



# **International Council for Education of People with Visual Impairment**

Strategic Goals 2002-2005





## Introduction

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

ICEVI brings together at the global level educators, administrators, parents and others to promote equal educational opportunity for blind and low vision children and youth. ICEVI works closely with UN member agencies, government and non-government organizations concerned with education.

ICEVI carries out these efforts through seven regional committees which each develop their own plan-of-action that builds upon needs articulated by national level committees.

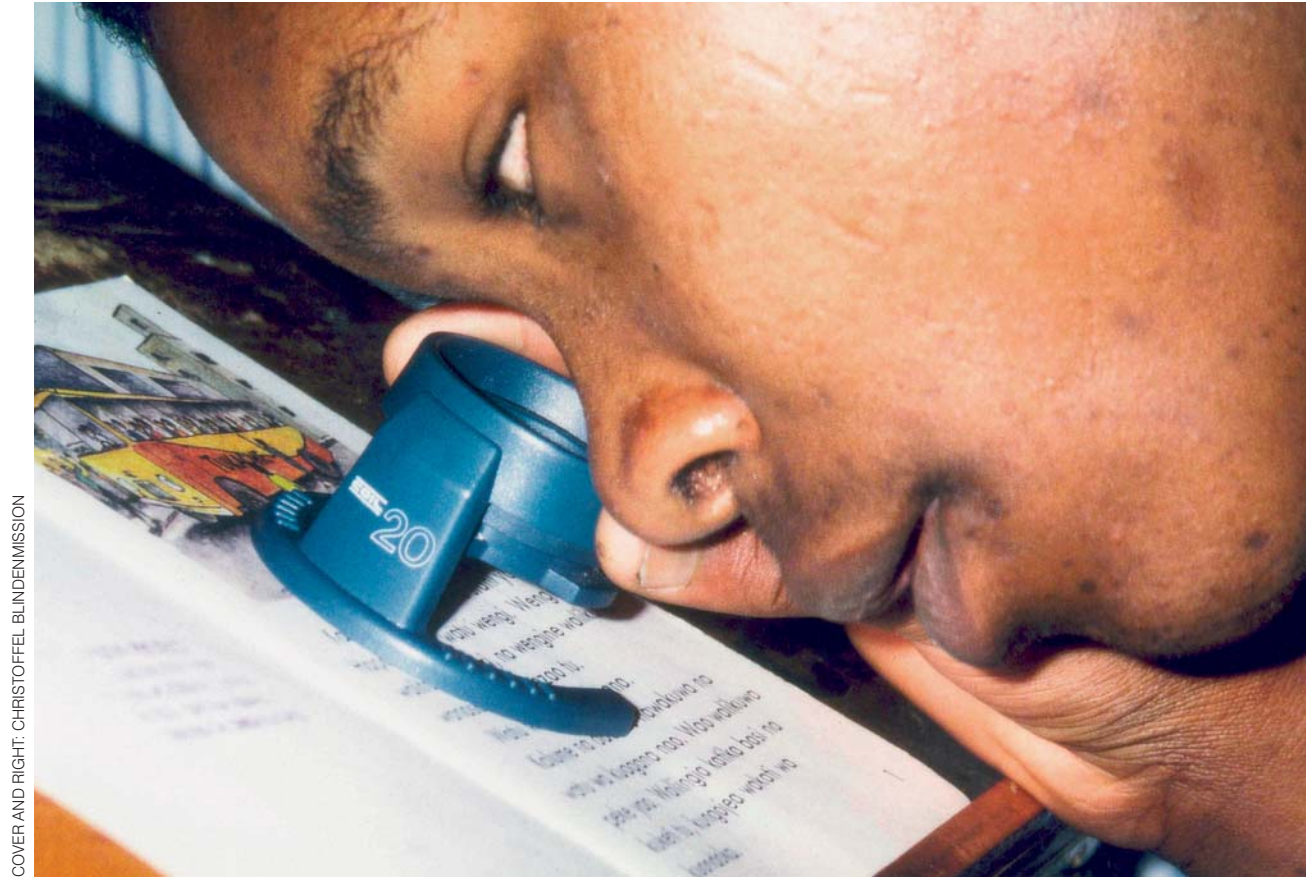
Of particular concern to ICEVI are the needs of children and youth in developing countries where blindness is most prevalent and where, on average, less than 10 per cent of these children have access to any education. This situation perpetuates a cycle of illiteracy and poverty that must be broken as it ensures that blind and low vision people are among the most marginalized groups in the world.

ICEVI is addressing the challenge of breaking this cycle with a three-pronged approach that:

- promotes public awareness and mobilizes support for a change in public policy
- strengthens local capacity to improve and expand access by blind and low vision children and youth to formal and non-formal educational services
- analyzes and disseminates information on the best approaches for reaching these most vulnerable groups

We hope you will join us in our effort to reach the goal of "equal educational access for all blind and low vision children and youth by 2015".

**Larry Campbell, President**



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## Our mission

*The ICEVI is a global association of individuals and organizations that promotes equal access to appropriate education for all visually impaired children and youth so that they can achieve their full potential.*

## Our values

*We believe that all children and youth with visual impairment have basic human rights.*

- They are entitled to a full range of educational services and to be included in the educational programs of their communities
- They should receive pre-school support
- Their teachers and other professionals supporting them should be properly trained
- Their parents and other family members should be encouraged to support their education
- Appropriate educational

materials and methods should be available to meet each child's needs

- Educational programs should be of a high standard and conform to best practices
- The children should be able to live in an environment free of barriers, social stigmas, and stereotypes, and to lead a productive life according to their aspirations and capabilities.

## Our goals

### Mobilizing support

Our **First Goal** is to advocate for equal access and full participation in education for all visually impaired children and young people by 2015.

- We will seek to influence change in policy and legislation by governments, targeting key countries for change in each of the seven ICEVI regions of the world.
- We will assist regional and country leaders to mobilize affinity groups, such as community and parents' groups, teacher training colleges, unions, organizations of disabled people, religious and women's groups, and service clubs, to advocate for the education of visually impaired children and young people. Media events, professional workshops, letter-writing campaigns, and designated days for children and disabled people will all be used to promote their rights.

**Above**  
Simple devices can enable a student with low vision to read ordinary print.



**Braille books are vital to a blind child.**



**David Kioko using his Braille typewriter at Kilimani School, Kenya.**

### Capacity building

Our **Second Goal** is to promote and assist in building local capacity to develop appropriate curricula, to provide training, and to identify and supply equipment and materials to visually impaired children and young people and their parents, teachers and communities.

- We will develop local capacity through conferences, workshops and seminars, aimed at opinion-formers, community leaders, parents, and the general public, so that they are aware of the needs of the children concerned.
- We will facilitate training for professionals in cooperation with universities and other training institutions.
- We will facilitate access to equipment and explore and develop the website, including online courses for trainers in selected countries.
- We will provide parents with information and resources to assist them to help their children.

### Collaboration

Our **Third Goal** is to make use of networks to ensure that substantially more visually impaired children and youth receive a comprehensive and high quality education.

- We will plan systematic engagement with those agencies and networks working in the fields of education, community-based rehabilitation, disability, and prevention of blindness.

- We will give high priority to building our relationship with international agencies, including UNESCO and WHO, and will use the opportunities available within the international arena to increase awareness of the needs of visually impaired children, with a view to improving their access to education.
- We will promote an international meeting to clarify the position on 'inclusion' and 'integration' in different settings, and we will develop a joint policy statement and framework for action endorsed by ICEVI and the World Blind Union.

### Best practice

Our **Fourth Goal** is to ensure that ICEVI initiatives are based on up to date evidence of best practice.

- We will identify the literature and research data which is available on the education of visually impaired children and youth, in order to learn from innovative models and practices already in place.
- We will identify key gaps in the evidence and promote research to address these.
- We will develop systems to access and disseminate the evidence, data and contacts identified.

### Information and Communication

Our **Fifth Goal** is to establish appropriate communication networks to enable information exchange for the qualitative and quantitative enhancement of education services to visually impaired children and youth.

- We will disseminate vital information about our work and facilitate the exchange of professional knowledge and experiences. This will include professional literature, periodicals and newsletters – national, regional and global. Our regular publication "The Educator" and our web site will also play key roles in the information network.
- We will adapt materials to local circumstances in terms of language and style to ensure the widest possible distribution.
- We will ensure regular attendance and participation in conferences, seminars and other professional gatherings. This will both facilitate the sharing of knowledge and raise the awareness of ICEVI as an authoritative voice on the education of visually impaired children and youth.
- We will also seek to raise the profile of ICEVI with key external target groups, making use of national and international media. In addition to the materials mentioned above, we will develop promotional brochures and ensure our annual report and strategic plan are widely distributed.



### Structure

The basic structure of ICEVI is a regional one and its members are primarily members of a region.

- For ICEVI to deliver its mission successfully, an organisation which is grounded in the regions is essential. A structure based on the seven regions (Africa, East Asia, Europe, Latin America, North America/Caribbean, the Pacific and West Asia) has thus been established, each headed by a chair and deputy chair and supported by a regional committee. The committees in turn are provided with administrative support. It is the regions which plan and implement the core ICEVI agenda, working at sub-regional and national levels.
- The regions encourage the involvement of a wide variety of 'grassroots' stakeholders as members, including professionals, parents, consumers, policy makers and others who are interested in ICEVI's mission.
- At the international level, the top policy-making body is the Executive Committee – comprising the principal officers and regional chairpersons. The principal officers are the executive who effectively run the organisation between General Assemblies. They work with the regions to implement the goals of the strategic plan. The principal officers and regional chairs are supported by the ICEVI secretariat with a full-time Secretary General.
- The principal officers consult periodically with the International Consultative Committee, an advisory body comprising organizations supporting ICEVI in the achievement of its mission and seeking to promote global co-operation

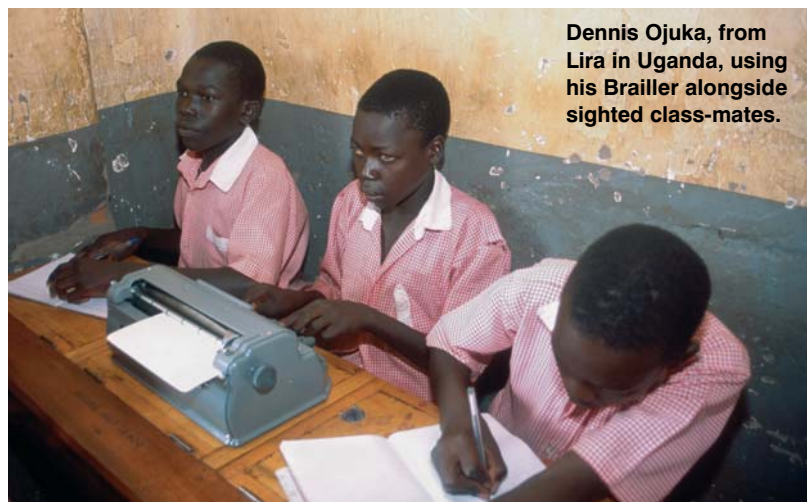
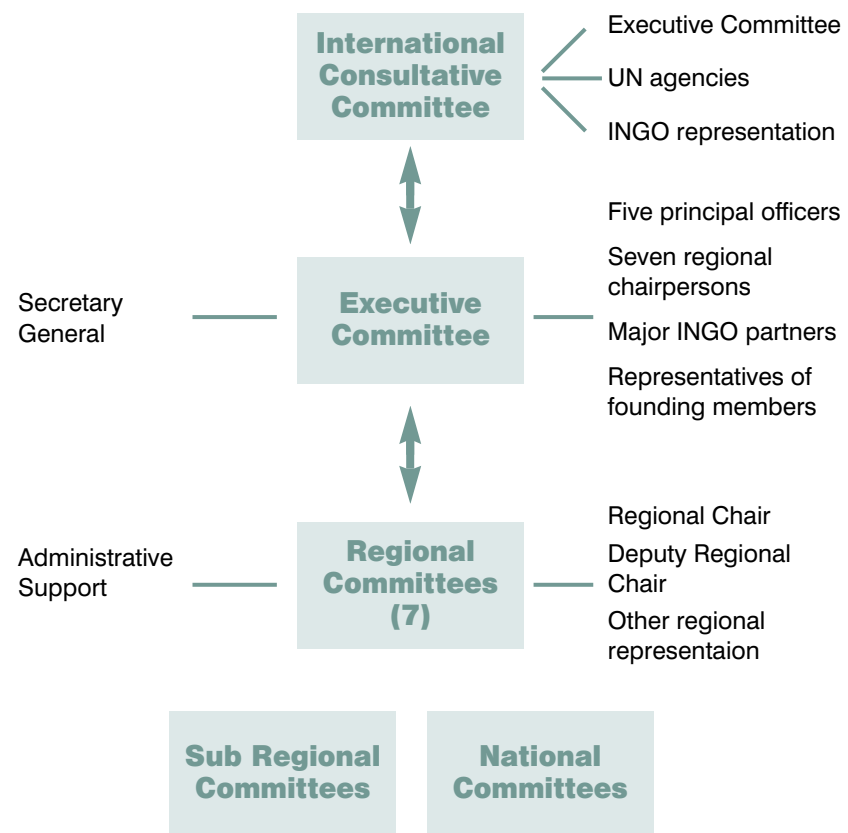
For the long term sustainability of ICEVI, adequate resourcing is crucial. To supplement the core funding available from the membership, we will thus look to organizations with compatible objectives, in particular foundations and trusts, to assist in delivering priority goals. Corporate sponsorship opportunities will also be sought and regional fundraising opportunities pursued.

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## ICEVI Organization



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