A photograph showing two men, Suresh Bartlett and Nick Nicolaou, shaking hands. They are standing in front of a large banner that reads "Strengthen the bio-diverse heritage of the Bar Reef in Kalpitiya". The banner also features logos for HSBC and World Vision. Suresh Bartlett is wearing a white shirt and glasses, while Nick Nicolaou is wearing a white polo shirt with HSBC and GROVE logos.

Strengthen the bio-diverse heritage  
of the Bar Reef in Kalpitiya

*Suresh Bartlett and Nick Nicolaou  
exchange copy of partnership agreement*

## World Vision and HSBC in partnership for environmental conservation

**W**orld Vision and HSBC recently launched a unique partnership to protect the Bar reef of Kalpitiya and preserve this natural heritage which is the largest and most diverse coral formation in Sri Lanka.

The Bar reef was declared a marine sanctuary in 1992, with an area reserve of 306.7 square km, that is home to 156 species of coral and 283 species of tropical fish. It is a popular tourist destination for diving and dolphin and whale watching.

“This project is very much aligned to our strategy of protecting and preserving the environment and natural habitat of marine life. We hope this initiative will help pave the way for generations to enjoy its rich biodiversity and marine life, while at the same time provide alternative livelihoods to the people in the area,” said Nick Nicolaou, Chief Executive Officer for HSBC Sri Lanka and Maldives.

“Protection of the environment is a special theme across all World Vision’s programmes and we are delighted to

partner with HSBC in this key venture which is a great model of public - private partnerships”, said Suresh Bartlett, World Vision Lanka’s National Director.

Besides being a major tourist attraction, the Kalpitiya bar reef also provides fishermen with their livelihoods as it functions as the breeding center for fish. However, the reef is under threat from natural enemies as well as human activity. Recent threats to its ecosystem have been identified as over-exploitation of fish resources caused by unsuitable fishing methods and pollution from human activities like agriculture, fishing and improper tourism.

The project will also encompass education, livelihoods in partnership with government and other stakeholders.

World Vision has been in Kalpitiya since 2007 and its programme encompasses 12 Grama Niladari divisions with major interventions in health and nutrition, water and sanitation; economic development and education.

## EDITORIAL

### Partnering for the future...

Even as Sri Lanka continues its rebuilding process and helps fractured communities rebuild their lives, we firmly believe that everyone has a part in that process.

World Vision continues to seek partnership opportunities with public and private sector organizations to increase the impact of development to a wider group of people.

As our cover story indicates World Vision Lanka and HSBC have partnered together with the local community in a novel programme to protect the environment.

The plantation sector is home to some of the country's most impoverished and vulnerable communities and our story portrays the many challenges faced by these communities and the impact of our programmes.

Also featured is an exhibition and concert of children from our Friends project. The project aims to nurture and integrate children living on the streets into mainstream society.

Vision Fund adds a new dimension to our work as seen in the story of Damayanthi.

The protection of all children is one of our key focuses and it is saddening to note the recent increase of incidents of child abuse.

World Vision hopes to launch a national campaign on the protection of children and safeguarding their rights.

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## Diri-Divi – Exhibition and Trade fair



World Vision recently conducted 'Diri-Divi' – an exhibition and trade fair to showcase the work of the people of Negombo and to provide a platform for entrepreneurs to explore opportunities for collaboration for improved business ventures.

World Vision's initiatives through economic and livelihood development have created many opportunities for communities to achieve sustainable development through new business ventures which have given them a steady income.

It is through events like Diri Divi that these communities get the opportunity to share their success stories and help others to also have a stable source of income.

The exhibition and trade fair enabled several small scale entrepreneurs from Negombo to establish market linkages with larger commercial organisations for their produce.

Given its success the local authorities have requested for it to be an annual event and that the concept be taken to other areas of the country.

### Help us to keep them smiling...

At World Vision we are passionate about the well being of children and ensuring them life in all its fullness.

If you are interested in learning more about our work or would like to join us in partnership in any of our programmes please email,

[dion\\_schoorman@wvi.org](mailto:dion_schoorman@wvi.org)



# FRIENDS PROJECT

## Exhibition and Concert by children



Saturday 18th August 2012 marked a special day in the lives of the children of the Friends project as it was the day of their exhibition and the concert. The event, organized by the children and the project staff, on the theme of tradition and agriculture was the ideal platform for the children to showcase their talents and hard work.

The Deputy Mayor of Dehiwala and Mount Lavinia Municipal Council, representatives from the Divisional Secretariat, National Child Protection Authority, the local police and teachers were amongst the distinguished guests whose presence provided much encouragement for the children. Some parents of the children and the immediate neighbours too were there to witness the children performing.

The programme included delightful dance and musical performances by the children. Various other items depicting the history and trends in agriculture, kept the audience enthralled with their talents.

One of the highlights of the programme was the children's puppetry show. Children have mastered the art of puppetry through the lessons conducted by the

Puppetry Museum in Dehiwela. The staff of the museum was very impressed with the children's ability to have successfully mastered this skill.

An exhibition and sale of the arts and creative works of the children were also a part of the programme. The visitors were impressed by the talents of the children and how their lives have been transformed from street children to lives of hope and opportunity.

**World Vision resolved to uplift the lives of children living on the streets by establishing shelters to accommodate these children and providing them with their basic needs in education and health and nutrition until they were ready to be reintegrated with their families.**

**The Project which is named 'Friends' aims to integrate these children into mainstream society as successful and productive citizens and focuses also on the rehabilitation of parents so that the children may be able to reunite with their families once again. The Project has successfully reintegrated 175 children with their families.**

## “We need to raise awareness and bring about positive change” – Tara Teng Miss World Canada



“Children need to stay in school. They need to complete their education, learn as much as they can and be useful citizens of their country. They need to take the country forward” said Tara Teng when she met students at Agunukolapellesa Maha Vidyala during her visit to Sri Lanka in September. Ms Teng who is Miss World Canada 2012 and World Vision’s Goodwill Ambassador in Canada, visited Sri Lanka on the invitation of World Vision Lanka.

The aim of Ms Teng’s visit was to help highlight the work of World Vision in Sri Lanka and to raise awareness and support for the work in Sri Lanka. She visited World Vision’s development Programmes in Bogawantalawa and Thanamalwila which are funded by World Vision Canada.

“It is so important that we focus on education for all children and also ensure that maternal and child health needs are adequately met. Poverty can disrupt childhood in so many ways. My grandmother could not complete school as she had to care for her 12 siblings. Having this experience within my own family, I am very passionate about access to education for all children, no matter what their circumstances and that they are able to achieve all that they aspire to be”.

In Bogawantalawa, Ms Teng met with families of plantation workers and was able to witness the squalid living conditions of these communities and also hear about the daily hardships these families face concerning educating their children and access to health and sanitation facilities.

The families explained how World Vision's development programme and support has ensured that children continue with their schooling and how it has contributed to the family's overall wellbeing.

"It is so encouraging to hear and see how the programmes impact the communities. This is why we need to raise awareness about the needs of these communities, so that we can all contribute to bringing about positive change and children can grow up in a safe and healthy environment" said Ms. Teng.

Ms Teng also had the opportunity to pluck some tea. "It looks so easy but I now appreciate how hard these women work and what they go through to give us that perfect cup of tea" she said.



On her visit to Thanamalvila, Ms Teng visited the ADP office and some of the families supported by World Vision Canada. She also visited the Cargills collection center and learnt about the benefit to farmer families in the area through the community development fund. Ms Teng then visited Angunukolapelessa Maha Vidyalaya where she mingled with the students .

A human rights activist and modern day –slavery abolitionist, Ms Teng's passion is to see all people, regardless of nationality, culture, gender, lifestyle or belief, thrive in freedom, truth and abundance.

"It's amazing how much spirit these communities possess in the face of adversity. But there is so much we can do to support them.

I hope to take this message back home and encourage more people in Canada to support World Vision's wonderful work here" said Ms. Teng.

## Canadian Celebrities visit to raise funds



Canadian pop star Tyler Madeiros and Gary Taxali, a renowned Canadian illustrator and children's author, recently visited Sri Lanka on the invitation of World Vision Lanka. Their visit was part of a tour to showcase the work of World Vision Lanka and raise funds overseas. Tara Teng, Miss World Canada 2012 was also part of this distinguished group.

In Pathana, Madeiros had the opportunity to meet Thiviya Ramesh, the little girl he is sponsoring. He also declared open the Child Friendly Space at Pathana.

During their visit, the group was able to visit the Bogawantalawa and Thanamalwila ADP offices. They also visited the Angunukolapelessa Government School. Here, Madeiros sang with the schoolchildren who happily joined him in a hearty rendition of 'ABC'. He also engaged the children in a geography lesson.

Taxali in the meantime, entertained the children with illustrations of their favourite animals. He also gifted the school some books authored by him along with stationery items gifted by World Vision.

Happy to have witnessed the work of World Vision in Sri Lanka, both Madeiros and Taxali complimented the ADPs on their work. Reflecting on his visit Madeiros said "It has been wonderful to spend time with these kids. They gave us such a warm welcome. It has been an awesome experience."

## Building skills - brick by brick...



From a very young age Lakshan was fascinated with the construction of buildings. His uncle was a mason and young Lakshan used to tag along with his uncle during weekends and school holidays, to watch him build houses, marvelling as the structures came up brick by brick. For Lakshan, these sites were the place of learning - more than his school.

Soon he began to help out in little chores and even received a small payment for unskilled labour. "I enjoyed masonry but was unskilled. When World Vision invited us youth for a vocational training programme that included a course in masonry, I was very happy," says Lakshan (18).

The six-month course provided them valuable knowledge and training, in every aspect of masonry and building - from the foundation right to the roof top.

"My favourite part is building walls brick by brick," he says, "Completing the course we also had the chance to assist World Vision in building a house for a vulnerable family."

Having completed the course few months ago, Lakshan has already begun trying out his knowledge and skills at home.

The young builder has completed building his room and a new additional room. A spacious kitchen for his mother is already in the process of being completed.

"He even makes and bakes the brick at home and I help him," says his mother, "We are very grateful to World Vision for this training."

Many of the youth from his area in Sevanagala who cannot pursue higher education join the unskilled labour force on very low wages to support their families. Lakshan's father remains an unskilled labourer quarrying stones for a living and his brother too works in a cement factory as an unskilled labourer.

"Because of the training i am no longer unskilled," says Lakshan, "even if i work as a helper, we get a good pay because we are skilled now."



While supporting his family, Lakshan wants to build a house of his own and is currently working towards becoming a part of the team of masons working for the new international airport that is coming up in Hambantota in Southern Sri Lanka.

## Little shop of dreams



On an average day, over 200 little customers tumble into Damayanthi's shop to buy everything from biscuits and sweets to exercise books and pencils. As the only retail shop to be located opposite one of the village schools, it not only brings Damayanthi's family an income but also provides a much-needed service to the village. They did not always have the shop. But a small loan helped change their story.

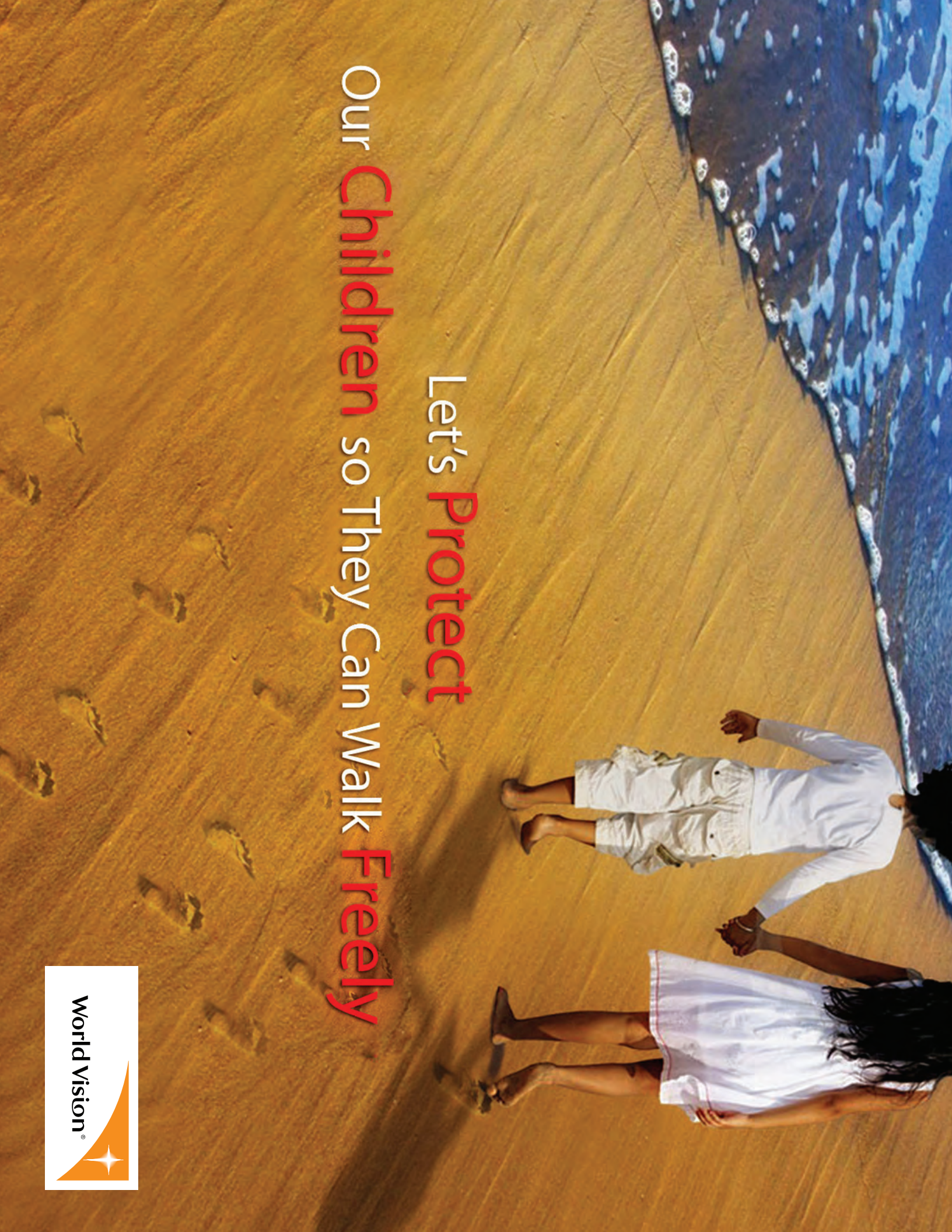
Thusitha was a paddy farmer in the town of Giribawa. His wife Damayanthi worked with him in the fields. When they saved enough to build a home for themselves he also built a shop in front of their home with the hope of starting a retail shop one day. They started off by selling a stock of toys in the shop, whilst continuing to work in the paddy fields.

Once the stock finished, they were faced with the question of whether to continue the shop and how. That was when Damayanthi heard about VisionFund (World Vision's micro finance operation) and took a small loan of LKR 25,000 (US\$200) to keep the shop going.

They stocked the shop with goods like sugar, onions and spices. As time went by and business picked up, the shop began providing an assortment of items; books, stationery, packeted food, cosmetic items, rubber slippers and more.

The shop opens as early as six o' clock in the morning to cater to its little clientele with pressing stationery needs. Damayanthi runs the shop, and is often kept company by her 3 year old daughter Hasara, who loves sampling the sweets for sale. They also have a son, Hasitha, who is 12.

At their shop, the customer is King, and they don't turn away little customers who run in for favors, phone calls, messages and more. Damayanthi is now on her 3rd loan cycle and they have plans to expand the shop further. The income helps them afford tuition for Hasitha and promises a better future for their little daughter Hasara. The shop also affords hundreds of children and their parents the convenience of a one-stop shop, just a hop away from school.



Let's **Protect**

Our **Children** so They Can Walk **Freely**

