Viva is passionate about releasing children from poverty and abuse worldwide. The problems children face are complex and deep-rooted, and they require an ambitious, creative and strategic response.

Over the past 20 years, Viva has helped pioneer and refine a collaborative approach that is being increasingly adopted throughout the development sector.

We have significant experience, over many years and across many locations, of building locally-led networks of churches and organisations that deliver collective action programmes designed to tackle the root causes of problems affecting children. This joined-up approach delivers a level of scale and reach that would not be possible for a single organisation.

Bill Hybels asserts that “the local church is the hope of the world”, and it is our experience that when you inspire a church to reach out to the children on its doorstep you can call on a body of people with a mandate to serve, pray and give sacrificially. When this happens something beautiful and powerful is being built – the unseen, upside-down kingdom of God – in which children are no longer marginalised or exploited, but protected, valued and loved.

Central to Viva’s five-year strategy is a clearly defined city-wide focus. Effective networking and a shared vision in a defined area towards a defined goal can generate results which catch the attention of decision-makers and influencers. This can catalyse the kind of societal change needed to bring solutions to the complex issues facing vulnerable children.

All our work is designed to include three tracks:

• Prevention, awareness and advocacy targeting general public attitudes and behaviours
• Rescue and direct interventions with children and families
• Restoration and holistic care for children and families

As an organisation we seek to be generous and open-handed, and are committed to sharing our resources, learning and expertise freely and widely within the communities. We call it ‘advocating and agitating’: we will use our focus on quality and collaboration and our convening power to ensure more children are helped more effectively by more people.

We have ambitious aims, but believe that big problems need bold, joined-up thinking and concerted, joined-up action. We have a 20-year track record and access to the power of 5,500 passionate and determined grassroots organisations working in unity. We trust in a God who specialises in transformation, and whose gaze never wavers from the fatherless, the abandoned and exploited.

For these reasons, we look forward with confidence and expectation to what we can achieve together to help children in the coming years. On behalf of the hundreds of thousands of people whom Viva serves around the world, thank you for sharing the journey with us.

MARK STAVERS
CHIEF EXECUTIVE, VIVA

DICK HUNTER
BOARD CHAIR, VIVA INTERNATIONAL

SCOTT HANNAH
BOARD CHAIR, VIVA NORTH AMERICA

ROY HUANG
BOARD CHAIR, VIVA HONG KONG

Front cover: Myra is ten years old and lives in Hyderabad. In India, families often prioritise their sons and are less likely to invest in their daughters’ health and education. Girls are therefore vulnerable to violence, harassment, sexual exploitation or abuse. Taking part in Viva’s ‘Dare to be Different’ mentoring programme has raised Myra’s self-esteem, increased her confidence and given her hope for the future. Turn to page 14 to read more.
Over the next five years, Viva will implement plans designed around seven key areas. These are unpacked further in the following pages of this Annual Review, with examples given of work in specific countries.

**TRANSFORMING CHILDREN THROUGH EDUCATION** Our goal is to see children in school – learning, thriving and able to contribute to society. Viva will continue its programme in Uganda to re-educate marginalised girls who have dropped out of school, train teachers and engage community mentors to develop parenting skills.

**KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE** Our goal is to see children free from violence and domestic abuse. Viva will run a six-city programme across Central America, harnessing the power of volunteers working in partnership with local authorities to rescue and rehabilitate children living in abusive situations and bring about a change of attitude that will keep 35,000 children safe from violence.

**MAKING CHILD TRAFFICKING HISTORY** Our goal is to see children free from sexual exploitation and trafficking. Viva will mobilise thousands of volunteers in Nepal and the Philippines to help women set up small businesses and generate an income, provide educational support to vulnerable children and widely spread the anti-trafficking message.

**RESETTLING CHILDREN INTO FAMILIES** Our goal is to see struggling families strengthened and abandoned children growing up in families rather than institutions. Viva will help Resettle abandoned children in Uganda in loving families, and will provide these families with counselling, income-generating advice and practical support.

**UNLOCKING THE POTENTIAL OF GIRLS** Our goal is to see girls valued, safe from exploitation and able to meet their potential. Viva will train and support volunteers from local churches in India to challenge discrimination, report abuse and provide mentoring to girls so they can play a positive part in society.

**PROTECTING CHILDREN IN EMERGENCIES** Our goal is to see child protection as a priority when disaster and conflict hits. Viva will train community leaders in the Philippines and Lebanon to know what to do in emergency situations, and will respond with practical and psychosocial support, helping children to live through and recover from traumatic experiences.

**HELPING YOUNG PEOPLE TO THRIVE** Our goal is to see vulnerable young people and their families in the UK find hope and help. Viva will catalyse a collaborative response in Oxford from local churches and other care providers to the complex needs of young people in order to increase their self-esteem and resilience.
The headline numbers

22 COUNTRIES

66 CITIES

37 PARTNER NETWORKS

4,132 CHURCHES

1,384 ORGANISATIONS

198 COLLABORATIVE PROGRAMMES

35,535 WORKERS & VOLUNTEERS

1.4 MILLION CHILDREN

The influence of our partner networks

Many networks have established collaborative partnerships across their city. Here's a snapshot of who we influence. (*Numbers show formal, written partnership agreements worldwide.*)

COMMUNITY LEADERS 72

CITY/CIVIL LEADERSHIP 25

RELIGIOUS LEADERS 231

BUSINESS LEADERS 17

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT 10

LEGISLATORS 6

SERVICE PROVIDERS 203

MEDIA 12

LAW ENFORCERS 12
The Viva world

LATIN AMERICA

18 NETWORKS
307,530 CHILDREN
2,672 CHURCHES
717 ORGANISATIONS
14,980 WORKERS

AFRICA

5 NETWORKS
400,220 CHILDREN
252 CHURCHES
342 ORGANISATIONS
11,493 WORKERS

ASIA

14 NETWORKS
719,310 CHILDREN
1,208 CHURCHES
325 ORGANISATIONS
9,062 WORKERS

One network per country unless stated on the flag

The power of the Church
As our partner networks continue to grow in number, the role of the local Church is increasingly important.

The average network looks like this...

38,570 CHILDREN CARED FOR
37 GRASSROOTS ORGANISATIONS
112 LOCAL CHURCHES
987 WORKERS & VOLUNTEERS
$500 – $840,000 NETWORK BUDGET RANGE

DATA PUBLISHED HERE IS TAKEN FROM VIVA’S NETWORK HEALTH CHECK (NHC), A TOOL DEVELOPED IN RESPONSE TO THE CONSTANTLY EVOLVING WORLD OF NETWORK DEVELOPMENT. NHC’S STATISTICS ALLOW VIVA TO IDENTIFY PATTERNS AND TRENDS WHICH INFORM ITS INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMMATIC STRATEGIES.

FOR A COPY OF THE 2015-16 NHC REPORT, EMAIL INFO@VIVA.ORG
Viva is working with its partner network CRANE in Uganda, helping girls who have dropped out of education to catch up and get back into school.

There are several major barriers to girls' education, including lack of finance for school fees, violence and abuse leading to a fear of school, parents' negative attitudes, early pregnancy and disabilities. We believe that for education to increase the life chances of children at risk, it needs to be engaging and creative, considering the unique needs of each child, and embraced at community level.

There are four components to our Creative Learning Centres (CLCs) programme, which is part of the Girls’ Education Challenge, run globally by the British Government’s Department of International Development (DFID).

1. The 22 CLCs provide girls with six months of accelerated learning before helping them to get back into mainstream education. Two centres are for children with learning difficulties.

In terms of learning, the CLCs focus on helping girls to grasp numeracy and literacy. Girls also receive counselling to work through the trauma and stressors that have prevented effective learning from taking place.

A midpoint review of the programme carried out early in 2016 showed that overall literacy had improved by 80 per cent and numeracy by 180 per cent. Attendance had also improved by 107 per cent against target. Since starting in 2013, more than 2,500 girls have been through the CLCs with nearly 1,500 girls graduating to another form of learning.

2. CLC teachers are trained in creative, student-centred teaching methods.

Initially the training was for the 40 all-female teaching workforce of the CLCs but, due to its success and the introduction of a fourth year to the project, training has also been given to 400 mainstream teachers. This is providing several thousand more girls and boys in Kampala with the opportunity to learn in ways which are fresh and exciting.

The CLC teachers have also had specific training in teaching maths, psychosocial counselling, first aid and inclusive education. The outcomes of this training are reflected in the performance of the girls, with many achieving their termly targets and starting to focus on returning to school.

3. Community mentors work directly with parents to help them develop their workskills, household economic sustainability strategies, and to change their attitude towards education. The work of these 40 mentors (one male and one female for each CLC) impacts not only on the CLC girls and their parents but also on other siblings’ education as well.

The addition of a fourth year to the original three-year programme is allowing for increased training of mentors and has given them more time to work with the families. The vital role of professional counsellors has also been realised and increased with the extension. Parental attitudes and household income showed positive trajectories towards supporting girls’ education.

4. Educational institutions are being networked together to engage children in reading, sports and the creative arts.

A mobile resource library goes to all of the CLCs, and to 60 mainstream schools, with nearly 4,000 children making use of it so far. More than 3,000 children have joined in the programme’s competitive league with almost 2,000 children taking part in the annual inter-schools sports competition. This has helped to increase motivation and confidence and is also a non-threatening outreach for out-of-school children.

“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.” (Nelson Mandela)

BEING A GIRL IN UGANDA

Only 1 in 4 complete primary education >>> Fewer than 1 in 5 advance to secondary school >>> Around 33% become mothers before reaching adulthood, often curtailing their education
WHAT’S NEXT?

Six member organisations are planning to expand the depth and reach of the project model beyond February 2017, when the DFID contract ends, by establishing demonstration centres. These centres will share learning together and with other stakeholders on an ongoing basis. They have committed to continue the investment in the model beyond the project funding, extending the reach to boys and other girls who need educational support.

Whilst only 20 member organisations have been the direct beneficiaries of the CLC model, the rest of the network has been very excited by the results that have been seen and are waiting patiently to be able to learn from their fellow members.

There is the potential to scale up immediately in at least 50 new communities through the established CRANE members who are engaged in educating children.

HALIMA’S THRIVING NOW

When Halima was 11, she became ill and stopped going to school. She and her mother already knew about loss. Her father died when she was little, and her mother sold snacks on the street to pay for rent and food — and medicine when she could. There was nothing left over for school. Halima started plaiting hair to earn a few shillings. Life was hard, and the future looked no different.

But sometimes friends can be a lifeline. Halima’s friend Stella was attending a Creative Learning Centre, and her enthusiasm for it was contagious. Inspired, Halima asked if she could enrol as well.

Staff at the CLC have seen her thrive in the supportive, stimulating environment. With help from CLC mentors, her mother set up a small business to support her daughter’s education.

Halima has now progressed to mainstream school where she is working hard to make her dream of becoming a lawyer a reality.
Viva is working in partnership with six city-based networks in Central America to rescue and rehabilitate children living in abusive situations, and bring about a change of attitude that will keep 35,000 children safe from violence.

Domestic abuse against children and young people is prevalent in Central America, with thousands killed by family members each year or forced onto the streets.

Viva’s partner networks there are committed to changing society’s view of violence. Each year, we currently work with street children in six countries:

- in prevention with over 10,000 children
- in rescue work with over 700 children
- in getting children back home again where possible, working alongside 450 families

The networks are not only working at street-level, helping individual children and families, but are also part of government working groups on children’s rights which are opening child protection offices and services for children. For example:

- in Costa Rica, we are part of the National Commission on the Exploitation of Children.
- in El Salvador, we created a national working group to design a new law to protect the rights of children on the streets.
- in Nicaragua, we are on the committee that reviews the laws for children’s rights.

Viva’s Good Treatment Campaign has been calling on adults to respect and value children across the region for the past 11 years. In the region this year, through the campaign, 649 churches and organisations have empowered 121,000 children to reach more than one million adults.

The children taking part have endured difficult lives but, through the support of the network, are being empowered and equipped with life skills.

Supported by local project leaders, these child advocates take to the city streets to talk with adults about how they treat their children and awareness-raising marches are organised in public places.

“Violence against children is a problem shared by every society – so the solution must also be shared. When we protect children from violence we not only prevent individual tragedies... but also support the strength and stability of their societies.”

(Anthony Lake, UNICEF Executive Director)

In Costa Rica, there is a cycle of violence. Many people who were children and adolescents living during civil war in the 1970s have grown up using violence as a way of life and are now the parents of the next generation and think physical, emotional and sexual violence towards their children is acceptable.

The National Children’s Hospital in the capital city San José reports that, over the course of the last year, the average number of cases of violence against children has almost doubled.

One region today where domestic violence against children is most prevalent is Purral. It is here that Trono de Dios Church – a member of Viva’s partner network in San José – is positively responding to the urgent needs of children in vulnerable urban communities.

The church has a children’s care centre and works closely in liaison with the local government to identify and help children most in need.

Church members who are teachers, psychiatrists and social workers use their expertise to support this social project.

VIOLENCE IN CENTRAL AMERICA: SOME STATISTICS

1 in 4 Guatemalan girls is beaten or physically mistreated by the age of 15
Each day in Costa Rica, 150 children suffer from domestic violence
Latin America has the highest rate of homicides in the world
WHAT’S NEXT?

Over the next three years, our objective is to lower the rate of violence against children and teenagers in Central America through the influence of effective local networks and the active participation of faith communities as agents of transformation.

We aim to impact 35,000 children in the capital cities of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panamá by:

• getting violence talked about and influencing key figures to create change
• teaching children their rights, protecting them from abuse, rescuing them from violence
• making families stronger, supporting children to tackle violence
• training caregivers in the highest standards

The comprehensive programme will be run through a series of activities, including child protection training for both children and families, public ‘messages of peace’ awareness campaigns (to complement the Good Treatment Campaign), developing genuine alternative opportunities for street and migrant children and forming specialised teams to tackle violence and provide counselling.

A SAFE PLACE FOR HELENA

Eleven-year-old Helena and her siblings grew up in in Guatemala City. Their mother took drugs and worked as a prostitute. Their father had been long gone. It was no place for a child.

But Helena has real courage. Instead of staying silent, she told a teacher about her home life. The teacher contacted Viva’s partner network, Red Viva Guatemala, and a counsellor went to visit.

Despite her mother’s denials, the counsellor confirmed the abuse Helena had reported. The children were taken to a children’s home – also a member of the network – where they are now safe.

This isn’t the end of the line for Helena’s family, however. Viva knows that children belong in families, so network members are working hard to help Helena’s mother deal with her addictions, find a new job, and turn her life around so her children can come home.
Viva is working with its partner networks in Asia to mobilise thousands of church volunteers to keep children safe, establish income generation projects for women and spread the anti-violence message through education and advocacy. We focus here on our response in Nepal.

Last year, 180 churches who are members of our partner network CarNet Nepal committed to protect children from abuse and trafficking.

They have identified vulnerable communities and children, and actively engaged in reducing child sexual abuse and child trafficking in three districts: Kanchanpur, Sindhupalchok and Nuwakot. The meaningful engagement of the churches has made it possible to see a level of change in the community.

In total, 117 awareness-raising campaigns were conducted, reaching 5,784 children and 1,263 parents. The local community and network members were provided with two resources that the network has used to raise awareness about issues of trafficking.

The Daughter Toolkit is a simple, picture-based resource that teaches people how to prevent trafficking in their own communities and how to intervene once they recognise that abuse or exploitation is taking place.

Good touch, bad touch is a one-day course which uses creative ways to communicate messages about sexual abuse and exploitation to children. Leaders go home trained and kitted out with story flipcharts, comic books and dramas that approach these issues in an engaging way for children.

The children in Nuwakot and Sindhupalchok districts who have been supported learned how to be safe from abusers who might lure them directly and indirectly. They can now repeat a list of five ways in which they can protect themselves, and keep safe from abuse and trafficking.

Vulnerable young women’s awareness about the issues of sexual exploitation and trafficking has been greatly improved through the network’s programme, and 30 teenage girls at risk were sponsored for their education.

“Traffickers promise education, meals and a better future. But the reality is that many children could end up being horrendously exploited and abused.”

(Tomoo Hozumi, UNICEF’s Nepal representative)

As a result of the integrated work of community leaders, six new girls were rescued from trafficking situations and ten previously rescued girls were restored back to their community.

After the large earthquakes hit Nepal in spring 2015 (see page 16 for more details), there was an increase in media reports about women and children going missing, being trapped in human trafficking.

Experience from other disaster situations has shown that abusers and traffickers are active during such situations, when families are vulnerable, struggling to feed the family and in need of funds.

CarNet Nepal first reported that three girls had gone missing in the village of Shikharabeshi. Through its established network of churches, it helped to rescue them along with another 400 children in Kathmandu.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING: 21ST CENTURY SLAVERY

Every year, up to 20,000 young girls from the poorest parts of Nepal are sold into trafficking. The trafficking of people from Nepal to India saw a 500 per cent rise in 2015, compared with the year before. (Ministry of Home Affairs, India)
WHAT’S NEXT?

An additional 153 awareness-raising campaigns are planned for the next three years in Nepal, reaching an additional 6,000 children and parents in local communities.

One pastor intervened after hearing that a man and his partner, the stepmother to his children, were going to allow a man to take his 14-year-old daughter away to marry her. During discussions with the family, this pastor found out that the man was totally unknown to this family and that his story could not be verified. The father agreed to keep his daughter at home.

**Fifty additional volunteers have been trained** since the earthquakes to provide crisis counselling, child trafficking information and warnings, and are able to reach 500 more vulnerable families.

In the wards of Bageshwori Village, **ten Child Friendly Spaces for 300 children were established**, using school halls and churches. The Emergency Committees advocated with the parents to send their children to the spaces so that they had the opportunity to play and receive counselling.

HOPE FOR BINI TA

Binita is one of the 30 girls identified by CarNet Nepal as at particular risk of being trafficked. She was enrolled in the network’s Girl Child Education Support Programme and kitted out with necessary stationery and uniform.

Binita has made excellent progress with her school results and her parents are now eager to send her to mainstream school. They also benefit from training by network volunteers on the importance of educating their daughters and on issues of child protection.

Her mother said, “The programme means I feel less burdened and anxious about Binita’s safety, and now I don’t have any reason to keep her away from school.”

Binita said, “I want to be a school teacher and educate the children of my community who are not able to come to school. I have hope now, which is something every child should also have.”
Viva is working with its partner network CRANE in Uganda, helping to strengthen families and to return children home who have been separated from family.

In Uganda, a variety of factors including parental mortality, child abuse, prostitution and poverty separate children from parents and other family members.

Increasing urbanisation has led to the breakdown of traditional means of caring for orphans and runaways, and caused much of the responsibility for these children to be transferred to child care institutions (CCIs).

Aware of the potentially detrimental effects of institutions, and of biblical mandates for family-based care, Viva’s partner network CRANE began its family reintegration programme in 2010.

Since then a total of 790 children have been reintegrated into families – 100 during the last year.

The programme has three key goals:
1. To train 20 churches in actively participating in family-based care initiatives.
2. To support 20 CCIs in changing their practices so that they conform to government requirements.
3. To strengthen the network of churches and CCI ministries who learn and share together in childcare.

Over the last year, links have been created with church leaders, teachers, local leaders and probation officers in the communities where the children have been resettled to provide a support network for the child.

Nineteen parents who are caring for children by long-term fostering were trained in business skills and are now being supported to start their own small enterprises.

Additionally, 19 new organisations have committed to being part of a new phase of CRANE’s Children in Families programme and have been trained in four modules which include family therapy, child development and counselling, parenting skills and tools for healing their history and neural linguistic programming.

All these modules were aimed at helping social workers deal with challenges that they were personally working through from the past and heal them so that they could effectively help others in the same areas.

“Families are our hope for the future and the Church in Africa has great potential to strengthen support in families.”
(World Without Orphans)

Thirty-four child protection committees have been formed in the church communities where we are working.

CRANE’s street children’s working group organised and participated in the International Day for Street Children in April 2015 for 200 children and 100 adults. In December 2015, it also hosted a Christmas Party for more than 400 children living on streets. The event shared positive messages through sports, music and dance and provided opportunities for counselling.

In November 2015, 47 pastors and Christian ministry leaders attended a one-day conference which aimed to raise awareness about their role to care for children. It challenged them to call their congregations to embrace family-based care as opposed to institutional care for children, which can be detrimental to development.

**CHILDREN WITHOUT FAMILIES IN UGANDA**

50,000 children are in child care institutions *
10,000 children are on the streets *
80% of children in Ugandan ‘orphanages’ have at least one living biological parent

* Source: Ugandan Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development
WHAT’S NEXT?

In the next two years we will continue to train and equip 20 local churches to work with 20 Child Care Institutions (CCIs). Plans include:

• Hosting a city-wide day conference for 60 church leaders.
• Holding a five-day training of trainers for church personnel from the 20 churches responsible for finding and supporting foster families.
• Helping directors of 20 CCIs to commit to working together with churches to create a model of family-based care through the network of churches and ministries.
• Providing training for two social workers from each of the 20 CCIs.
• Starting a forum for professional child-care workers in churches, government and CCIs who will work together.
• Developing a toolkit for churches on the importance of children being raised in families.

The aim is to reintegrate 150 children per year from CCIs to family-based care that is supported by local churches.

CALVIN IS BACK WITH FAMILY

Calvin returned home to an abandoned house. While he was out fetching water, his uncle’s family had packed all their belongings and moved house without telling him. It later emerged that this was a result of an argument between Calvin’s uncle and his father, who had brought him to live with his uncle, as his stepmother was mistreating him. He became separated from all his relatives and found himself living on the streets.

Calvin discovered the family reintegration programme after the police arrested him for living on the streets. They brought him to the Kampala City Authority, which in turn referred him, via another network member, to Save Street Children Uganda, a CRANE member specialising in rehabilitating street children.

In partnership with CRANE, it located Calvin’s elder brother, who was willing to take him in. Calvin has since returned to school, where his teachers have given him very positive feedback.
Viva is working with partner networks in India to train and support volunteers from local churches to challenge discrimination, report abuse and provide mentoring to girls so they can play a positive part in society.

Young girls in India are discriminated against in many ways and violation of their rights is rampant. Child labour, sexual abuse, child marriage, school dropout and trafficking are all common for Indian girls, and they experience extreme prejudice. Studies show that girls under the age of five are 50% more likely to die than boys.

Through the Dare to be Different mentoring programme, Viva’s partner networks in Delhi, Dehradun, Patna and Hyderabad have already helped more than 300 young teenage girls to build their self-esteem, understand puberty and manage peer pressure.

The mentors also met the parents and persuaded them to send their girls to school. As a result, the girls know how to avoid situations that make them vulnerable to abuse and parents support their daughters to complete education.

Over the last year, Viva India has focused on providing training through mentoring and child protection programmes.

We trained 25 teachers and child care workers in Dehradun, Delhi and Hyderabad to mentor a total of 300 teenagers. The trained mentors identified the most neglected teenagers in their project and carried out one-to-one mentoring sessions with them.

Nadesh, a teacher at Sheha Academy in Dehradun, was on the course. He helps 20 children from the rag picker and slum community and told us, “Almost all of the children mentored have showed remarkable improvement in their self-esteem and, as a result, are participating in class activities and taking responsibility. The teachers and mentors here frequently discuss the improvements and challenges, and student-teacher relations have improved mainly because of Viva’s training.”

Viva India has also trained over 80 project leaders in recognising, preventing, recording and reporting child abuse, particularly against girls. After the training Anaya, a senior teacher from Shema School in Bengaluru said, “Before we were only commanding, now we are listening. I now realise that there actually is more discipline while we have become less strict and showing more love and compassion. The children usually don’t share so much with their parents because they are usually very busy with their work and very stressed because of their situations. The children are very happy to share with the teachers now.”

A recently formed school committee focuses on child safety and counselling, and every floor in the school has a vigilance officer who takes care of the children’s safety.

“‘We cannot all succeed when half of us are held back. We call upon our sisters around the world to be brave – to embrace the strength within themselves and realise their full potential.”’

(Malala Yousafzai, Nobel Peace Prize winner)

Another significant achievement last year was the launch of The Good Treatment Campaign across the six partner networks in India. This child-led advocacy programme, which has successfully run in Latin America for 11 years, focused in India on encouraging equal opportunity for girls. In total, more than 10,000 adults signed a promise to treat children well.

BEING A GIRL IN INDIA

Almost two-thirds more girls than boys die before their fourth birthday. (National Family Health Survey) 4.5 million girls in India under 15 years of age are married with children. (2011 census) 71% of girls report having been neglected by family. (Indian Ministry of Women and Child Development)
WHAT’S NEXT?

Our vision is that the six Viva partner networks in India – in Bengaluru, Delhi, Dehradun, Hyderabad, Patna and Ranchi – will work collectively to create cities where girl children feel safe and valued. This is in line with Sustainable Development Goal 5: ‘achieving gender equality and empower all women and girls’, which has three clear objectives:

1. Change attitudes on the value and rights of girls
2. Help girls to feel safe and empowered
3. Provide mentoring and counselling support for girls

The aims of this three-year programme are that:

- 60,000 people make a conscious decisions to value and safeguard girls
- 10,000 girls participate in family decision-making about their studies and their marriage
- 18,000 families protect girls
- 120 organisations, schools and churches are safer places for girls
- 1,200 neglected and abused girls are mentored and their self-esteem restored through the Dare to be different programme
- 1,000 abuse cases are referred for further action

CONFIDENCE FOR RAAHI

In a single year, 15-year-old Raahi lost both her parents, and was left in sole charge of her younger sisters and brothers. How could she survive? In the busyness of the slum in which she lived, who would even notice? Roshni did.

Roshni is a volunteer from a local church, part of Viva’s partner network in Delhi. She met with Raahi week after week, talking, listening and supporting her as she worked through her grief and fears for the future.

As a Viva-trained mentor, she helped build Raahi’s confidence and self-esteem, and encouraged her to apply for a job. Raahi is now working part-time as an assistant at a local school as she continues her studies.

In a country in which her gender marks her out to many as a second class citizen, Raahi was given the gift of self-belief.
Viva is working with its partner networks in Nepal, the Philippines and Lebanon to train community leaders to know what to do when disaster strikes, and help children to live through and recover from traumatic events.

When disaster hits or conflict breaks out, children are the most affected and the most vulnerable.

In an increasingly volatile world, local churches and local people are often the first to respond and they’re effective because they’re rooted in the area and will stay even after the emergency. By equipping and strengthening their response, Viva is helping children receive the support they need and building lasting capacity in those who are passionate about supporting children and families.

NEPAL

Two large earthquakes in Nepal in spring 2015 brought devastation to communities in which our partner network CarNet Nepal was already active.

Over the following year, the network provided emergency food supplies to 30,000 people, with 2,600 households receiving shelter kits, 135 transitional shelters constructed and 48 toilets for 16 schools.

Around 2,500 children affected by the disaster received psychosocial first aid support through five-day camps held by partner OperationSAFE. At the time of the earthquake, Nepal had only one recognised child psychiatrist, and so the need to help children was particularly pressing. OperationSAFE trained 50 church volunteers in Nuwakot and Kathmandu, who then ran camps in schools and evacuation camps.

Knowing that child traffickers exploit the post-disaster situation, when families are at their most vulnerable, 25 Child Friendly Spaces’ were created, which provide temporary activities and support for children in emergency situations or in areas of continuing crisis. These protected 1,500 children from harm, with 20,000 people receiving awareness training. The local government in Sindhupalchowk district commended CarNet Nepal for its well-organised relief efforts, saying it set a benchmark for best practice for other agencies.

PHILIPPINES

Amidst the ongoing rebuilding after the devastation from Typhoon Haiyan in 2013, there has been a real need to help children who had fallen behind in their education, especially teenagers held back by increased family commitments.

In response to this need, Viva’s partner network PCMN held training courses for teachers. One of these was held for 33 teachers in the town of Lawaan in Eastern Samar. The goal of the training was to help these teachers better facilitate their learning sessions on reading and comprehension with the 1,000 children that are in the PCMN tutorial programme.

PCMN is also training community leaders on being prepared for when disaster strikes – vital in the Philippines, which is regularly hit by strong typhoons.

LEBANON / SYRIA

Viva is working alongside the Lebanese NGO, LSES, and its networks of church partners in Syria and Lebanon, to develop child-focused programmes to address the risks faced by children who have lived through conflict.

Local churches have recognised the need to support children, and are finding new ways of working together to help them recover and develop.

We are supporting a team of young people in a conflict-affected area of Syria to initiate and develop a Child Friendly Space – a safe place for children to come every day where they can play and learn, and receive support from people they can trust. Many children have lost a parent or have been separated from part of their family.

After five years of conflict, one of the greatest needs for children is education, with over half of refugee children in Lebanon still out of school.

DISASTER & CONFLICT STATISTICS

An average of 20 major storms affect the Philippines each year. Nepal’s earthquake on 25 April 2015 was its largest in 80 years. Due to conflict, 8 million children inside Syria and neighbouring countries urgently need assistance.
WHAT’S NEXT?
As well as working through recognised partner networks in places such as Nepal and the Philippines, we plan to use our 20 years of experience by working in partnership with several other relief and development organisations in areas like the Middle East. We will do this by:
- Strengthening and supporting their existing work with children and young people.
- Enabling local churches and NGOs to deliver a high quality, high impact response for children.
- Developing guidance and resources on the most effective ways to protect and support children in emergencies.

Viva is providing training and support for a number of churches that have begun informal education projects and, by bringing them together, enabling them to share and support one another in their work with children. In the last year over 50 people representing 12 church-based education projects in Lebanon have taken part.

In today’s world of often unpredictable and long-lasting conflicts, churches are willing to be involved in caring for children and their families for the long-term. Supporting this response is critically needed right now – and that’s why we’re there.

AYUSH’S FREE FROM FEAR
Several months after the first earthquake in Nepal, nine-year-old Ayush was still in shock and found it difficult to go about daily life.

At night he suffered from bad dreams which left him shivering or sweating. He lost his appetite and no longer liked playing with his friends, preferring instead to stay inside, holding his mother’s hand.

Then, one week, he went to the five-day camp run by CarNet Nepal in partnership with Operation Safe. The camp was designed to provide psychological first aid to children and help them overcome situations of trauma. Along with other children, he took part in games and craft activities. He learnt that he was not alone in what he experienced and was encouraged to talk through how he was feeling.

After the camp, Ayush’s mother began noticing a small but gradual improvement. Ayush slowly began to play with his friends and eventually returned to school.
Viva is supporting a new network in Oxford to catalyse a collaborative response from local churches and other care providers to the complex needs of young people in order to increase their self-esteem and resilience.

The Doorsteps network in Oxford has been gathering members and momentum since the public launch of our research report in May 2015.

The event was attended by 70 people, including leaders of different faiths, children’s and youth workers, and representatives from the voluntary and public sector, and the police.

Our year-long research had mapped the most significant issues affecting children and young people in Oxfordshire, and showed that the top five issues are struggling families, low self-esteem, difficulty entering employment, household poverty and lack of aspiration.

Three pilot projects have been running, aimed at:
1. Breaking the cycle of underachievement for a group of 15 young people in east Oxford through a programme called Find your Fire.
2. Supporting families within local churches to become foster carers, partnering with another Christian charity, Home for Good.
3. Equipping churches to reach out to families in light of proposed closures to children’s centres.

Find your fire is using a peer education project to address root issues of bullying, self-esteem and safety for young people, leading to transformative change. The programme is co-ordinated by Doorsteps, in partnership with churches and local community groups, and funded by Oxford City Council and Big Lottery Awards For All.

One project last year was a peer mentoring app and chat room created by James, a 15 year-old who ran the pilot in his school, offering live advice around GCSE option choices to year 9 students and training peers to be live advisers alongside a number of youthworkers.

James says, “It has developed my skills in web design that I couldn’t do before and helped me gain confidence in talking to others and advising them. I’d recommend it to anybody considering joining the project next year.”

Other young people in the project wrote and recorded an original soundtrack all about making good choices and as well as peer education projects, the programme is also providing 15 young people with one-to-one coaching, outward-bound style activities and level 1 or 2 accreditation training in skills for employability and personal effectiveness.

Katy Thompson, Viva’s Network Consultant for Doorsteps, says, “Our hope is that through taking part in this tailored leadership and training programme, these young people will be able to become more resilient and able to address the issues affecting them. We want them to be able to support other young people around them and to communicate positive messages.”

WHAT’S NEXT?

A second year of Find your fire is planned, plus a conference aimed at inspiring, equipping and connecting more churches to effectively reach out to children and vulnerable families in their community, especially in light of the impending closures of local children’s centres.

CHILDREN IN NEED IN THE UK

1 in 10 children are severely neglected in childhood, with 50 children taken into care every day
4 in 10 of young people not in education, employment or training rarely leave the house
1 in 10 five to sixteen year olds suffer from a diagnosable mental health disorder
TOGETHER FOR CHILDREN

ZIMBABWE

Viva Network Zimbabwe’s education support project taught 191 children from Harare’s most deprived townships at eight Learning Support Centres, run by local churches. The centres provide ‘catch-up’ lessons on literacy and numeracy, and provide trained counsellors and sports coaches. Survey results showed that children in the Learning Support Centres had an average of 23 per cent greater improvement in reading and 16 per cent greater improvement in mathematics compared with children in formal education. A mobile library allowed several hundred children to access books, magazines and games, with an additional 270 caregivers borrowing resources, thereby meeting the needs of at least 2,700 children.

GUATEMALA

With Viva’s technical and financial support, our partner network Red Viva Guatemala has now been running the birth registration programme I Exist for four years, and during this time has directly registered more than 2,100 children, with 693 registered in the last year alone. Through the expertise of its members, and in liaison with the National Registry of Persons, the network has helped these children – who are generally older than infants and therefore come with more complex legal regulations – through the registration process. The government centres across the country which Viva helped to establish in 2014 continue to see thousands of newborns registered whilst both parents were present. A training initiative is equipping midwives to talk with families about the importance of birth registration and churches are being established as places where parents can get information.

CHRISTMAS PARTIES

Globally, over 9,000 children attended a Viva Christmas Party last December, with 24 parties arranged by 19 partner networks, involving 330 different churches and organisations. Around 2,800 children went to one of the six Christmas Parties held in India. In Patna, for example, 700 children were reached by the network, and offered a breakfast, hot lunch and a magic show with dancing and singing. These annual events are occasions of great excitement for children where they receive a present, a good meal and the knowledge that they are loved and valued. About 40 per cent of children who went to parties in 2015 had never had contact with Viva before, so in January 2016 many more children were introduced to programmes which will help them in years to come.

GLOBAL FUNDRAISING

Fundraising for Viva reached new heights last December as 11 courageous men and women took on the challenge of a lifetime to climb Mount Kilimanjaro, raising £39,000 for our global work with vulnerable children. Sore feet, exhausted bodies and disorientated minds were worth it for the spectacular views at the top, the great camaraderie, and the sense of achievement at raising such a fantastic amount. For many it was a transformative trip. One of the team says, “I think I had a life-changing experience which I had not expected before the trip. It’s still something I am coming to terms with.” And in Hong Kong, torrential rain, soaked trainers and super early starting times didn’t put off 28 Viva supporters from running the Hong Kong Standard Chartered races to raise a total over $155,000 HKD for Viva’s work.

COULD YOU HOLD A FUNDRAISING EVENT FOR VIVA? GET IN TOUCH WITH LIZ AT L.CROSS@VIVA.ORG
We’ve had another good year fundraising for our work with an increase in income to last year (£2,311,843 this year; £1,669,421 last year). Our fundraising costs decreased slightly (£259,466 this year; £271,399 last year). We continue to raise funds in the UK, US and Hong Kong and the type of funds raised is different in each country. The UK continues to resource fundraisers based in other countries.

Our financial position at the year end is more secure than previous years. There was a surplus of £30,262 on unrestricted funds. This gives us unrestricted net assets of £265,331 which is better than in the past.

For more information about our finances, please request a copy of the Annual Report and Audited Accounts 2015-16 by emailing info@viva.org
GLOBAL EXPENDITURE

£1,856,863

£1,433,343 / $2,126,559 / HK$16,490,373 (2014-15)

Charitable expenditure 82%
Governance & support 8%
Fundraising 10%

GLOBAL EXPENDITURE BY AREA OF WORK

*Education* <1%
Anti-violence 16%
Anti-trafficking 10%
Family 16%
Emergency response 13%
Doorsteps (Oxford) 5%
Health & disability 1%
Child Friendly Church 5%
Child rights 2%
Capacity building 5%
Child protection 27%

*‘Education’ does not include the UK DFID support for Uganda, which is disproportionately high due to the ongoing contract for our girls’ education programme in Uganda.*
**OUR LEADERSHIP**

**INTERNATIONAL BOARD**

Dick Hunter is the current Board chair. He has extensive international management experience and has this year joined The Bible Society as a programme advisor for China.

Scott Hannah chairs the Viva US Board and is based in Redmond, Washington. His work with Microsoft focuses on sales and marketing for hardware products in the Asia Pacific region.

Roy Huang chairs the Viva HK Board. He has practised law for 30 years in the US and Hong Kong, has been a partner at Arthur Andersen and worked in the HK Stock Exchange.

Nicholas Bamber chaired Viva’s international board for five years. He works in the unlisted private placement segment of the debt capital markets.

Alexa Barker has extensive experience in managing and developing high-performing sales and customer service teams in the financial services sector.

David Bright has had a career in both business with Unilever and in international development, most recently as head of economic justice programming for Oxfam.

Miles Buttrick is Viva’s treasurer and sits on the Viva HK Board. He has 35 years’ experience as an accountant and corporate treasurer, and is currently an independent non-exec director.

Minu Chowdhury-Westlake has worked in media and entertainment, and in Christian mission, and is now a public relations specialist in the commercial and voluntary sectors.

Martin Hull is Viva’s company secretary. He was part of the team that established Viva in 1996 and has since focused on developing the charity’s monitoring and evaluation.

Amanda McCalla-Leacy has over 20 years of Human Resource Management experience and is currently Accenture’s Global HR Managing Director.

Stuart Pascall is a retired church leader. He has served on the board of several Christian agencies and on the council of the Evangelical Alliance, and taught at Moorlands College.

Sarah Powley is a full-time foster carer for Hounslow Borough Council. She has previously had director roles for The Fostering Network, KPMG and World Vision.

**STAFF LEADERSHIP TEAM**

Mark Stavers – Chief Executive
Now leading his third charity, Mark has experience in business turnaround and charitable growth.

Brian Wilkinson – Head of Network Development
Brian’s expertise is in developing greater collective action through Viva’s partner networks.

Shelagh Windsor-Richards – Head of People Development
Shelagh has worked in human resources for over ten years and is a trained co-active coach.

Katy Thompson – Head of Doorsteps (UK)
Katy helped launch Viva in 1996, and previously catalysed and supported Latin America networks.

Grev Parmenter – Finance Director
A qualified accountant, Gрев worked with corporates for 20 years before the charity sector.

**NETWORK CONSULTANTS**

Carmen Alvarez – Viva Latin America
Carmen is a qualified medical doctor, previously working for UNICEF and World Vision.

Joel Porras – Viva Latin America
Joel has extensive experience working in social services for children at risk programmes.

Mirtza Granados – Viva Latin America
Mirtza has a background in journalism, and has worked in a ministry to children for 12 years.

Mim Friday – Viva Africa
Mim trained as a teacher and worked for seven years as a field officer for Careforce before Viva.

Paul Kabunga – Viva Africa
Paul has 20 years’ experience in strategy development for an HIV/AIDS organisation.

Justine Demmer – Viva Asia
Justine founded the National Freedom Network in her homeland, South Africa.

Gary Kamaal – Viva India
Gary has been responsible for promoting the Asha Health and Development Society in India.

Devesh Lal – Viva India
Devesh has experience in health education and a life skills training programme for teenagers.
A single organisation can only do so much. But when 5,500 churches and NGOs come together with a relentless focus on bringing about change for children, it's time to start listening. Here’s why, and what’s special about Viva’s approach:

**NETWORK MODEL**
Viva has helped pioneer a collaborative approach that works, and is being increasingly adopted by other NGOs. We have 20 years’ experience of building locally-led networks of churches and organisations that deliver collective action programmes designed to tackle the root causes of problems affecting children.

**SCALE**
Each network brings together an average of 160 organisations (in Nepal, it’s a mighty 500). There is real strength in numbers, plus the added benefit of an invaluable diversity of skills and services. The power of working together makes ambitious goals possible.

**SOCIAL CAPITAL**
As the reputation of a network grows, it attracts contributions from many other people across a city. This can be as simple as the person who cooks food for a refugee each week, or the psychiatrist or lawyer who donates their time and expertise. A wide, strong safety net of people who care starts to form, vital for catalysing change across a society.

**SOLUTIONS**
We don’t go for a piecemeal approach; we tackle the causes of a problem head-on. Drawing on in-depth local knowledge and shared learning from other networks across the world, we design solution strategies which take a comprehensive and strategic approach to resolving issues facing children.

**SUSTAINABILITY**
Networks are made up of local people working to help the children they live amongst. We don’t fly in staff from other countries to do the work of the networks, and we don’t need exit strategies because networks aren’t going anywhere. They are committed to doing whatever it takes to make problems like trafficking, poverty and violence history.

**QUALITY**
It’s not just about breadth and scale; it’s also about depth. Viva makes quality improvement a priority. Many people working with children lack training, skills and support. By training projects in areas such as financial management and effective planning, and training people in areas such as child protection and self-care, we can significantly improve the quality of care vulnerable children receive.

**COST-EFFECTIVENESS**
Normally, the expectation is that to get results you need to invest a lot of money. But what if you had access to thousands of people’s volunteer time, skills, expertise, determination and passion? This is what a Viva network looks like. We unite and improve what exists; we unlock local resources. We are lean and creative, and as a result our work is highly cost-effective.

**EVALUATION**
The importance we attach to quality and learning extends to our monitoring and evaluation. In an annual Network Health Check, we undertake rigorous research into the effectiveness of our networks. This learning then informs our planning, to ensure that our work to help some of the world’s most vulnerable children is the very best it can be.
SEVEN KEY FUTURE AIMS

To scale up our girls’ education programme in Uganda in at least 50 new communities

To develop resources on how to protect and support children in emergencies

To reintegrate 150 children a year in Uganda from institutions to loving families

To keep 35,000 children safe from violence through a six-city programme in Central America

To raise awareness about child trafficking amongst 6,000 children and adults in Nepal

To mobilise churches in Oxford to more effectively reach out and help young people to thrive

TO SCALE UP OUR GIRLS’ EDUCATION PROGRAMME IN UGANDA IN AT LEAST 50 NEW COMMUNITIES

TO DEVELOP RESOURCES ON HOW TO PROTECT AND SUPPORT CHILDREN IN EMERGENCIES

TO REINTEGRATE 150 CHILDREN A YEAR IN UGANDA FROM INSTITUTIONS TO LOVING FAMILIES

TO KEEP 35,000 CHILDREN SAFE FROM VIOLENCE THROUGH A SIX-CITY PROGRAMME IN CENTRAL AMERICA

TO RAISE AWARENESS ABOUT CHILD TRAFFICKING AMONGST 6,000 CHILDREN AND ADULTS IN NEPAL

TO MOBILISE CHURCHES IN OXFORD TO MORE EFFECTIVELY REACH OUT AND HELP YOUNG PEOPLE TO THRIVE

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Viva is an operating name of Viva Network. Viva Network is a company limited by guarantee no. 3162776, registered charity no. 1053389, and registered in England at Unit 8, The Gallery, 54 Marston Street, Oxford, OX4 1LF, UK.

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Viva Network (Hong Kong) Limited is a company limited by guarantee and registered charity with company no. 1657942, and registered in Hong Kong SAR at 21/F, Sunshine Plaza, 353 Lockhart Road, Wan chai, Hong Kong.

Any children referred to have had their names and photos changed in accordance our Child Protection Policy.