2008/2009

Annual Report



Education

Education remains a key issue for Save the Children Canada, because of its ability to provide children and youth with opportunities to see past their current circumstance and equip them to transform their world.

In Burkina Faso, issues such as distance, income, and in the case of young girls, early marriage, all contribute to the concern around a child's right to education. Save the Children Canada is the only international organization working in the Cascades region to increase the access to and quality of relevant basic education for girls and boys. This year, Save the Children provided 25 schools with material support and training in child-centred methodologies. Improving staterun non-formal education programs is also a focus for Save the Children in Burkina Faso.

23% of children in Bolivia, mostly girls, do not complete primary education because schools aren't available and the curriculum is irrelevant to indigenous children living in rural places. This year Save the Children made school more accessible for 4,000 children and made sure that over 24,000 children affected by flooding got back into school.

Save the Children's Rewrite the Future campaign aims to increase access to primary education for 3 million children living in conflict affected countries and improving the quality of education for a total of 8 million children. Save the Children protects children through training on child rights and helps to create a culture of peace for children in the midst of conflict. Save the Children Canada supports Rewrite the Future programs in Colombia, Haiti, Sudan and

2008 was a particularly difficult year for Haiti with three hurricanes that caused considerable damage to school infrastructure, postponed the start of school for many students, and resulted in delays in providing support to communities



that were unreachable. Only 25% of private education services are licensed by the Ministry of Education. Save the Children works in two areas of the country: the urban areas of Port au Prince and the South East Department. Save the Children has partnered with schools to provide training to teachers and school administrators to improve their skills, support the establishment of a second shift in the afternoon for children currently out of school, and distribute school books for children in grades 1-3. Save the Children is also helping to improve school infrastructure based on needs assessment and is constructing a new four classroom school for children in the community of Macary. In total, Save the Children is supporting more than 6,500 children across 165

Afghanistan's primary education enrollment remains low, with a much lower number of girls attending. Save the Children Canada, with funding from CIDA, focuses in the Faryab province to improve the school facilities. A total of 5.710 children have benefitted from these particular Save the Children programs, while more than 11.500 students have benefitted from improved skills of teachers and headmasters through teacher and management training and the provision of learning materials.

Colombia is a significant focus country for Save the Children Canada, as it continues to be plagued by violence, preventing children from growing up in a safe and healthy environment. Save the Children Canada leads the Rewrite the Future campaign, and steadily promotes the right of children to an education which, even in the midst of crisis, protects them from the risks caused by conflict and displacement. This gives them an opportunity to reconstruct their lives and overcome the damaging effects of violence. In Colombia, Rewrite the Future has provided 116,443 children with higher quality education. This has been achieved through teacher training, improvements to school infrastructure and providing textbooks and supplies. Additionally, Save the Children has advocated for national

conflict resolution. In Kenya, Early Childhood Education (ECE) is a requirement for entry into primary education. Children who are internally displaced are at great risk of missing out on basic education pecause they do not have access to an ECE

program. In the past year, Save the Children

attention to safety in schools and enhancements

to the national curriculum to address gender

inequality and help build children's skills in



that were equipped with furniture, learning

and outdoor play areas in the Meru Central

District. More than 500 children from poor

and very poor communities are now enjoying

improved and safe learning environments. To

supplies and gave girls female hygiene product

- an essential part of reducing the dropout

rate for girls as they can then attend school

throughout the month. More than 900 children

around Nairobi experienced benefits to their

education because of Save the Children's work

The language of the Innu, Innu-aimun, is a

hunting language in which words must relate

directly to concrete physical objects and to

known actions and events. European language

are dominated by abstract terms and concepts

that do not connect to everyday experience the

way Innu-aimun does. Parents are concerned

that the Innu language is losing ground, and that

learn about their identity, history and culture. In

order to help these communities to keep their

school is an important place for children to

language alive and thereby provide children

bearing on their own culture and experience,

with a vision of the world that has greater

Save the Children Canada partnered with

the Institut culturel et éducative montagnais to

of real relevance to children; topics ranged

from blueberry picking to hunting to visiting

grandparents, fishing for salmon and the first

produce 9 preschool books in Innu on subjects

Save the Children renovated classrooms,

provided uniforms and necessary school

help internally displaced families around Nairobi,

materials, gender-sensitive sanitation facilities

resolution skills, starting a landmines awareness club. But we weren't in Canada; we were in Pasto, Colombia, where the last remnants of Colombia's fifty year-long war still rage. This young woman was telling a group of concerned citizens how she and Save the Children are working to build a peaceful future in a conflictravaged part of the world. When we consider the people Save the Children works with, she is certainly not alone in her courage and commitment in the face of overwhelming odds. We are fortunate to work with partners from around the world who are making a profound difference in the lives of

> 2008-2009 was a year of stable and encouraging progress for Save the Children Canada. We broadened our financial base both from private donors and from government and institutional grants. We improved our co-ordination and our integration with the International Save the Children Alliance and, in so doing, had greater impact more efficiently on behalf of children in need around the world. It was a year when the risks and hardship faced by children remained daunting, but when our ability to address those

She was as poised and articulate as any high

school valedictorian in Canada. In a strong

and steady voice, with no hint of stage fright

in spite of an audience of more than 500, she

- helping with the PTA, improving conflict-

talked about the work she and her friends have

been doing to make her school a place of peace

In 2008-2009, Save the Children faced a major test when responding to Cyclone Nargis in Myanmar, a storm that affected some 2.4 million people. We were in a unique position to help, since, through the International Save

the Children Alliance, we were the International Non-Governmental Organization with the largest operation on the ground in the country. 500,000 people benefitted from Save the Children's response; an excellent example of how a global movement can come together to take action in ways that we, in Canada, never could if we operated on our own.

As well as our excellent response to emergencies, making positive changes longlasting and sustainable is a crucial part of our mandate. Advocating for change is one of the important ways we do this. When we can show governments the success of our methods, when we can encourage them to change laws so that they benefit children, then we are complementing our work at the community level in a way that will make our efforts longer lasting and build a generation of change. From a forum with business and government on cocoa and child labour, to a conference with peace negotiators on how education builds peace, we showed world leaders how they can help make

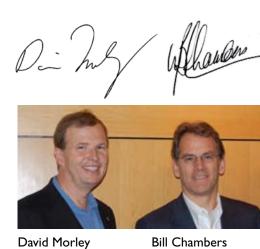
Save the Children Canada this year celebrated diversity, children and the power of art at Rideau Hall in the nation's capital, along with our partners, the Emily Carr Institute of Art and Design and Arts Umbrella. An exhibit of art created by children celebrating identity went on display for all visitors to Rideau Hall to enjoy. The year closed with a wonderful letter from the office of the Governor General, Her Excellency the Right Honourable Michaelle Jean, ndicating that she would become Patron of Save the Children Canada for the duration of

a better world for children.

As an organization that supports the rights of all children, we also support activities in Canada, where our partners help some of Canada's most marginalized children. This year we began supporting efforts of the Innu Nation of northern Quebec to promote the use of their language and culture, so that their children will have a strong and positive cultural identity to use as a springboard to interact with the wider

As the year progressed we continued our efforts to improve our efficiency and effectiveness for children by working more closely with other members of the Save the Children Alliance. We are sharing and streamlining our administrative costs, and, by working together, we have a global presence which means both our fundraising (with global partners like IKEA and Scholastic Publishing) and our advocacy activities at the United Nations and at Global Summits have a much greater impact on the lives of children.

Thank you for your ongoing support,



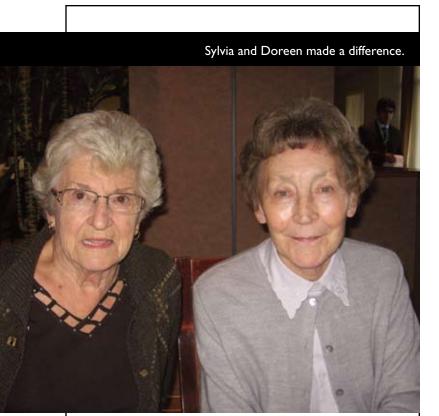
Bill Chambers Chair of the Board President and CEO

nna made a difference.

Supporter News

difference in the world and came across Save the Children Canada while searching the internet. Joanna took on the task of raising funds and awareness to help better the lives of children with two innovative events at her school in St. Albert, Alberta. Joanna created and sold packets of 'Snowman Soup' which were comprised of hot chocolate mix, marshmallows, chocolate and a candy cane stir stick. Joanna also drew bookmarks with sayings like, 'The more you read the smarter you get' and 'Reading a book can take you away to worlds of mystery'. Overall, Joanna raised over \$150 for Save the Children Canada and she hopes to continue fundraising, while inspiring others to do the same. The money raised was designated to our projects in Bolivia that are part of a Canadian Government matching grant program, where the funds are matched in a ratio of 3:1. The \$150 raised by Joanna translated into over \$600 in the field, meaning she was able to help many children through her fundraising efforts.

Eleven-year old Joanna wanted to make a



Sylvia Duff and Doreen Rowe have been volunteers with Save the Children Canada since 1963 and 1973, respectively. They have been working together since the 1970s in Richmond, B.C. to raise funds and awareness for Save the Children Canada. From garden parties to old stamp sales, knitting sales and bake sales, these two volunteers continue to demonstrate their dedication to the organization. "Whatever you give as a volunteer, you get back in many ways", explains Doreen Rowe as she talks about her rewarding experience. Sylvia's passion for the cause has been key to her continued involvement. In her words, 'I love Save the Children Canada"

The Holiday Card Campaign made a differenc

Since 2004 Bernie Altshuller and Soni Pancham have worked tirelessly to spearhead a successful Holiday Card Campaign. The two volunteers from Kingston, Ontario, have been at the helm of the project and do not leave a stone unturned when selling Holiday Cards to raise funds for Save the Children Canada. Through the tremendous efforts of Bernie and Soni, together with the support for the Campaign by our many donors who purchase the cards, over \$75,000 has been raised.







The Trekkers made a difference.

In Spring 2009 a group of nine people answered the call to participate in a one-in-a-lifetime adventure for Save the Children Canada. It was a 10-day trip to Peru that featured a 40 km trek along the Inca Trail arriving at Machu Picchu. Each participant paid their own expenses and also had to raise at least \$3000 in pledges to support Save the Children programs in Latin America.

HIV and AIDS

challenges improved markedly.



While the figures continue to be staggering, Save the Children is seeing a positive change in the lives of the children who benefit from the HIV and AIDS programs around the world.

The national HIV and AIDS scenario is grim and challenging in Kenya, with millions of children orphaned. Children are often the head of households, taking on responsibilities well beyond their years. The country's Ministry of Health has made the prevention of HIV a priority particularly in youth aged 15-24. Save the Children Canada is a forerunner in programming in this area by developing and engaging peer educators, youth-led groups and encouraging the creation of community based organizations (CBO). The Total Care Initiative (TCI) implemented by Save the Children Canada covers the whole range of services for those affected by HIV and AIDS: training,

education, voluntary counselling and treatment, _outreach and home-based service delivery, and _ livelihood support. More people than ever are

seeking this assistance and wide-scale awareness has meant less stigma around HIV and AIDS. resulting in a greater number of people going for testing. To mark World AIDS Day, Save

the Children Canada organized an HIV testing service that attracted nearly 550 people. Of these, 20 women and 4 men were found to be positive, allowing them to address the issue, begin treatment and prevent the disease from Even though Burkina Faso has a lower

prevalence rate of HIV and AIDS in the region, it is still high enough to be a concern for the welfare of children and youth. Because it is a hub for migration, Burkina Faso is an area extremely susceptible to the transmission of HIV and sexually transmitted diseases (STD). Save the Children Canada is working to reduce children's vulnerability to HIV and AIDS by partnering with local grassroots organizations. Care and support are being offered to orphans and other vulnerable children through access to education, provision of healthy food and the training of peer educators who provide workshops on topics like healthy sexuality. The community based organizations are now much nore able to provide basic services to children. Because of our efforts, including an aggressive wareness campaign, centres supported by Save the Children Canada reported a lower rate of infection and more people are coming for oluntary counselling and testing. The price of

by 77%, allowing Save the Children Canada and its partners to care for an even greater number

In Bolivia, HIV and AIDS is a growing problem

with high rates of Bolivians migrating to neighbouring countries for work where the rate of infection is higher, yet it is not recognized as an important issue by society or government. In the past year, Save the Children trained more than 200 children and youth as peer-to-peer educators to promote healthy sexuality and the prevention of HIV and AIDS. As well, Save the Children Canada organized and participated in over 100 educational fairs and campaigns to educate the public. In rural areas where many migrants come from, Save the Children worked to share information on HIV and AIDS, as this is where the issue is least discussed.

A primary component of Save the Children _Canada's HIV and AIDS prevention_program in _ Nicaragua is advocacy, including consultations with civil society, community leaders and church organizations to promote the use of condoms as a safe and secure method to prevent early and unwanted pregnancies, sexually transmitted diseases, and HIV. One of the main pillars of this advocacy, and of Save the Children programs in general, is the involvement and leadership of youth in lobbying and mobilization activities.

Emergency Relief

Emergencies hit the poorest communities and most vulnerable people the hardest. Children are most at risk. Natural disasters are increasing in their frequency and their severity, quadrupling over the past two decades. Globally, in an average year, natural disasters affect the lives of 250 million people. In 2008 alone, more than 230,000 people lost their lives in more than 300 disasters, making Save the Children's work that much more imperative. Conflicts destroy the lives of children and their communities. Death, injury, deprivation, and attacks against civilians are ongoing in many of the places where Save the Children works.

Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) involves working with communities to help people prepare for and reduce the impact of disasters. Save the Children has pioneered new methods in childcentred DRR that give children more control over their future. Activities that children get involved in include mapping community risks and resources, creating contingency plans and raising awareness amongst their peers, families and communities. DRR programs have been taking place in Sri Lanka, Indonesia and India - countries that were severely affected by the

Haiti was struck by four tropical storms in less than one month. All ten geographic departments in Haiti were seriously hit and affected over 250,000 families. Save the Children was able to reach more than 12,400 of the most vulnerable families with household items (such as blankets, mattresses, sheets and kitchen supplies, water and hygiene kits, which enable families to survive the first months after

The Sichuan earthquake in China claimed the lives of approximately 70,000 people, left nearly 20,000 missing, injured over 360,000 adults and children and destroyed the homes of more than I I million people. Save the Children knows

that providing education in emergencies is an essential way to help children handle the terrible experience of disaster and conflict Save the Children has been able to reach 11,579 children and 363 teachers with education activities by providing school supplies and equipment. Kindergarten classrooms, a total of 49 of them, were supplied in time for the school term and teachers were provided with specialized training to help the children cope with the trauma they had suffered.

In the past year, children in Burkina Faso faced a rising crisis of malnutrition, both chronic and acute. Save the Children responded by providing care for severely and moderately malnourished children. The project benefitted 4,230 children while over 700 staff and volunteers were trained in the identification project is continuing in 2009 for a second phase.

in December 2007, widespread violence erupted in Kenya resulting in approximately 600,000 people displaced and over 1,200 killed. With funding from the Canadian government, in 2008 Save the Children expanded its support for children and communities affected by the conflict, with programming in child protection and education. The team worked on preventing family separation, and establishing child referral systems. Save the Children established temporary learning facilities and child-friendly spaces, facilitated the integration of displaced children into schools, and distributed education supplies to 20 schools and temporary learning spaces benefiting 20,073 violence-affected

A brutal conflict has been raging in Darfur, Sudan since 2003, resulting in the displacement of millions of people, deaths of thousands, and the massive destruction of resources. In 2008, the situation in Darfur further deteriorated due

children, of whom 9,120 were displaced.

to the intensification of the proxy war between

Chad and Sudan. With support from CIDA, Save the Children implemented emergency water, sanitation and nutrition activities in West Darfur with the aim of reducing mortality and morbidity in children. Save the Children provided sustained access to safe water by operating and maintaining water yards, repairing hand pumps, and installing new water sources. For better sanitation, Save the Children installed household latrines, disseminated hygiene and The response also included working with After presidential election results were disputed the Sudanese Ministry of Health to train staff and operate therapeutic feeding centres for malnourished children.

> Children in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) face gross violations of their basic human rights. Save the Children, with funding from CIDA, is responding to meet the emergency sanitation and protection needs of children affected by the conflict. In 2008, we rehabilitated schools, constructed latrines and distributed essential school supplies. By the end of the year, over 6,600 children were being supported with school kits, and 720 students were benefiting from accelerated learning classes specifically designed for children at particular risk of recruitment into armed forces.

More than 130,000 people, including tens of thousands of children, died or disappeared while more than I million people lost their homes when Cyclone Nargis tore through the southern Myanmar on May 2-3, 2008. In the months following the cyclone, Save the Children was able to mount one of the largest emergency responses in its history. In its first year, the emergency health program reached over 120,000 and the education program more than 142,000. Over 500,000 people, nearly one-quarter of them children, who were most affected by the storm have been assisted this year in the wake of the cyclone through Save

the Children programs.

Child Protection

work, but this figure is actually much higher when it includes children working in agriculture and alongside their parents. The contribution of children to the family economy is crucial to their well-being but they run the risk of being exploited in a country where there is little official recognition on child labour. In addition to offering school support and supplies, Save the Children also trained child workers in their rights and how to claim them. Save the Children helped these child workers organize themselves by supporting the national network of working children when they advocated the government to include the protection of child labourers in the new political constitution which was approved this year by national

More than I in 5 children aged 5-14 in Bolivia

safety of children as violence affects many families throughout the country. One of Save the Children's goals is to ensure that schools supported by us are safe for children One of the strategies to achieve this is to encourage parent participation in the school through the establishment and mobilization of Parent Committees. Another strategy is the establishment of Child Rights Clubs in each school. In Port au Prince, Save the Children has established 6 child rights clubs. In the South East, Save the Children is supporting 40 child rights clubs. In total 4,337 children are benefitting from increased awareness of their rights, skills in leadership and project



ncluding sports events, and the collaborative development of Codes of Conduct for schools. Save the Children is also active on two NGO networks working on child protection issues, including the Collectif Contre Traite et Trafic des Enfants et Femmes, and RITER, a network concerned with working children in street

mmunities and authorities. Save the Children Canada has also played an important role in ensuring increased government attention and action on the worst forms of child labour by the National Governments of Burkina Faso and Mali





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Haiti continues to struggle with ensuring the management, extracurricular activities



Fraditionally, children in West Africa have migrated to seek employment or economic opportunities within their own countries or across the porous borders to neighbouring countries. Often children will find themselves in vulnerable situations and at risk of being exploited and abused or even trafficked. Through regional awareness campaigns and advocacy work, Save the Children Canada has ncreased awareness of harmful child work among children and duty bearers, including

out of school children are receiving training and support from Save the Children Canada to become agents of change among their peers Save the Children Canada and its partners have also helped establish neighbourhood watch committees that monitor the children and groups that provide psychosocial suppor throughout their migration.



One Child's Success Story

"Every day is a new opportunity."

~ Pedro, 13, Colombia

Even though he has survived abuse, domestic violence and continues to live in poverty, Pedro has a lease on life that is positive and powerful.

"We are not poor, we just have to struggle harder to get the things we want.'

At 13, he is wise beyond his years. Save the Children Canada supports a school program in Bogotá, Colombia where children For children like Pedro, a better future means peace, security like Pedro in low income neighbourhoods plagued by violence and a way out of poverty. Save the Children Canada is and drug trafficking are given the opportunity to develop their committed to making that future a reality. skills and work towards a better future for themselves

"I am changing lives. I can change how people think."

Pedro talks about how this program, which is teaching children how to communicate through writing in a school newspaper, is changing how people think and act by having hope for a stronger community. He finally feels like he is a part of

