectively implement its projects both in communities and countrywide.



## International donor organizations support World Vision Armenia in accomplishing several projects:

**Building Disabled Persons Organisations' capacity for Greater Disability Inclusiveness** - funded by USAID, aims to strengthen the community social safety net to promote the inclusion of children and adults with disabilities in society, with a focus on inclusive education.

**Reducing Violence Against Children in Armenia** - funded by the European Commission, aims to reduce violence and risk of violence towards children in Armenia's child care structures.

**Health for Families - Happiness for All** - funded by USAID and World Vision US, aims to improve the health status of families in targeted communities of three regions in Armenia.

**Grassroots Voice for Human Rights Mobilization** - funded by USAID, aims to enhance human rights in Armenia by facilitating and capacitating an institutionally embedded community-based human rights network that will act as a grassroots voice on human rights.

**Stakeholders acting together for strengthened child protection in Armenia** - funded by USAID, aims to improve the well-being of the most vulnerable children in Armenia by strengthening the Child Protection system and empowering actors at a national, regional and community level through cooperation with the Government of Armenia.

**Tackling Human Trafficking through Social Engagement and Community Guardianship** - funded by the US Department of State, aims to increase the capacity of the current and future government social workers and empower community leaders to prevent human trafficking.



During its 22 years in Armenia, World Vision has witnessed ongoing changes in the country. While we celebrate these positive changes and stories of transformation, we recognise the dire needs in many communities of the country and we strive to protect those who need it most and empower people to transform lives.

In 2010 World Vision Armenia adopted a completely new approach in our activities in the health sector. World Vision's first global campaign - CHILD HEALTH NOW - was launched, calling for systemic changes in

the country's healthcare system to contribute to the improvement of maternal and child health. We built on years of collaboration with government ministries as we partnered with the Ministry of Health of Armenia, Armenia's National Assembly, local and international NGOs, mass media, as well as the general population.

2010 was also marked by the opening of a new Area Development Programme in Aparan – an area characterised by alarming poverty. We plan on implementing various development projects in the area, focusing on child protection, healthcare, economic development and education.

Through 11 Area Development Programmes in six marzes (regions) of the country and the capital Yerevan, as well as numerous and multi-faceted projects, World Vision is working tirelessly in the field and with policy makers whose work affects the everyday life of those living in dire need.

As we record the successes of 2010, I extend heartfelt thanks to all our partners - both locally and internationally - and when planning our future activities, I again, ask for the valuable support of our partners who make our work significantly more effective.

Sincerely,

Graham Strong,  
National Director, World Vision Armenia



## CHILDREN ENJOY GOOD HEALTH



*Lusine Petrosyan, 29, could have been a happy mother of four, however she has only two children alive. For the loss of her first two children Lusine blames the poor healthcare services in her area.*

*Lusine had two complicated pregnancies and although she went on to give birth to two healthy children, the pain of her loss still grips her heart. "During my first pregnancy I was referred to the regional hospital with pains. The doctor examined me, gave me an injection, and advised me to go home and have a good rest. On the way home I had a miscarriage".*

*"My second pregnancy was also tragic. I gave birth on the way to the hospital and the baby was born suffocated", she shares.*

### Infant deaths in Armenia unacceptably high – World Vision calls for systemic changes

Healthcare provision for the urban population in Armenia is of a higher standard to that provided in remote areas, although more than 40% of the country's residents live in rural areas. Meanwhile, infant mortality is three times higher in the poorest households of the country than in the wealthiest households, with 41 deaths compared to 14 per 1,000 live births.

The majority of deaths occur in the perinatal period; 22 weeks gestation up to seven days after birth, followed by inborn defects and respiratory infections and diarrheal diseases, according to Armenia's Ministry of Health.

Deterioration of the health system infrastructure after the collapse of the Soviet Union, inadequate salaries at all levels of health care staffing, poor quality medical education, unequal distribution of health specialists in the capital and in rural areas and limited to no community outreach and information services all contribute to the infant mortality rate in Armenia.

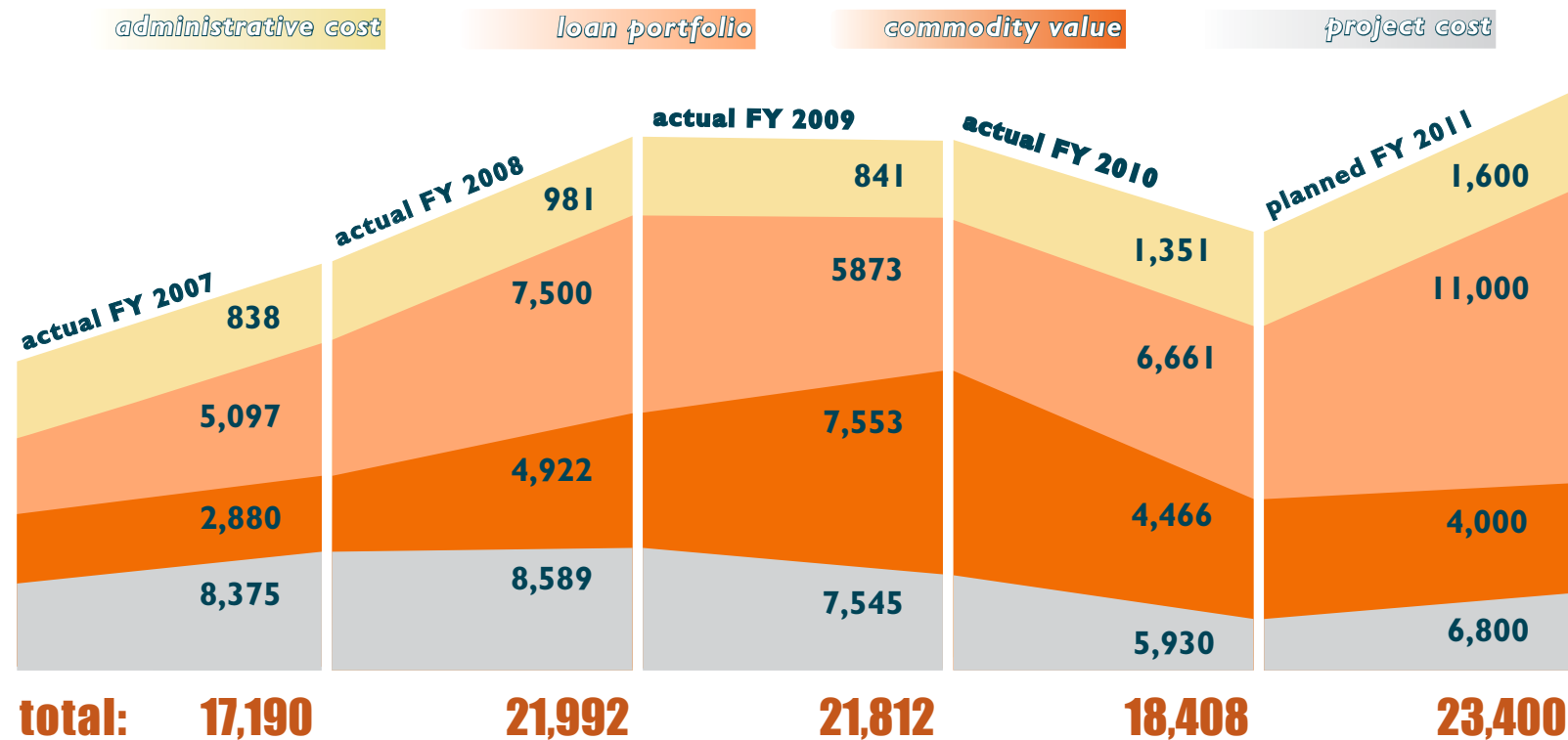
In launching the global **Child Health Now** campaign, World Vision calls for systemic changes; for increased financing of the healthcare system in the country, as well as for ensuring equal access to quality health care through equal placement of health professionals across Armenia. In addition to increased state financing, a proper monitoring and evaluation system of the health programmes is also urgently needed.

World Vision Armenia collaborates with representatives of local and international NGOs, as well as representatives from the Health Ministry and National Assembly to discuss the possibilities of bringing mother and child issues to the attention of decision makers. World Vision not only cooperates with officials, but also offers support in finding solutions to the existing problems; particularly in developing innovative mother and child health care financing schemes and health care workforce strategy, updating in-service and pre-service medical education and organising maternal and child health awareness campaigns. Recognising the key role of media in communicating maternal and child health care issues and urging the government to find solutions, World Vision engages with television, print, online and radio journalists who share their commitment to highlight the issues in their publications.

Simultaneously, World Vision Armenia is conducting an online petition in the framework of the campaign through social media.



## Total budget FY 2007 - 2010 (in thousands USD)



**Actual Cash Expenditures by Sectors of Operations FY 2010**

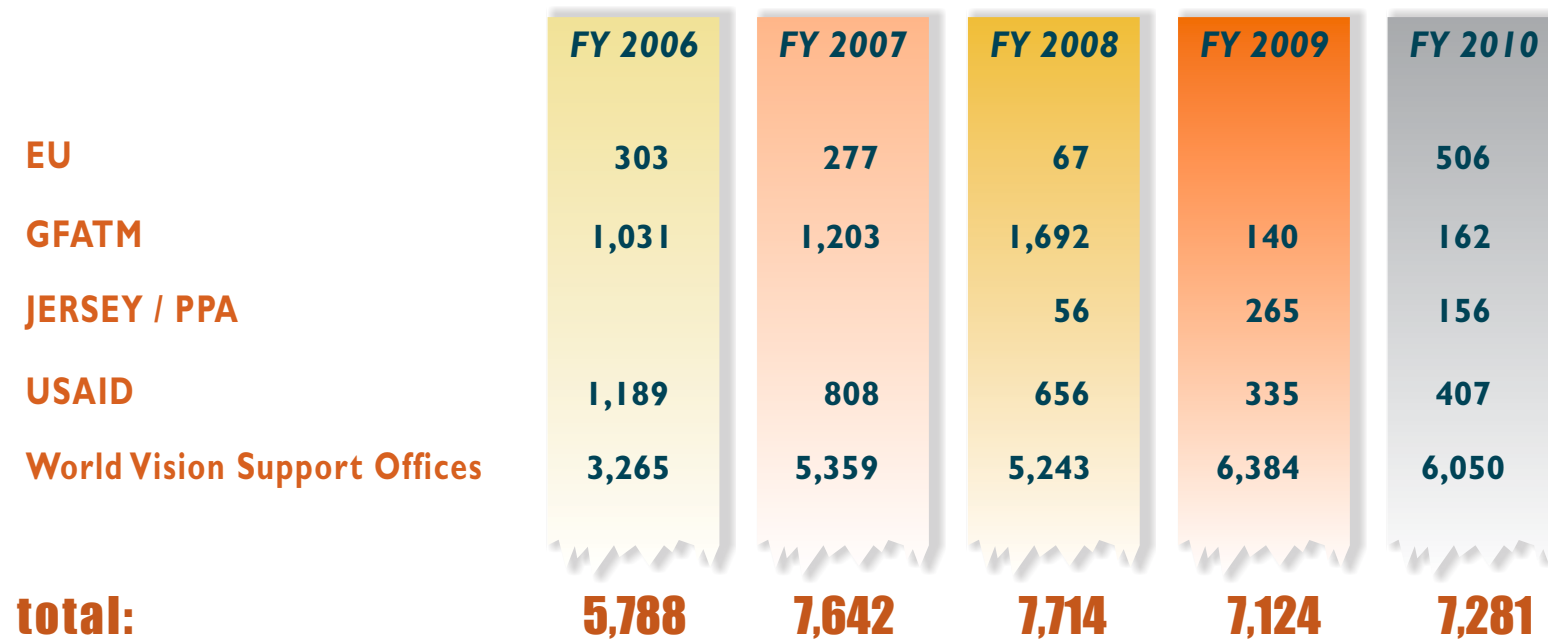
(in thousands USD)

Area Development Programmes	4,420
Child Protection	391
Christian Commitment	283
Economic Development	124
Health (including HIV / AIDS)	419
Others	778

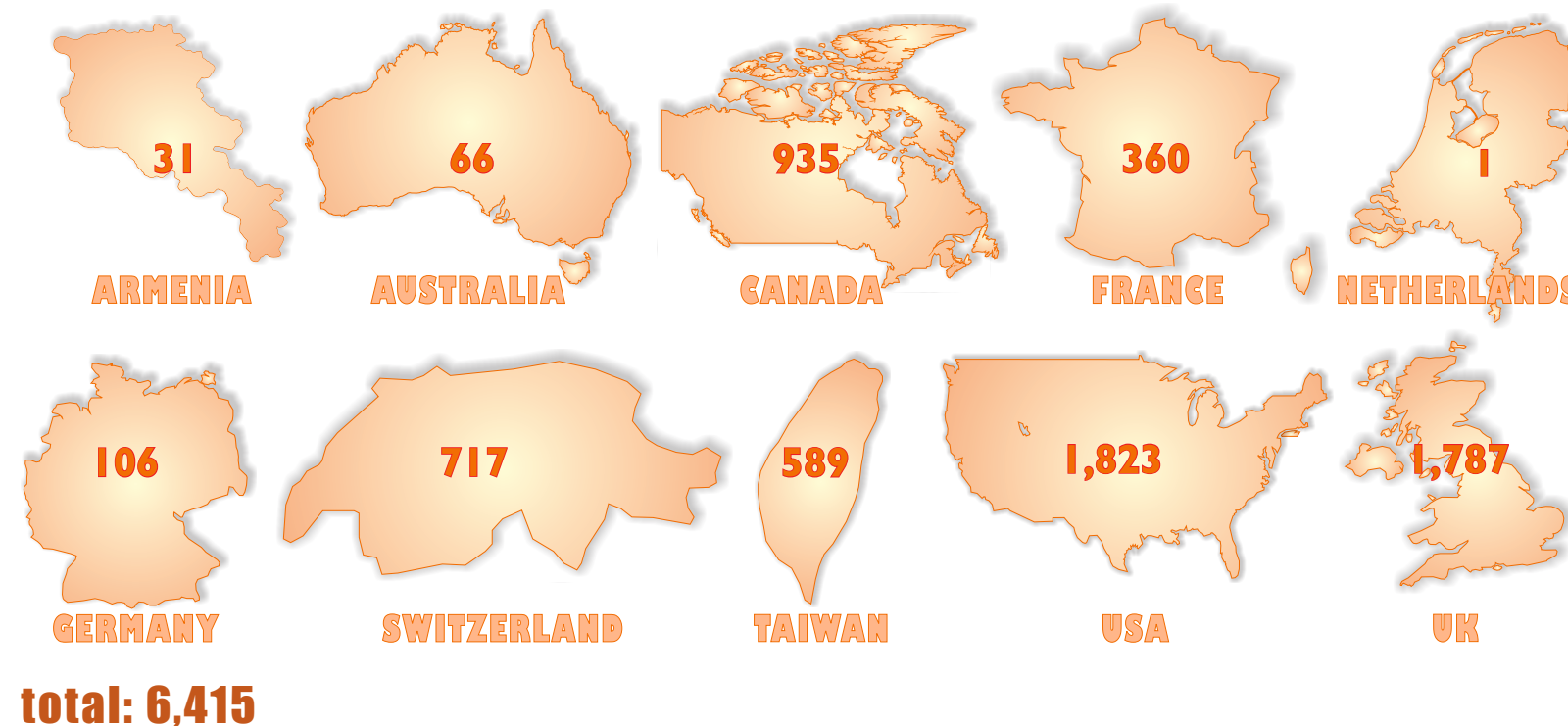
**SEF International, main indicators**

	2009	2010	2011 (planned)
value of loans distributed (in thousands USD)	8,418	7,574	12,168
number of beneficiaries received loans	6,776	8,410	14,216
average outstanding loan size (in USD)	1,098	853	840
number of jobs created	316	122	145
number jobs sustained	3,541	3,167	4,350
number of children supported	10,726	10,587	15,950

## Project Funding by Major Donors (in thousands USD)



## Actual Cash Expenditures for FY 2010 by Funding Offices (in thousands USD)



**Alongside the launch of the Child Health Now global campaign, World Vision Armenia continues to implement health projects in the field, aiming to improve the health and nutritional status of children and mothers, and to ensure access to quality primary healthcare for communities.**

Throughout the year, World Vision conducted educational sessions that aim to improve the health of children and mothers living in underprivileged communities of Armenia; considering this to be the most important pre-requisite of health care for the entire population.

World Vision focused on building the capacity of community groups to address and monitor local causes of illness, death, and malnutrition, advocate for quality health service delivery, and monitor home-based care services. Thirteen Mother Support Groups were established to spread information among young mothers on child disease prevention. More than 1,700 parents and pregnant women were empowered to take better care of children, ensure a more nutritious diet, manage childhood illnesses at home and recognise signs of illness for timely referral to health care services.



In 2010, World Vision marked the start of its programming in combating tuberculosis with an open-air concert that raised awareness about tuberculosis, as well as addressed false perceptions and encouraged tolerance among the public towards people with tuberculosis.

World Vision marked the Global Hand Washing Day by fostering the culture of hand washing with soap in schools. Students aged seven to 11 took part in a variety of hygiene-related educational and awareness-raising activities. They

introduced poems, verses and compositions that recognise the importance of washing hands with soap. Posters were developed by youngsters to promote hygienic practices.

Along with its educational initiatives, World Vision Armenia developed and distributed 50,000 copies of educational materials in Armenian to provide necessary up-to-date information on child care, healthy nutrition, women's health and prevention of HIV and AIDS and common diseases.

### **Assuring child's development due to well-balanced diet**

**In the light of the overall level of awareness in the rural areas of Armenia and because of socio-economic hurdles, not every family can afford well-balanced diet to ensure child's healthy physical and cognitive development. Anemia is by far the most common deficiency found in many of children in Armenia.**

For three years World Vision has been educating 10 rural communities of Aragatsotn Marz on healthy nutrition and care. Basics of child nutrition, hygiene, immunisation and physical development were taught to the high schoolgirls, pregnant women, young and mature mothers – members of Mother Support Groups. These three years helped to bridge the gap between the lack of awareness and the-should-be-practices of nutrition and care in this region of Armenia.

"You can often see how tiredness, exhaustion or pale skin cries out about the iron deficiency in kids, whereas some iron rich food like beans, peas, spinach and meat could help them out. That is what I learnt and now pass on to my peers", explains Karine, 38, mother of four.



The sessions helped mothers to better understand their kid's development and growth, to become nutrition-conscious.

World Vision also supported the local community member's initiative to open a library in this region. The later has to ensure the sustainability of knowledge, and the community will have a valid source of information available.

### **Dentist visit a rare treat for Armenian children**

**Dental check-ups for some 600 children aged 14-15 in Armenia's Stepanavan Region revealed that every child has on average five decayed teeth – due in part to the lack of state-covered dental care and drinking water which contains microelements that make teeth vulnerable to disease.**

In Armenia dental treatment is free of charge for children aged six and 12 but parents of older children have to pay out of pocket for their children's teeth to be checked and treated. With high unemployment and limited income for many households, coupled with other pressing expenses, the cost of dental health care – especially when it is preventative can be out of reach.

Through the course of a month World Vision organized dentists' visits to schools of Stepanavan Region to carry out the dental checks of the children.

The most common problems among the children are caries; a disease resulting in tooth decay and eventual loss, and hypoplasia or the underdevelopment of the teeth.

During the check-ups parents were informed about the state of their children's teeth and gums and toothpaste and brushes are distributed among children to encourage them to take better care of their teeth. At the same time they were shown how to brush correctly.



*"I can't remember myself ever visiting a dentist", said Vahagn, 14, diagnosed with 17 decayed teeth.*



*World Vision Armenia recognises the importance of giving children a safe and clean educational environment and to equip them for the future by instilling in them the most important life skills. Towards this end, World Vision partners with 221 schools and 111 kindergartens in six regions of the country and in the capital Yerevan.*

World Vision supported schools and kindergartens by ensuring their continuous operation through renovating and installing sanitary and heating systems, changing windows, establishing computer classes, and improving accessibility of educational institutions. Extracurricular activities are regularly supported by helping schools to develop and expand handicraft, photo, chess, radio, dancing, sport and other development activities among children.

With limited or no disaster preparedness in many parts of Armenia, most communities in the country need to create or update their Disaster Preparedness Plans, and learn how to respond during disasters. The Disaster Preparedness-First Aid Summer Camp organised for 150 children from the communities of Syunik, Shirak and Lori regions was a unique opportunity to give children a better understanding of what to expect in different disaster scenarios. Other children from community schools and kindergartens in these regions also had the chance to get some helpful advice through targeted training sessions.

In response to the recent dramatic increase of young Internet users in Armenia, World Vision focused on children's online safety while educating 450 children in Tavush, Gyumri and Talin about the advantages and risks of using the Internet.

Towards combating the spread of HIV and AIDS in Armenia, World Vision focuses on prevention by conducting peer education sessions for schoolchildren and other vulnerable groups of the population. The sessions focus on the promotion of safe sexual behaviour and prevention of stigma and discrimination against people living with HIV and AIDS. World Vision cooperates with local priests who continue to provide training sessions about HIV-related stigma and discrimination based on the knowledge received through World Vision's Channels of Hope (COH) methodology.

**Hearing impaired students in Armenia learn about the basics of sexual education**

*Deaf children or children with hearing impairments in Armenia seldom receive information on sexual health, leaving them even more vulnerable to HIV, other sexually transmitted infections (STI) and early pregnancy.*

High school students in Armenia's only School for the Deaf located in the capital Yerevan participated in the training sessions on safe sexual behaviour, including HIV prevention, through Father Esau, the priest of Saint Trinity Church in Yerevan, who engaged World Vision health specialists and the school administration. Training conducted by World Vision health specialists started at the very basics because of the students' level of knowledge, starting from the human anatomy and physiology of reproductive organs. From the very first, students openly asked questions as they have never before had the opportunity to receive informed answers.



**Armenian teens get chance to start animal breeding on their own**

*Twenty-four youngsters in Agarak Community in Armenia's Stepanavan Region are now experiencing what it is to take care of livestock on their own. Having received a calf each, they are now required to care for it. While their regular schooling is a priority, they are also acquiring animal breeding skills and a greater sense of self-confidence and responsibility.*



Implemented by World Vision Armenia and the Centre for Agribusiness and Rural Development (CARD), the project not only ensures that young boys and girls are busy and kept off the streets but also considerably eases the difficult social conditions of their families. Along with the calves, youngsters also receive the necessary medicine and food for the animals, as well as educational materials.

*"The little calf has changed my life. You just feel responsible for the animal you have tamed", says 14-year-old Gurgen Chatinyan, one of the participating youngsters from Agarak Village.*

## CHILDREN are CARED FOR, PROTECTED AND PARTICIPATING

*Protecting children from violence and neglect, supporting the creation of a child-friendly family environment, ensuring mainstream education for children in need of special services, as well as highlighting their rights in policy making bodies are all key aspects of World Vision's child protection work.*

To promote mainstream education and inclusion of children with disabilities in society, World Vision organised a series of training sessions in 37 schools and 30 preschool educational institutions. Close cooperation was established with six Disabled People Organisations as they strive to build their organisational and networking skills to achieve a collaborative decision-making process with local authorities and donor organisations that support children with special needs.

World Vision particularly supported the promotion of inclusive education in Syunik Marz, where some eight schools function as resource centres.

Two branches of the Yerevan Multidisciplinary Child Assessment Centre were established in Stepanavan and Kapan, enabling experts to assess children's educational needs in the northern and southern regions of Armenia.

Poor socio-economic conditions and incarceration of juvenile offenders have contributed to a dramatic increase of the number of juvenile crimes in Armenia; a phenomenon that World Vision is addressing by advocating for more preventative and rehabilitative services and sufficient budget allocations for alternative sanctions for juvenile offenders. A newly established Community Justice Centre in Talin is seeking to help young people who demonstrate anti-social behaviour and who are in conflict with the law and facilitate their reintegration into society.

While children in Armenia traditionally enjoy the care and love of their parents and families, there are also children who suffer from abuse, violence and neglect. On the **World Day for Prevention of Abuse against Children**, World Vision joined efforts with the Police of Armenia in a series of events organised in different communities of the capital Yerevan. The events served as a rallying point for the public around the issues of child abuse and highlighted the role of the police in protecting children.



The formation and proper operation of student councils in schools are essential to strengthen students' participation in the school management process. World Vision promotes the formation of student councils by organising training sessions to educate the teachers and students about the roles and responsibilities of the councils, as well as to prepare them for the Student Council elections. Students have demonstrated real enthusiasm about their rights and responsibilities and are keen to give input into social events, community projects and school reforms.

Within its **Reducing Violence Against Children in Armenia project**, World Vision works with the National Commission for Child Protection, the Ministry of Justice of Armenia and the Steering Committee of the National Assembly on Social, Health and Education Issues to help improve the country's three-tier child protection system. World Vision Armenia supports the formation of an experts working group to identify the contradictions and gaps that exist in the current legislative acts and to recommend necessary reforms.

**The International Day of People with Disability** was marked by a children's art event in Gyumri, northern Armenia. But much more than a simple demonstration of skills, it was an attempt by children with special needs and their parents to advocate for their own rights in front of high-level decision makers. Children with special needs and their peers demonstrated their talent of singing, dancing, reciting poetry, and performing in front of their parents, teachers and regional authorities.



While children all over Armenia celebrated International Children's Day, the adults around them focused not just on their immediate happiness but on how to ensure their long-term well-being.

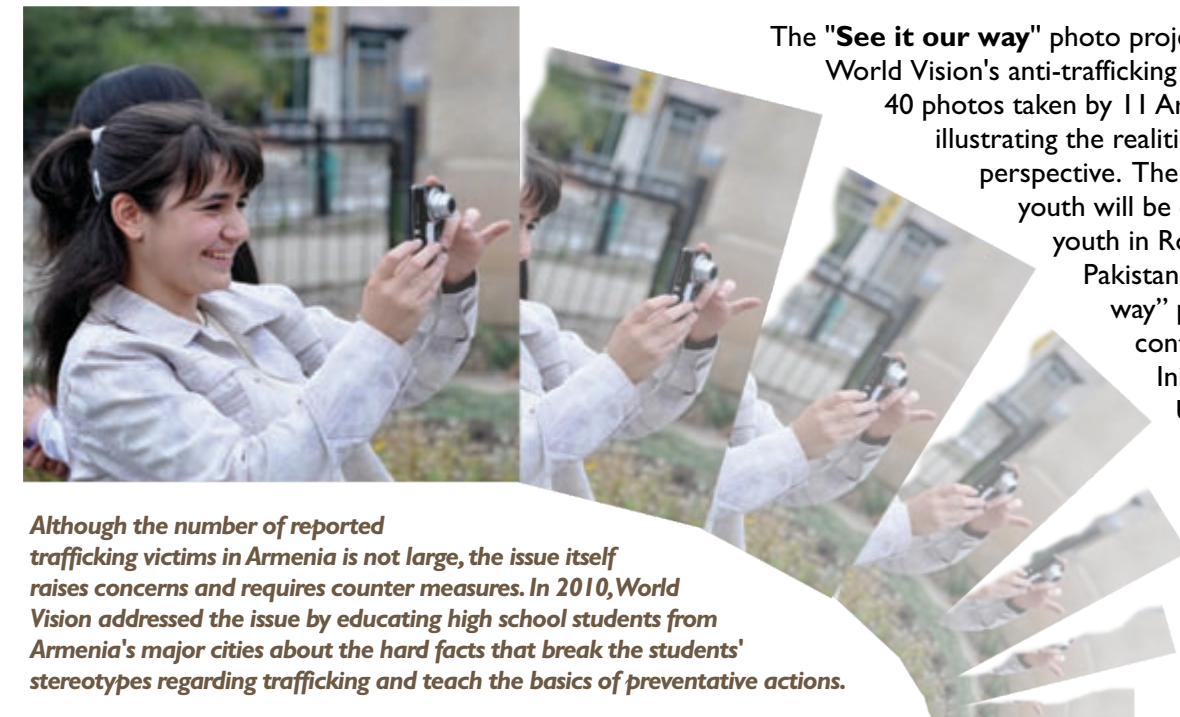
## Trafficking in persons – still homework to do

*“Children in institutions live with the hope that one day they will have a well-paid job to improve their families' living; this hope makes them rather oblivious to the signs of possible trafficking in case they are offered a well-paid job”, said Tatevik Manukyan, the psychologist of Yerevan Children's Care and Protection Institution # 1.*

World Vision organised educational sessions about the hard facts of trafficking for more than 700 students from the country's major cities, including children from socially vulnerable families living in special institutions across the country. Students also learnt how they can protect themselves from falling prey to traffickers.

As an outcome of these training sessions, World Vision organised a Youth Forum in Tbilisi, Georgia, dedicated to the prevention of human trafficking and raising awareness among youth on this issue. With their Georgian counterparts, Armenian high school students were given a unique opportunity to learn about trafficking by exchanging information and experience of their respective countries' challenges and progress.

World Vision also equipped social workers to share information with the general population on legal aspects of trafficking, safe migration, and reintegration of victims.



The **"See it our way"** photo project was yet another highlight in World Vision's anti-trafficking efforts, as it showcased more than 40 photos taken by 11 Armenian youth from Gyumri, illustrating the realities of human trafficking from their perspective. The photos taken by the Armenian youth will be combined with those taken by youth in Romania, Albania, Lebanon and Pakistan, collectively called the "See it our way" photo project, which will contribute to the Human Wrong Initiative in 2011 – a World Vision US campaign of university students from across the U.S. raising their voices to fight child slavery.

*Although the number of reported trafficking victims in Armenia is not large, the issue itself raises concerns and requires counter measures. In 2010, World Vision addressed the issue by educating high school students from Armenia's major cities about the hard facts that break the students' stereotypes regarding trafficking and teach the basics of preventative actions.*



## Caring for children through community empowerment

Children reflect the life of their families and the communities in which they live. It is impossible to ensure children's well-being, health and safety unless their families and communities possess the essentials for a decent life. World Vision's work in the underprivileged communities of Armenia aims to empower people through multi-faceted projects – from renovating dilapidated infrastructure to strengthening their capacity and income generation.

Keeping up with significant changes in the tax legislation is an ongoing challenge for farmers who need to conform within the taxation structure. In response, World Vision initiated an unprecedented meeting involving farmers and small-scale agricultural producers of Lori marz, the Deputy Minister of Agriculture of Armenia, senior officials from the Armenian Taxation Committee and Lori Regional Administration. Farmers raised numerous concerns, among them the problem with the lack of appropriate agricultural specialists in the communities, as well as subsidising agricultural business. As a result, the Taxation Committee and the Agricultural ministry agreed to provide support to farmers in information gathering, project design, as well as professional counseling in developing an agro-business.

Through its micro-finance institution- SEF International - World Vision seeks to boost income generation and offers opportunities to emerging entrepreneurs who work hard to give their children and families a better life. SEF International operates in Yerevan and through branch offices in Sisian and Kapan, and representative offices in Talin, Stepanavan, Goris and Meghri regions. Almost 97% of SEF clients live in underprivileged communities in World Vision's Area Development Programmes. SEF has a current loan portfolio of US\$7.7 ml.

### Pipeline installation eases burden for children in Nor Artik Community

From November to May the old water pipelines in Nor Artik Community of Aragatsotn Region used to be hopelessly frozen, leaving the population without any water for more than six months of the year. Families in the community suffered greatly, as they had to carry their water over the ice-covered, almost impassable roads of the village. Even during summer, the villagers couldn't rely on the dilapidated pipelines to give them enough water to meet their basic needs.

Assistance came from World Vision Armenia when in November 2009, the organisation worked with the "Armenian Water & Sewerage" company to finish the installation of a main drinking water pipeline to Nor Artik and Suser communities.

For the first time after many years of unbearable winters without water, some 230 families of these communities could access an uninterrupted supply of drinking water. In Nor Artik Community, three water-taps were installed in three different parts of the village, making water much more accessible for its 700 residents.



*"Finally I can have my children bathed regularly, wash their clothing, dishes, and properly clean the house and my children will spend their time on their homework, instead of stumbling over ice carrying buckets of water during the frost", says one of the women from Nor Artik Community.*



*World Vision Taiwan invited sponsored children from around the world to photograph their lives that have been changed by the generosity of child sponsors. Two children from Gavar shared their stories from their own perspectives expressing the true value of changes they experienced and became 'educated for life'. Later, the photos were exhibited in Taiwan.*

## EXPERIENCE LOVE OF GOD and THEIR NEIGHBORS

*In Armenia, the world's oldest Christian, Orthodox Apostolic nation, World Vision encourages the growth of Christian values by helping the church to reach out to children and adults in an age-appropriate and culturally relevant way. World Vision partners with the Armenian Apostolic, Catholic, and Evangelical churches in the shared mission of encouraging spiritual and social transformation of communities.*

Within the Youth Bible Curriculum project (YBC), educational interactive textbooks for children of different age groups, and teacher manuals were developed, printed and distributed in partnership with the Armenian Apostolic Church. In 2010, 12,000 copies of textbooks for children and 800 manuals for teachers were distributed. Meanwhile, 140 teachers from Sunday schools and regular schools in different regions of Armenia were trained on YBC methodology. About 2,500 books, including Bibles, Christian education books and booklets were distributed in collaboration with the Armenian Apostolic Church.



Church partnership works mainly through World Vision Area Development Programmes in different regions of Armenia. In 2010, social programmes were implemented together with community churches, enabling 17 computer classrooms to be installed within church facilities, a cultural-historical club to be established in Talin, puppet theatres set up in Ijevan and Vanadzor and various youth and adult Christian clubs established close to churches.

### **TV programme – helps ORTHODOX CHURCH reach communities**

In Gegharkunik Marz (region) in eastern Armenia, where 11 priests serve a population of 240,000 people, a new Christian TV programme launched by the Armenian Apostolic Church and World Vision is helping the church to reach out to this predominantly Christian population.

The TV programme, currently broadcast 'prime time', is prepared by the members of the Church Youth Union on a voluntarily basis, while World Vision supports the broadcasting on the "Qyavar" TV channel which reaches all the communities of the region.

Youth choose the topics that are of greatest interest to the public, including the significance of church services and prayers, as well as the history of the Armenian Apostolic Church.



*"I have always wanted to see a priest and ask him questions", says Hermine Eghiazaryan, 11, from Azat Community, "There is no church in our community, and I have seen pictures of churches only in the history books", she says.*

### **World Vision connects children with Church, history**

About 100 children from Armenia's Vardenis Region set foot outside of their tiny villages for the very first time to visit one of the historical and spiritual centres of Armenia – Geghard Monastery.

Vardenis is one of Armenia's most impoverished regions, known to be home to Armenian refugees that had to flee neighbouring Azerbaijan in the early 1990s because of the armed conflict over Nagorno Karabagh.

World Vision wants these children to better understand their history and culture and learn to value it. The children are from socially vulnerable families, and have limited or no access to travelling and seeing new things. They were greatly impacted by the visits and all they learnt and were inspired to know more.

At the 4<sup>th</sup> century monastery, the local priest met with the children and blessed them, taught them how to pray and make the sign of the cross, since many haven't had the opportunity to be in a church before.