



International Council for Education of
People with Visual Impairment



Annual Report

2011

Message



I am proud to present ICEVI's Annual Report for 2011. In it you will be able to read of the growing success of our core EFA-VI (Education For All Children with Visual Impairment) campaign which we launched with the World Blind Union (WBU) in 2006. Every time I take a look at the figures they have gone up. When I took over as President at the end of 2010 we had helped place 32,000 visually impaired children in school. Now the figure is nearly 50,000. We have also helped to train over 17,000 parents and teachers in relevant skills.

You can also read about our Higher Education programme which, with the generous support of the Nippon Foundation, is harnessing information and communications technology to enable nearly 1200 visually impaired young people to get the most out of their studies in Cambodia, Indonesia, the Philippines and Vietnam. I visited the project in Vietnam at the beginning of this year and was greatly struck by the poise and self-confidence of the young people. I also visited a resource centre to support the education of children in mainstream school where the children's enthusiasm for learning was tangible, as well as the value that was set on ICEVI's contribution.

These are impressive results, in which we justifiably take pride. Whatever success we have is due to the fruitful collaboration we have with numerous partners. In many ways our success is achieved through them and we are enormously grateful to them all. Of course there is much, much more to do, but we are confident that through continued collaboration with our partners there is a great deal more that we can achieve.

C. M. Low

Colin Low

President, ICEVI





Who are we?

Founded in 1952, the International Council for Education of People with Visual Impairment (ICEVI) is an organization of individuals and agencies concerned with the formal and non-formal educational needs of children with visual impairment throughout the world.

ICEVI Regions

The 7 regions of ICEVI and their coverage of countries are as follows:

Africa Region	: 52
East Asia Region	: 19
Europe Region	: 49
Latin America Region	: 19
North America and the Caribbean Region	: 15
Pacific Region	: 15
West Asia Region	: 25

ICEVI works closely with International Non-Governmental Development Organizations (INGDOs) and UN bodies such as United Nations Economic and Social Council (UN-ECOSOC), UNESCO, UNICEF, and WHO. Our biannual magazine "The Educator" is available in inkprint and Braille in both English and Spanish. It is also posted on our website www.icevi.org. We also publish a biannual electronic newsletter that is distributed to more than 4000 individuals and organizations in over 180 countries.

What is the situation at present?

Of the reported 69 million children who are not attending primary school world over it is estimated that 16 million are children with disability of which 4 million have visual loss. Of particular concern to ICEVI are the rights and needs of children and youth in developing countries where blindness is most prevalent and where, on an average, less than 10 per cent of these children have access to any education.

**Is it fair that
9 out of 10 children
with visual impairment are
denied their right to
education?**

What are we all about?

ICEVI brings together at the global level educators, administrators, parents, rehabilitation professionals and others to promote equal educational opportunity for children with visual impairment. ICEVI works closely with UN member agencies, government and non-government organizations concerned with education, as well as with organizations of persons with visual impairment. ICEVI carries out these efforts through seven regional committees which develop their own plan-of-action that builds upon needs articulated by national level committees.

Our International Partners

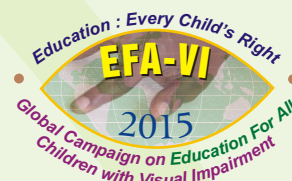
We believe that together all organisations can achieve more and complement the efforts of each other. ICEVI plays the role of a catalyst to facilitate services instead of becoming another service provider and this broad objective is helping us bring all key stakeholders to the discussion table to articulate the global problems confronting education of children with visual impairment.

With the support of the International Partners, ICEVI, acting in partnership with the World Blind Union (WBU) launched a Global Campaign in 2006 to improve educational access to children with visual impairment particularly in the developing countries.





World Blind Union



What is the Global Campaign?

The Education for All Children with Visual Impairment (EFA-VI) is a global campaign and program to ensure that all girls and boys with blindness and low vision enjoy the right to education. The Campaign addresses three key **Millennium Development Goals: achieving universal primary education, promoting gender equality and developing global partnerships for development.** The Campaign works within the framework of the general and special education systems of countries and is focusing attention on awareness and demand creation for education of children with visual impairment. Provision of appropriate support in educational settings and creation of alternative settings to reach out to the un-reached are the key aspects of the campaign.



Global Campaign – Current status

The EFA-VI Global Campaign is currently underway in 12 focus countries including Ecuador, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Fiji, Honduras, Mozambique, Nepal, Nicaragua, Pakistan, Paraguay, The Dominican Republic and Vietnam. The preparations for implementation of the campaign are underway in Bolivia, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Guatemala and Palestine.

Many key players including Governments, International Non-Governmental Development Organisations (INGDOs), local NGOs, Organisations of blind people etc., in the focus countries are engaged in providing services to children with disabilities in general and children with visual impairment in particular. ICEVI has been serving as a catalyst in creating a demand for education of children with visual impairment in these countries through awareness programmes being organised at various levels. We have also conducted more than 200 capacity building programmes for **17,479** teachers and parents in areas such as Low Vision, Early Detection and Assessment, Adapted Learning Materials, Abacus, Braille, Education of Multiply Disabled Visually Impaired Children, Inclusive Education, Visual Stimulation, Orientation and Mobility, Child Protection Policies, Role of Parents in Education of Children with Visual Impairment and Activities of Daily Living.

Capacity Building Programmes

Country	Participants
Dominican Republic	1654
Ecuador	3130
El Salvador	92
Ethiopia	69
Honduras	356
Mozambique	126
Nepal	90
Nicaragua	2912
Pakistan	375
Paraguay	977
Vietnam	7698
Total	17479

It is gratifying that the enrolment of children with visual impairment in these countries is certainly increasing. Data from 11 countries (Ecuador, El Salvador, Honduras, Mozambique, Nepal, Nicaragua, Pakistan, Paraguay, The Dominican Republic and Vietnam) shows that **49,102** additional children with visual impairment have been enrolled in schools. ICEVI applauds the collective efforts of all stakeholders which are important factors in creating conducive environment for the inclusion of children with visual impairment in the mainstream education.

The four performance indicators as per the EFA-VI Campaign are 1) increased enrolment, 2) improved retention, 3) ensuring provision of appropriate support services, and 4) improving performance of children with visual impairment on par with non-disabled children. Now that it is showing marked increase in enrolment, ICEVI in partnership with INGOs will strive to ensure provision of support services and resources in order to facilitate improved performance of children.

The campaign is demonstrating that the education for all is possible when children with disabilities in general and children with visual impairment are included in the mainstream education system and there are facilitating opportunities to the majority of 4 million children having access to education.

Enrolment Data

Country	Students Enrolled
Dominican Republic	819
Ecuador	1566
Ethiopia	6811
Honduras	263
Mozambique	245
Nepal	3937
Nicaragua	684
Pakistan	10
Paraguay	
Vietnam	
Total	

Making a difference through the Campaign

Vietnam has enrolled the greater number of children with visual impairment as a result of the EFA-VI campaign and the Vietnam experience reveals that education of children with visual impairment is successful when the following parameters are in place.

- Education of children with disabilities is an integral part of the national plan.
- There is a National Task Force for the overall EFA
- A cordial relationship between the Government and Associations of Blind People
- Better coordination between education and eye-care professionals for early identification of children with visual impairment and also to provide the required intervention.
- Development of Braille materials to support blind children enrolled in schools

The EFA-VI campaign is an integral part of the overall educational system and ICEVI is glad that such a transformation is ensuring the sustainability of services for children with visual impairment.

Nexer is a visually impaired child from Honduras. The EFA-VI campaign enabled him to get into the mainstream education and his academic and social skills have improved significantly. The regular classroom teachers say that admission of Nexer in the general classroom has enabled other children to understand the abilities of children with visual impairment. Nexer's independence in the school environment has improved significantly and he is becoming an agent in changing the attitude of teachers and sighted students about children with visual impairment. ICEVI believes that attitude change is one of the vital ingredients for successful inclusion and Nexer is doing it by demonstrating his abilities. The EFA-VI campaign has been a catalyst for enabling hundreds of young children like Nexer to get into the mainstream system of education in the Latin America region.



Omar is from Dominican Republic. He did not attend school until the age of 10 because of the lack of awareness of the family about educational services for children with visual impairment. Omar was identified through a screening camp organised by the EFA-VI campaign to identify the unreached children with visual impairment. The Resource Centre at Santo Domingo oriented his parents about the importance of education for Omar and he is currently studying in a regular school. Teachers use adapted instructional materials which suit his learning abilities and style and he is also putting up a lot of efforts to learn better. The EFA-

VI campaign is trying to bring children like Omar who are currently unreached at present.

CHINA RESEARCH: ICEVI, the Asian Foundation for the Prevention of Blindness and CBM supported a research in China to identify factors contributing to success of inclusive education. Ms. Xianguang Peng, the past Regional Chairperson of ICEVI East Asia region spearheaded this research through the China National Institute for Education and Research (CNIER) and ICEVI is glad that the research has become a solid source for formulating policy on inclusive education. Contribution in the policy front is also one of the indicators of success of the campaign and ICEVI is glad the EFA-VI campaign is contributing to such changes.

The campaign has numerous such effects in most of the focus countries and it will strive to make it more dynamic to make an impact on lives of children with visual impairment, academic community, parents and also in the policy front.

These are some examples for the impact of the EFA-VI campaign at the micro and macro levels and there is a long way to go...

The EFA-VI Global Campaign will be expanded to more than 20 countries in the next 4 years

Global Campaign on Education For All Children with Visual Impairment (EFA-VI)



Regional Development - The African Experience Emulated



The EFA-VI Regional Secretariat is operating in the premises of The African Union of the Blind demonstrating the collaboration between ICEVI and WBU at the regional level.

Mr. Martin Osangiri Okiyo serves as the Regional Coordinator for the EFA-VI activities in the entire Africa Region.

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The ICEVI has identified regional development as a major priority in the period ahead in order to strengthen the organisation and enable us to work more effectively with other stakeholders to expand educational opportunities for children with visual impairment. The EFA-VI Global Campaign is showing tangible results and there is a need to expand campaign activities in ICEVI's developing regions to make education for all a reality.

ICEVI held a meeting in Accra, Ghana on 1-2 July 2011 involving key International Non-Governmental Development Organisations working in the Africa region to develop a comprehensive strategy for that region with the following twin objectives:

1. to devise a framework within which we can work together to advocate for the education of children with visual impairment; and
2. to identify ways of sharing human resources and exchange good practice for the effective implementation of the Global Campaign.

The event was very productive and based on the suggestions made at that meeting, ICEVI is developing a comprehensive plan (2012-16) for the region, which will provide a road map for strengthening networks to expand educational opportunities for children with visual impairment.

ICEVI will organize similar regional level meetings in East Asia, West Asia and Latin America regions in 2012 to formulate region specific strategies for the work of ICEVI.

Higher Education Initiative



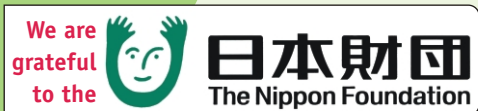
ICEVI, with support from The Nippon Foundation, is implementing a unique higher education initiative in Cambodia, Indonesia, The Philippines and Vietnam. This initiative focuses on three critical areas in an effort to improve and expand access to higher education for students with visual impairment: 1) expanding use of assistive technology to improve access to curricula materials, 2) creating more welcoming university environments for all disabled students through programs of awareness and training for faculty and non-disabled students

and 3) working with universities and Ministries of Education to create policies that expand the number of inclusive universities in these four countries.

This initiative commenced in 2006 in Indonesia where excellent outcomes in two large cities where the pilot project was carried out led The Nippon Foundation to suggest further expansion to other areas of Indonesia and, over the next three years, to Cambodia, The Philippines, Vietnam. In the coming years ICEVI plans to expand the project to additional countries in the region.



This initiative has dramatically increased university enrollment of blind and visually impaired students. Prior to the launch of this project the total enrollment of blind and visually impaired students in all four countries was only 214. Today more than 900 students are enrolled in higher education in these same countries, drop-out rates have decreased and the general satisfaction of these students has markedly improved.

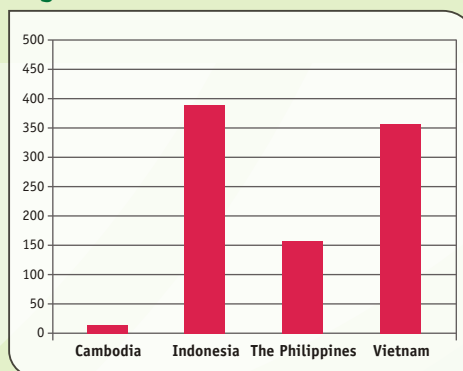


In each of the four countries there are lead organizations responsible for planning and carrying out project activities. ICEVI and The Nippon Foundation are grateful to have as our national partners: Krousar Thmey (Cambodia); the Indonesia

Union of the Blind; Resources for the Blind (Philippines) and in Vietnam the Sao Mai Computer Center for the Blind and the Vietnam Blind Association.

ICEVI views this initiative as an integral element of the education continuum embraced by our global campaign Education For All Children with Visual Impairment (EFA-VI). While this higher education initiative specifically focuses on students with visual impairment it is having a much wider impact that is improving the university climate for all students with disabilities.

Higher Education Enrolment Data



Vision Alliance is an initiative of the International Agency for Prevention of Blindness (IAPB), ICEVI, and WBU to create greater synergy and collaboration between the three organizations at global, regional and national levels to improve services and programs of each organization.

Areas of synergy:

- Ⓔ Development of mechanisms to ensure a systematic exchange of information between the three organizations.
- Ⓔ Identify areas of common concern on which the three organizations can work together through joint advocacy.
- Ⓔ Create common platforms where stakeholders such as parents, people with visual disabilities, voluntary organizations, educators and ophthalmologists can work together in planning comprehensive services for people with visual disabilities.

The Vision Alliance is in the process of making itself active in countries where EFA-VI Global Campaign is underway.



WBU-ICEVI Joint Assemblies - Symbol of Synergy

One of the areas of cooperation among Vision Alliance partners included discussions around the possibility of holding the General Assemblies of both WBU and ICEVI at the same time and in the same place. The result of this cooperation was that the WBU and ICEVI agreed to hold a joint event in Bangkok, Thailand in November 2012 that will include the General Assemblies of both organizations as well as two days of overlapping programs that will enable our two organizations and our members to work even more closely together and to build on opportunities for information sharing and cooperation. For more details of the joint event log on to <http://www.wbu-icevi2012.org>

We believe that this collaborative event will provide an excellent opportunity for organizations of blind people, service providers and educators to come together for mutual sharing and learning.

MEMBERSHIP

ICEVI has the following four types of membership:

1. **International Partner Member**
2. **Organisational Member**
3. **Individual Quadrennial Member**
4. **Individual Annual Member**

Details of membership can be accessed from the website of ICEVI.

The philosophy of education for all children with visual impairment is being translated into a reality by ICEVI and its international partners and we are learning lessons. Our lessons from different countries representing different cultures, languages, and environment will enable us to come up with unique approaches in addressing the much cherished goal of creating access to education for all children with visual impairment.

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