



Exchanging ideas to improve the way we work

Dear Viva family

The goal of all Viva's partner networks is to see Christians working together effectively in order to help children better.

We could just help a single church or organisation to do better work with children. That would be a start but we see that, over and above that, **there is greater power and potential to impact children if we can work as a body or collective group**. This was indeed Jesus' prayer in John 17 and the mandate of the Church!

As networks develop they begin to demonstrate that the Church can be an effective force for change for children across the city. Once visible, people start to ask questions and we have to be able to stand up to scrutiny and demonstrate credibility. That means we have to ensure a level of quality and accountability exists across the network.

Capacity building is therefore an essential part of every network activity but I believe that it shouldn't be an end to itself but rather a component to ensure that our collective action is credible and effective.

Most of Viva's measurement is focusing on the collective action that networks design and implement to impact children but, with this subject in mind, **I want to suggest a target that we attempt to ensure that we engage at least 50% of our network participants/members in some form of capacity building each year**. How else can we expect to convince external groups, including donors, that we are credibly improving the Christian response as we work together?

If we are to go a little deeper, donors are particularly expecting the networks to be improving in their child protection and financial accountability and so these two areas should form the basis of any planned activity.

The purpose of these family emails is to challenge and provoke thought in different areas of our work – I hope you can give consideration to 'what' your targets and plans are in terms of capacity building in the year ahead and indeed 'why' you do it.

God bless you

Brian