



**OUR VISION
FOR DEVELOPMENT**
annual review 2008

OUR VISION

The world today is a place of injustice and inequality. Too many people in poor countries are impoverished and oppressed. They are not poor by choice: they are poor because they have no choice.

Progressio is working to change that.

We are placing a growing number of development workers in countries from Ecuador to East Timor. Through our development workers, we support and assist local organisations that work with, and promote the rights of, disadvantaged people and communities.

And we speak out for justice on their behalf. Drawing on their experience and responding to their needs, we campaign for change to the global structures and policies that keep people locked in poverty.

In everything we do, we seek to empower the people we work with, and take our lead from them. For Progressio, 'development' has always been shorthand for 'what people themselves want or need in order to improve their lives'. And we measure progress not by economic growth but by people's ability to live life in all its fullness.

This vision is reflected in the way we work. Too much that passes for 'development' ultimately benefits the vested interests of the rich and powerful. Progressio speaks with another voice: the voice of the people we work with, from whom we get the spirit and determination to continue to work for a better world for poor and marginalised people.



Ria Dsai Mugomdambiko (foreground) and other members of a self-help support group for HIV-positive women in Zimbabwe.

A woman in Somaliland with her family, in front of the tent that is their make-shift home. Already struggling to make ends meet, she was thrown out of her house when she tested positive for HIV.



OUR VISION

The grim reality of HIV for women in Somaliland: gossip and name calling, shunned by your family, ostracised by your community, thrown out of your home, no way of earning a living. It all leads, says Progressio development worker Mary Chigumira, to 'feelings of guilt, inferiority, self-blame and despair'.

The answer: an organisation that runs support groups, offers home-based care, provides access to counselling and treatment, and helps women find ways to generate an income. Run by women for women, Talowadag, with Mary's help, is challenging the climate of stigma and discrimination and providing hope for people with HIV and AIDS.

Because for Progressio, it's not about short-term fixes. It's about creating opportunities for long-term solutions to the problems people face. In Somaliland, we work with women's groups, young people, the media, the armed forces and religious leaders on HIV and AIDS support and awareness-raising. And we work with the Somaliland National AIDS Commission on country-wide HIV and AIDS strategies, including anti-retroviral treatment, voluntary counselling and testing, and public information campaigns.



Talowadag support group leader Amran Assan Ahmed (foreground).

IMPACT

- **STIGMA AND DISCRIMINATION REDUCED**
- **PEOPLE WITH HIV EMPOWERED**
- **SELF-HELP ORGANISATIONS STRENGTHENED**
- **EFFECTIVE NATIONAL STRATEGIES DEVISED**
- **LASTING CHANGE TO ATTITUDES ACHIEVED**

OUR VISION

'If we hadn't had a development worker, we wouldn't have been able to support the 50 families we now support'

– Talowadag executive director Gulleid Osman Abdi

Progressio's vision of development is to enable people to tackle the problems they face and find ways to improve their lives. Like Mary Chigumira with Talowadag, our development workers work at the grassroots level with local organisations and local people. Their aim is to transfer skills and knowledge to our partner organisations so that they can achieve real, ongoing practical change for their communities.

We help them build sustainable livelihoods. Protect and care for the environment. Face up to the threat of HIV and AIDS.

And we help them to have a say in the decisions that affect them. It is not enough for the powerful to move over a little unless the powerless find their power. That's why we combine sharing practical skills with advocacy: we aim to help people find ways to bring about the changes that they want to see.



Development worker Susana Araujo talking to community leaders in Ayacucho region, Peru.

IMPACT

- **94 DEVELOPMENT WORKERS IN 11 COUNTRIES**
- **TRANSFER OF SKILLS**
- **INVESTMENT IN PEOPLE**
- **FOCUS ON POVERTY REDUCTION**
- **LOCAL ORGANISATIONS STRENGTHENED**
- **LONG-TERM BENEFITS FOR POOR COMMUNITIES**



A woman in El Salvador makes a gesture of defiance during a protest about the contamination of a community water source. People in poor rural communities may spend four hours a day getting water, while poor people in both urban and rural areas can spend up to one-tenth of their income on this basic human resource.

OUR VISION

Access to water In El Salvador is about wealth, rights and power. Progressio development worker Marcos Sanjuan, placed with environmental organisation UNES, is working 'to empower people so they are more aware of their rights – and of different routes to lobby and make changes'. UNES proposes policy changes, organises festivals and marches, runs campaigns, and builds awareness. In October 2007 more than 25,000 people marched for water rights, and a recent public poll put water among the top four issues facing El Salvador: a major change in a country where access to water was a hidden problem affecting only poor people.

UNES is now working with a network of organisations to lobby for the right to water to be included in the country's constitution. 'We are hopeful that our voice will be heard,' says Marcos, 'because together we will be stronger than we are individually.'



Development worker Marcos Sanjuan.

IMPACT

- **ADVOCACY SKILLS AND STRATEGIES TRANSFERRED**
- **ORDINARY PEOPLE SEE POSITIVE RESULTS FROM THEIR INVOLVEMENT**
- **WATER RIGHTS NOW A MAJOR ISSUE IN EL SALVADOR**
- **NETWORK OF ENVIRONMENTAL ORGANISATIONS CREATED**
- **NEW LAW ON WATER PROPOSED TO PARLIAMENT**

This is our vision of development: people who were impoverished and marginalised are empowered. They have the power to bring meaningful change to their own lives; and they have the power to influence the decisions, the policies and systems that affect their lives.



OUR VISION

Ordinary people don't often get the chance to have a real say in important decisions. In the Dominican Republic, Progressio has been working to change that. We work with 18 municipalities to ensure that local people are involved in drawing up local development plans and deciding how to spend the municipal budget. In 2007, two municipalities where we work, Villa Gonzalez and Altamira, were recognised by independent evaluators as having the best performance and highest level of participation.

But we don't just make sure people can have their say: we make sure they have the skills to get their message across. Alexandra Lastra, a development worker with the Juan Montalvo Centre of Social Studies, trains community groups on social policy issues. This helps give people the knowledge and confidence to make the case for what they need. A network of organisations subsequently campaigned for 'a budget against poverty and exclusion' and, as a result, a government commission was set up to promote poverty reduction measures within the national budget.


Development worker Miguel Pachas, a lawyer, works with three Dominican organisations lobbying for constitutional reform. Thanks to this work, for the first time discussions and debate on constitutional issues have been taken from national to local level and from specialists to ordinary people. A few years ago it would have been unthinkable for ordinary people to participate in such a way – and even more for them to be listened to by the President and the Constitutional Reform Commissioners.



IMPACT

- PEOPLE BETTER INFORMED ON PUBLIC POLICY ISSUES
- PEOPLE AND ORGANISATIONS GAIN LOBBYING SKILLS
- SPACES CREATED FOR PEOPLE TO HAVE THEIR SAY
- GOVERNMENT SPENDING ADDRESSES POVERTY REDUCTION

Campaigners for 'a budget against poverty and exclusion' bring their message to the Dominican Congress.



A light-hearted moment during a workshop for farmers in Columbe Alto, Ecuador. Progressio is working with farmers in the Ecuadorian highlands to establish fair, sustainable systems to manage water, land and seeds and so provide food security for poor communities.

OUR VISION

'Eat healthily, securely and with sovereignty.' That's the message of an ambitious campaign led by Progressio partner organisation Coordinadora Ecuatoriana de Agroecología (CEA). The campaign aims to change attitudes at all levels in Ecuador, from ordinary consumers up to political decision-makers.

Most agriculture in Ecuador is still small- or medium-scale, with farmers producing for their family and selling the surplus in markets. However, these producers are finding it harder and harder to survive in an increasingly globalised world where there are strong pressures to grow for export markets, to sell land to big agro-export companies, and to become dependent on pesticides and fertilisers.

CEA is one of Progressio's partners in the project 'Our land, water and future' (funded by the Big Lottery Fund). The project works with 37 Ecuadorian communities totalling over 7,000 people. The aim is to ensure food security (enough food to eat) and sustainable livelihoods (a long-term income through farming) for poor communities and farmers.

The need for people to have control over their own resources – and therefore their own future – is a message that Progressio hears from farmers across Latin America. Many of them are calling for a new model of development: one that isn't biased towards the interests of the rich and powerful. We support their efforts with practical help on the ground, but we know that on its own this is not enough. We need also to support their voices at a global level.



IMPACT

- LOCAL NEEDS IDENTIFIED AND MET
- POOREST COMMUNITIES SUPPORTED
- LONG-TERM AND SUSTAINABLE BENEFITS
- GREATER INFLUENCE IN POLICY DEBATES

A community meeting in Columbe Alto to discuss the Progressio project 'Our land, water and future'.

OUR VISION

'Our land, water and future' sees seedsaving as a crucial part of a sustainable system of food production. José Rivadeneira, executive coordinator of CEA, says: 'We hope that the project will increase seedsaving in communities and promote seed exchanges between families and communities, and that this will improve families' food security, contribute to improving and maintaining diversified systems of food production, and allow peasant farming communities to value their culture.'

The importance of seedsaving to 1.4 billion small-scale farmers throughout the world inspired Progressio's successful campaign against Terminator Technology. Progressio supporters sent 2,000 postcards to MPs and 500 messages to EU environment commissioner Stavros Dimas, calling on them to help ensure the ban on Terminator seeds remained in place. In May 2008, the United Nation's Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) upheld the ban. Progressio's delegation at the CBD meeting also successfully lobbied for seedsaving rights and practices to be acknowledged and protected. This creates a strong political imperative for governments to respect people's rights to save and cultivate seed varieties and resist large-scale commercial agriculture.



IMPACT

- BAN ON TERMINATOR UPHELD
- INDIGENOUS SEEDSAVING RIGHTS ACKNOWLEDGED
- HIGH-LEVEL SUPPORT FOR SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE
- PROGRESSIO CAMPAIGN MAKES REAL DIFFERENCE



OUR VISION

Progressio campaigns are motivated by the needs of people in the global South – but policy change also requires changes in attitudes in the global North. In 2007/8 we promoted the *livesimply* challenge, calling on people in the North to live simply, sustainably and in solidarity with the world's poor. We published a theological reflection, *Live simply: Let others live* by Edward Echlin, and supported the website of the *livesimply* network, which featured an online 'promise bank' where people pledged to make changes in their own lives that could contribute towards positive changes for the lives of the world's poor.

Progressio has always been motivated by solidarity with the world's poor, drawing on the emphasis in Catholic social teaching on the global common good. For Progressio, development is not something that happens 'out there' to other people. It is something that happens to us all as a global community. And it is therefore something for which we have a shared responsibility.

Our work seeks the participation and empowerment of poor people. But development also requires those of us who live in the global North to recognise that we are part of the problem – and that we are called to be part of the solution. We must continue to play our part in bringing about the change that is needed, and – along with all the people we work with and all the people who support our work – we must continue to believe that change is possible. That is our vision for development.



IMPACT

- GREATER PUBLIC AWARENESS OF DEVELOPMENT ISSUES
- SHARED RESPONSIBILITY FOR FINDING SOLUTIONS
- ONGOING COMMITMENT TO FIGHT FOR CHANGE

The Penarth Supporters Group raise funds for Progressio projects by selling surplus produce from their allotments.

OUR VISION

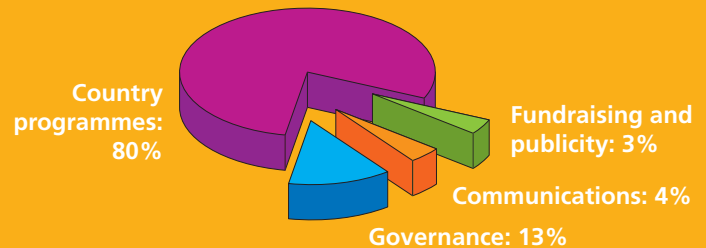
Total income 2007/8: £4,973,133

Sources: Progressio has an important and valued strategic programme partnership with the Department for International Development (56% of our funds). Other sources: European Commission 7%, Comic Relief 7%, Progressio Ireland 7%, Irish Aid 6%, Cafod 2%, Big Lottery Fund 2%, Christian Aid 2%, The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria 2%, Christian Aid/Inter-Church Organisation for Cooperation and Development 1%, Trocaire 1%, Membership subscriptions, donations, sales, legacies, other sundry receipts 7%.

Progressio wishes to thank the individuals and organisations that made donations to its work in 2007/8. Other agencies and individuals donating more than £1,000 in 2007/8 include: Allan and Nesta Ferguson Charitable Settlement, British Embassy Dominican Republic, British Embassy Addis Ababa, British High Commission Zimbabwe, Canadian Catholic Organisation for Development and Peace, Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand, Caritas Australia, The Church of Our Lady of Grace and St Edward (Chiswick), The Daughters of Jesus, The Franciscan Friary (Woodford Green), International Institute for Environment and Development, Life and Peace Institute, Penarth Support Group, Revd Canon P Davies, Society of the Holy Child Jesus (Rome), Society of the Sacred Heart.

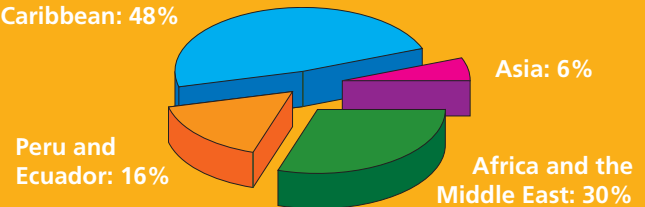
Progressio's financial statements for the year 2007/8 have been audited by the independent auditors Appleby & Wood. The full audited accounts are available to download from www.progressio.org.uk/accounts. A printed copy is available on request from Progressio.

Total expenditure 2007/8: £4,774,161



Expenditure on programmes

Central America and the Caribbean: 48%



OUR VISION

IMPACT AND INFLUENCE

- + Promotion of women's rights through civic education and direct action by partner organisation Rede Feto (the Women's Network) in East Timor contributed to an increase of women's representation in the national parliament in the 2007 elections.
- + People in Dili, East Timor, have better educational, health and livelihood opportunities thanks to improvements in the community development work of Caritas Dili inspired by development worker Maria Bautista, a capacity building adviser.
- + The mayor of Borama in Somaliland spoke out against violence against women during a campaign, led by partner organisation NAGAAD, to promote women's political and civic participation.
- + A joint task force of uniformed services in Somaliland to create awareness of HIV and AIDS was set up following an armed forces workshop led by development worker Eliezer Wangulu.
- + Over 2,000 people took part in discussions and workshops, organised by development worker Jitendra Panda, to develop 20 community-based HIV and AIDS strategies in Somaliland. Jitendra also helped produce a resource manual on HIV and AIDS prevention for religious leaders.
- + In Yemen, development worker Irfan Akhtar helped set up a support group for people living with HIV and AIDS, the first of its kind in Yemen. Irfan also carried out training of religious teachers, who in Yemen's Islamic society can play a key role in disseminating information about HIV and AIDS.
- + 27 young people in Chinhoyi, Zimbabwe, were trained by development worker Christopher Nyamandi in providing support and assistance to their relatives who are HIV positive.



Development worker Irfan Akhtar (right) with participants on an HIV and AIDS training course for religious leaders in Yemen.

- + Progressio helped set up the Ecumenical Network on Zimbabwe of Northern Faith-based Organisations and briefed members on advocacy strategies for addressing the multiple crises faced by Zimbabwe. Progressio continues to actively brief UK government and church representatives on responses to the situation in Zimbabwe.

OUR VISION

IMPACT AND INFLUENCE

- + A 'network of communicators' for the Mozonte indigenous people in Nicaragua led to increased participation in local processes, with the network's coordinator – a woman – standing for mayor in the municipal elections.
- + A video about the lives of people living with HIV and AIDS in Nicaragua, produced by partner organisation Fundación Luciérnaga with help from development worker Ernest Cañada, was shown in public forums involving more than 1,200 people.
- + In Ecuador, Progressio supported the first Latin American Ecumenical Meeting on Churches and HIV and AIDS in March 2008, which brought together religious leaders from eight countries to discuss religious responses to the HIV crisis.
- + A new Forestry Law, devised and proposed by partner organisation the Environmental Movement of Campamento with help from development worker Francisco Hernandez, was approved in Honduras. The new law aims to protect forest resources from illegal exploitation. Hector Almendares, a local peasant leader, said: 'We have learned a lot from Progressio, we know that they are our allies and this encourages us to continue with our fight.'
- + *The challenge of coexistence*, a film directed by development worker Tigu Guimarães, raised awareness among Dominicans and Haitians about the positive contribution of the Haitian migrant population in the Dominican Republic.
- + 2,500 people in nine communities in Macuelizo, Nicaragua, benefited from new stoves fitted in their homes which use up to 50% less wood and eliminate smoke from within the home, so reducing respiratory and other health problems.



Development worker Francisco Hernandez (left) talks with community members in Olancho, Honduras.

- + Progressio partner organisation Pukllasunchis in Cusco, Peru, helped local people lobby the regional government to ensure that its education plans included an intercultural, bilingual approach appropriate to the needs of the region's indigenous population.
- + In Peru, a self-help network for women involved in local government in Ayacucho was set up, giving collective strength and enabling the women to learn from each others' experience.

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