

Viva's 4 building blocks for changing the situation for children in a city



City influence – using the track record of programme delivery and various campaigns to influence decision makers and public attitudes

Collective action – learning to work together through programmes of increasing scope and scale towards a solution theme for children

Capacity building – raising the standards of practice and procedures of the network participants to increase impact

Connecting – bringing together churches and organisations to work together with a common vision

Dear friends

This month I want to start to present **a new approach to describing what we do as networks** in the hope that it will stimulate and inspire you, particularly in your communications. The image above summarises this into four building blocks, building from the bottom up.

As networks we are achieving a lot.

Connecting: We are bringing together large numbers of churches and organisations with the goal of changing children's lives and their situation.

Capacity building: We are raising the standard of that response by training in areas such as child protection and financial transparency.

Collective action: We are facilitating and managing joint action for children on a scale that few others can match and as a result...

City influence: We are beginning to see the 'Church' recognised as a credible and influential actor, and partner at city and even national level.

Let us communicate our successes and achievements!

We have started to use these four building blocks in our Network Health Check and we will soon be circulating reports and recommendations from Viva's Network Development team. The goal is to make positive improvements to grow in the year ahead, so please consider the recommendations and form a plan to action them.

We have also restructured part of our website, with more detailed explanations, making all our programmes and guidance available under these four building blocks. Please do check out and save the following link: **learn.viva.org** Hopefully you will find some aspects you are familiar with but also learn new things too.

Our goal is to serve the King and his Kingdom, by all the time improving what we do and how we communicate. In future months I will dig a little deeper into each block but, for now, I hope you can start thinking about how you can describe the achievements of your network in these four ways, and in doing so it might stimulate new thoughts and ideas.

Blessings

Brian

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