Dear Friends,

2013 has been a year of transitions for World Vision in the South Caucasus; transition into a new leadership structure with shared services and a sharpened and strategic outlook. Through the extraordinary work of dedicated and motivated people, we overcame many challenges and changes while remaining focused on the well-being of children and the communities where they live.

This year’s highlights presented in this report bear witness to our efforts to educate children for life; keep them safe, healthy and protected while also building livelihoods and healing broken hearts for a more hopeful future. We are thankful to the 5,318 regular sponsors in Canada, Switzerland and Hong Kong as well as institutional donors, whose faithful and generous commitments contributed towards these achievements.

Overall, World Vision’s 2013 cash income for its total operational budget in Georgia amounted $3.8 million (USD). These funds helped transform the lives of nearly 144,000 people, including 20,000 children and youth, in some of the most remote and disadvantaged communities in Georgia.

In 2014, we will build on World Vision’s greatest asset - more than 80 committed staff members with a passion for children who are determined to embrace the organisational changes to grow and deepen the impact of World Vision’s work on the well-being of Georgia’s children. I am encouraged to be surrounded by such a dynamic, creative and resourceful group of people, as well as committed partners inside and outside of World Vision.

Sincerely,
Hans Bederski
World Vision South Caucasus National Director
World Vision Georgia at a Glance

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

Child Vulnerabilities:

77,000 children live in extreme poverty

1,800 children live on the streets

20 out of every 1,000 newborn babies die before reaching age of five

38.3% of youth between the ages 20 and 24 are unemployed

45% of the population in Georgia considers violence against children acceptable

Source: World Vision, UNICEF, Save the Children
Child Protection and Welfare

Systems and service development

FAMILY STRENGTHENING AND PREVENTION SERVICE
allows single parents who lack a support network to leave their children in quality care while they work to make a living. In addition, young mothers in particular are provided with training assistance to develop their own businesses or find work. The beneficiaries also receive medical assistance and psychological counselling.

113 parents and 191 children benefited from day care centres and received other tailored support in 2013

CRISIS INTERVENTION CENTRE
was established in 2013 in Tbilisi to give children living on the streets access to essential services and a safe and caring environment to promote and protect their health, educational and human rights. Three mobile teams work on a daily basis to identify and engage with children living on the streets. The strength of mobile team lies in its multidisciplinary character as the team is composed of: a social worker, a psychologist, an administrative worker and a peer educator. They prepare children to enter the innovative services at the Crisis Intervention Centre provided by World Vision. Within the project World Vision and its partner organisation, Caritas, successfully collaborate with local social services in order to improve the conditions of highly vulnerable children in Georgia.

The Crisis Intervention Centre accommodates 30 underprivileged children every day

PROFESSIONAL CAPACITY BUILDING
in 2013, World Vision Georgia has trained 200 policemen to work in a more appropriate manner with children living on the streets and developed a life-skills curriculum for psychologists, social workers and care givers who work with highly vulnerable children.

ADVOCACY
In 2013, with support from the European Union National Coalition expended, 40 child-focused organisations have united to lobby for change and minimize gaps in the child-welfare system. Four core goals of the coalition include:

• The prevention of child abandonment through the development of family-supporting services;
• Juvenile justice;
• The protection of children and youth from violence and neglect;
• The expansion of mechanisms to assisting youth leaving care.

GIORG, 15, was living alone in a 10 square metre room without electricity or running water, before coming to Crisis Intervention Centre. He was spending most of his time on the streets of Tbilisi selling small icons and earning money for food. He had never attended school. When his mother was alive, they both begged for money on the streets.

If the mobile group members had not approached him and explained the opportunity of staying in better conditions, in a friendly environment and having chance to study, he would be still on the streets.

“I am very happy that I came here,” he says. “Here, I study reading, drawing and also am respected by people. I already have friends and I feel that I am not alone any more,” said Giorgi. “I play, study and have good time with my friends here. The teachers are very friendly. They never punish us and treat us well. I study lots of things here,” said Garika, 15, another resident who was begging for money on the streets before coming to the centre.

NINO, 37, was leading a very difficult life. As a single mother of five children, Nino had financial difficulties and was struggling to make ends meet. One of her children was born with a mental disability, making Nino’s task of caring for her family even more demanding.

World Vision provided Nino with psychosocial counselling and support, raising her self-esteem to help her believe that she could pull her family out of their difficult situation.

To help improve her income opportunities, World Vision provided Nino with a three-month hairdressing course and provided her all the necessary equipment to start her business. Nino began working at home and now has plans to expand her business in the future by building a small salon in front of her house. “When you are stressed, you cannot control your emotions and the children pick up on that,” she says, knowing now that her positive mood affects her family as well.

Donors include: World Vision, EU, UNICEF
Youth Empowerment

PERSONAL AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

World Vision Georgia recognises that young people can be instrumental in driving change at local, national, regional and international levels. Our work is built on the voluntary participation of young people. In 2013, our target groups consisted of young people between the ages of 14 and 18 years old, who were trained in skills such as leadership, civic engagement, critical thinking and teambuilding among other things.

World Vision Georgia works to support the interplay of youth development, community development and social change, thus ensuring impacts on multiple levels.

World Vision worked with 121 youth clubs in 2013, engaging around 500 young people.

YOUTH ACTIVISM FOR SOCIAL CHANGE

In the regions of Imereti and Kakheti, our youth groups initiated the establishment of three modern greenhouses, which now also serve as learning sites for 800 children and 1,000 farmers.

The income generated from these greenhouses will be spent to improve facilities at the local community schools.

Before engaging with World Vision, 17-year-old GIORGI was not sure which direction his life would take. He felt like he had no opportunities. Now, he is full of hope. "I may not be able to receive higher education, but after being part of the greenhouse program and training, I know how to grow roses and make a decent living. I am planning to make this my family business," he says.

The youth group in Imereti raised approximately US$1,000 to create resource rooms in two schools to better support children with disabilities.

In Samsksne-Javakheti, the youth group successfully advocated for the local government to financially contribute to a kindergarten restoration initiative.

As a result of their innovative activism (using videos), the government committed to covering 38 per cent of the costs for the kindergarten restoration, which will serve 50 children in the community.

GENDER

In 2013, through its youth network World Vision Georgia launched the project "Responding to Gender-Based Violence in the Middle East and Eastern Europe Region", which aims to reduce gender-based violence and contribute to a safer environment for boys and girls as well as men and women.

During this period, World Vision Georgia provided capacity building opportunities for young peer educators from Kakheti, Imereti and Samsksne-Javakheti Regions to raise their awareness on gender-based violence and bullying, as well as equipped them with necessary skills to raise awareness at public events.

“We often set limits... I set limits for my sister, even for my mom, for my female friends... During the training there was a role-play when we switched the gender, and I was a girl for five minutes. It was enough to realise how I hate the limits set by me; how I can’t stand them; how much I wanted to break them! Biggest question mark now’s why we set the limits and rules for others, if we can’t follow them ourselves when our roles are switched!” said 16-years-old youth leader Giorgi.

Donor: World Vision
Community Mobilisation

MULTI-SECTOR APPROACH
The experience World Vision Georgia has gained over the years shows that cooperation based on mutual trust is necessary in order to influence long term positive changes in the lives of children, their families and the communities in which they live.

INVESTING IN EDUCATION
In 2013, World Vision focused on improving access to schools and the quality of education. We developed a number of extra-curricular activities designed to improve the life skills of the most vulnerable children.

- In 2013, World Vision worked with 120 schools
- 2,178 teachers were engaged in training and development opportunities, indirectly benefiting 13,068 children
- 47 education institutions were renovated, benefiting 2,061 children
- 60 education facilities were provided with technical equipment, benefiting 7,812 children
- 918 children received practical experience in fire safety and disaster preparedness

DEVELOPING HEALTHCARE
Along with efforts aimed at improving the population’s access to basic healthcare services as well as decent sanitation and hygiene conditions, World Vision’s awareness-raising activities continued in 2013.

Through 38 Mother Support Groups, we improved the health conditions in our target communities by supporting their health facilities with physical infrastructure and providing new material and equipment.

World Vision continued its work in the prevention of HIV and AIDS, initiating discussions among various stakeholder groups and formulating recommendations for the policy and service delivery levels in these areas.

- World Vision conducted health campaigns in 20 villages in 2013, directly benefiting 747 children
- 84 families received better access to water, which directly benefitted more than 200 children

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE
In December 2013, World Vision Georgia launched a new project, which aims to influence the quality, efficiency and accountability of the regional government of Georgia through strengthened civil society actions. This initiative is funded by the European Union and World Vision Germany and is implemented in cooperation with the Young Economists of Georgia group. We work with the representatives of local governments and community groups to facilitate the effective dialogue and needs-based participative programming.

SUPPORTING THE MOST VULNERABLE
In 2013, World Vision targeted 11 settlements in Shida Kartli—which bore the impact of a conflict and is home to more than 14,000 internally displaced people—to improve families’ livelihoods by working with women.

Through professional training, internship programs and seed money for small businesses, we helped women create economic opportunities for themselves and their families.

World Vision also promoted a continuing dialogue between the local authorities and internally displaced communities in these settlements, focusing on issues as gender equality and economic security.

TSISANA, her husband and three children had to flee their home in Osulisi when the war began in 2008. Her husband died from a chronic condition shortly afterwards, leaving Tsisana with no way to tend for their children. They eventually found their way to a shelter for internally displaced people in Khurvaleti, where they remain today, five years later.

After participating in a training programme provided by World Vision, Tsisana was inspired to start her own sewing business. “Before writing the proposal, I made a small assessment in the settlement,” she explains.

“I asked if people would buy linen sewn by me and what an acceptable price would be for them. Then, I calculated the income and applied for the grant.”

She now receives up to 10 orders a month, earning 200-250 GEL ($120-140 USD) a month, enough to meet her family’s basic needs. Tsisana’s two daughters have received government scholarships for being outstanding students at university—the hopes her 14-year-old son will soon follow their lead.

- 168 women received training in professional and business skills, 48 business business start ups supported.

Donors: World Vision, EU, Austrian Development Agency
World Vision Funds

TOTAL OPERATIONAL BUDGET FOR FINACIAL YEAR 2013 WAS $3,843,607 (USD)

TOTAL BY FUNDING SOURCE

- World Vision Resources: 87%
- External Donor: 13%

DONOR ORGANIZATIONS

- The United Nations Children’s Fund
- United Nations Development Programme
- Australian Agency for International Development
- European Union
- Austrian Development Agency