



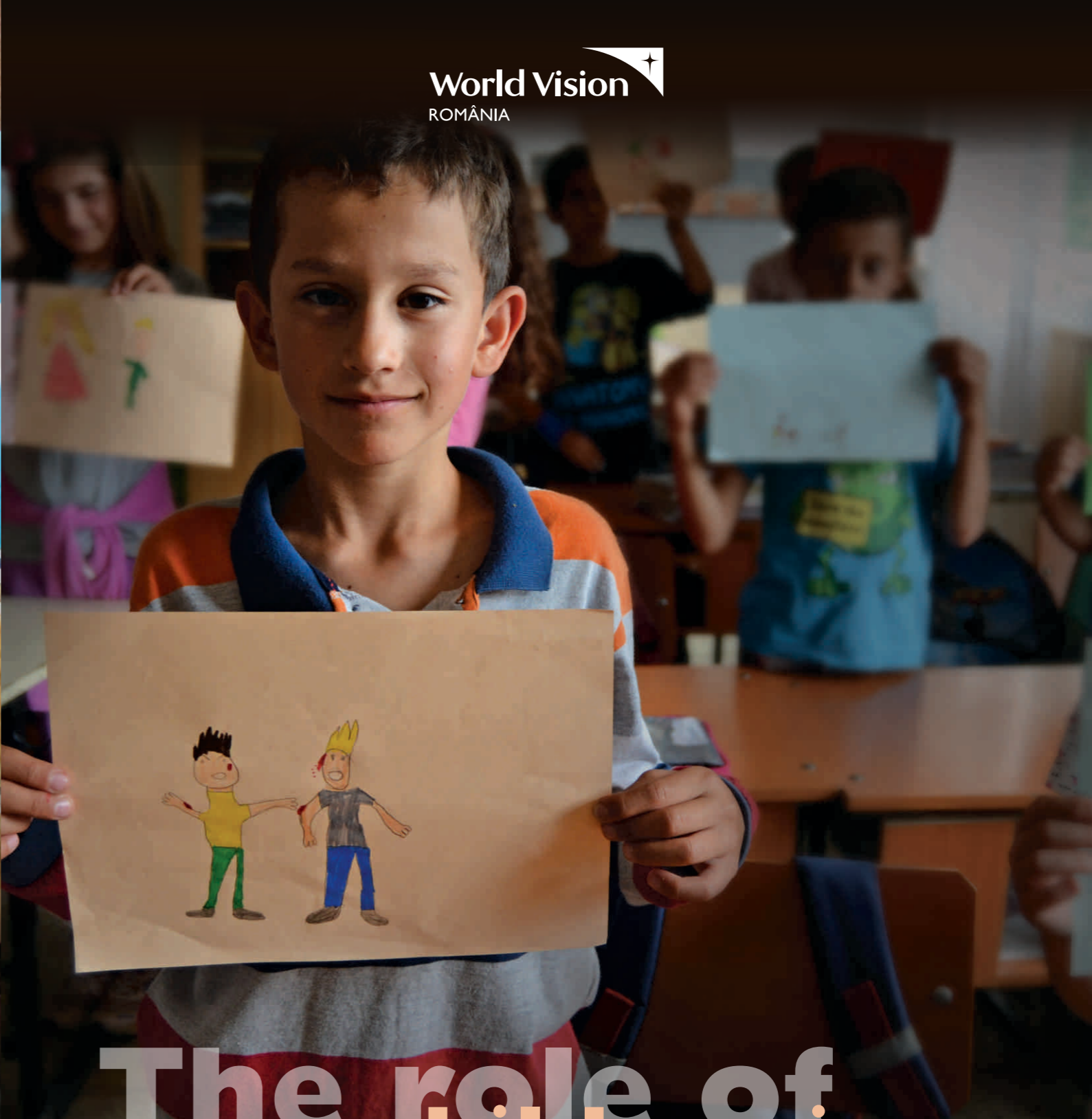
It takes a world
to end violence against children



World Vision
ROMÂNIA



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The role of children in preventing violence in Romania

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*Our vision for every child, life in all its fullness;
Our prayer for every heart, the will to make it so*

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World Vision
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It takes a world

to end violence against children

And the world is you.



**In Romania,
at least 1.5 M children
are directly exposed
to a degrading and violent
environment.**



In Romania, at least 1.5 M children are directly exposed to a degrading and violent environment. Poverty creates violence. So does social exclusion. But violence breeds the most violence. Violence is part of the vicious circle of poverty. In Romania, 48.5 % of children are at risk of poverty and material deprivation while 34.1% live in severe material deprivation. At least 1.5 M Romanian children are directly exposed to a degrading and violent environment.

Officially, 14.323 cases of abuse, neglect and exploitation of children were reported in 2016, 700 more than in 2015.

90% of cases of violence against children happen within the family context.

According to the Romanian National Authority for Protection of Child Rights, every hour, two children fall victims to a form of violence that is reported to the authorities. But most cases of violence, the quiet types that leave open wounds lasting a lifetime, happen behind closed doors and are never included in national statistics. Family violence doesn't get talked about in the Romanian society. Because it is tolerated and, most times, it isn't even seen as a form of violence.

Every official figure hides the reality of other hundreds of unreported cases. And this because we live in a society that sees physical punishments as a form of education, where what happens within the family stays in the family and where those who witness domestic violence very rarely intervene, a society where neglect isn't considered a form of violence.

WorldVision has become part of the EndViolence Against Children global campaign that is being implemented in over 80 countries around the world: Romania will play a special role in the region by acting, in the next five years, as a social laboratory testing innovative pilot programmes that will be evaluated by international committees and replicated globally.

World Vision Romania

World Vision Romania is a Christian foundation focused on the well-being of children.

We are part of the World Vision International family working in more than 100 countries.

Inspired by our Christian values, we work with the world's most vulnerable people regardless of religion, race, ethnicity or gender.

Since 1990, when we first started working in Romania, we've supported over 500,000 children and adults in 400 communities from eight Romanian counties.

We believe in children's right to equal opportunities therefore running long-term community development programmes focusing on education and reducing school abandonment, health and child protection, agriculture and rural development, civil and Christian commitment.

We also run advocacy programmes that focus on children's rights and humanitarian relief program-

mes that equip communities to face natural disasters and support communities when faced with such extreme situations.

Everything we do circles around an overarching goal – providing children, especially the most vulnerable, with the opportunity to reach their full potential and have a good start towards a dignified life.

„World Vision's efforts are supported by children and young people that aren't just beneficiaries but also actively involved because the Foundation believes in their potential and fully supports them”, members of the Children's Consultative Council believe.

Message from our National Director

Listening to children's voices is not a special event for World Vision, it is a natural part of how we work together to build stronger communities. More than five years ago, along with a group of young people, we began a journey we are proud of – the Children's Consultative Council. Through regular meetings with World Vision Romania's Board of Directors, the Children's Consultative Council is contributing to a better understanding of what children are up against in the communities where we work and is also helping us plan the Foundation's strategic directions in Romania.

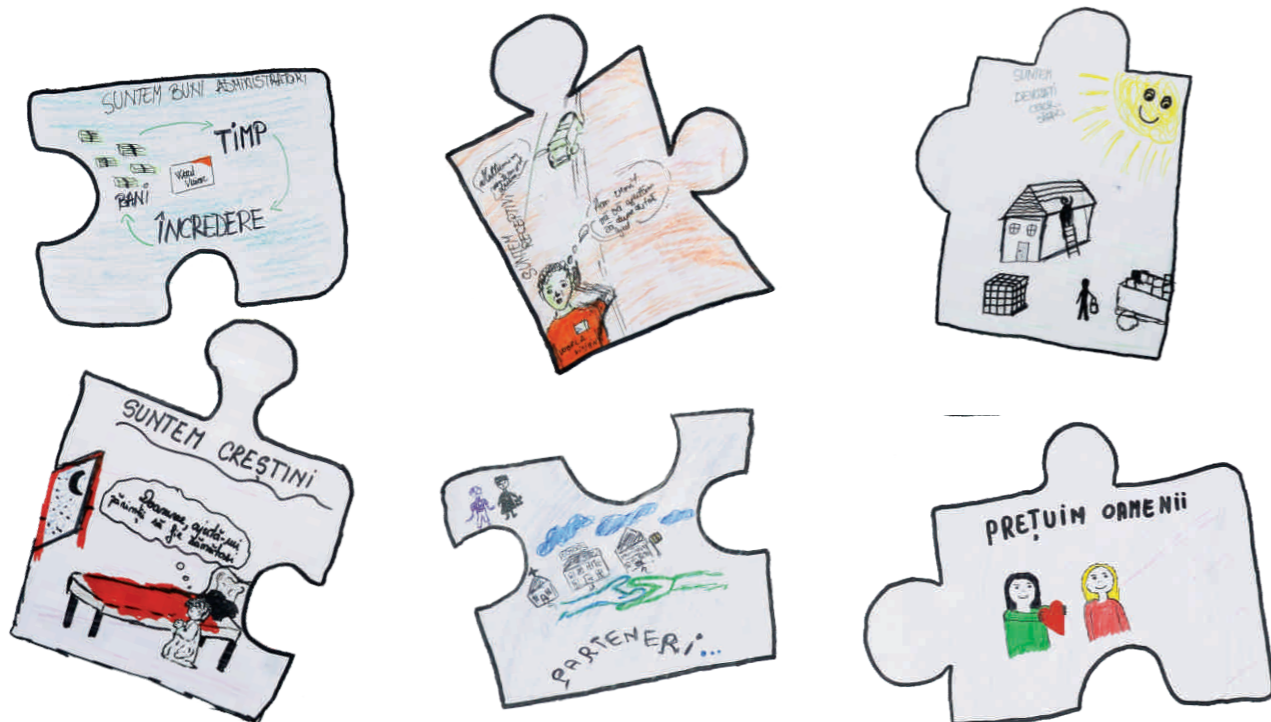
These young people come from rural areas and they are witnessing dramatic situations that children are facing every day – among which abuse in all its forms is at the top of the list. Children who are denied the right to a family, an education or their own opinions because of difficult life circumstances, parents' problems or the helplessness of a community that has forgotten that children also need a voice.

In all our efforts, World Vision Romania staff are creating an adequate context to help them make their voices heard. And they are also joining us now, as we become part of the End Violence Against Children global campaign aiming to end violence against children.

We are confident that these youngsters look on with great responsibility towards the reality of our world, that they understand the difficulties of children living in small communities and that, with their full support, we will have a better understanding of the phenomenon and will find better solutions.

I invite you to carefully read about the research done by a handful of youngsters in Negresti and see how simple and accessible the solutions they came up with are. Also, have a look at the activities designed by other representatives of the Children's Consultative Council for their peers - activities that can be replicated, with minimum effort but great positive impact, in any school or community.

Daniela Buzducea
National Director

Children's Consultative Council members, 2017-2019

Since 2012, the Children's Consultative Council (CCC) has been the voice of over 40.000 children from rural areas. They come to us with real issues that children are confronted with and propose solutions that we included in our agenda. They also represent the children in different working groups involving local, national and international authorities.

In their work, they Council is guided by Mrs. Simona Mihai, outh Empowerment Program Coordinator - WorldVision Romania National Office.



Avarvari Vladut-Marian - 17, Grigore Moisil National College - Urziceni, Ialomita County

"The CCC is a great opportunity for a teenager who, without having a clear idea of his path, wants to experience beautiful emotions, friendships with people who want the same things and who aim to build something special for the future. I also believe that, through the CCC, we can be a voice for all who can't be heard. We have been given this opportunity and we can make the best of it and help others."



Sandu Andreea -Teodora -14, Dridu Middle School - Dridu, Ialomita County

"The CCC is a real challenge. Along with the fact that I can help my country surpass certain problems and develop beautifully, I'm adding to my knowledge and I am also growing myself. It is amazing that we are representing so many children that are counting on us to make a change towards a better future. I am happy to have had the opportunity to be part of this group and to get to know so many wonderful people."



Fodorica Valentina Teodora - 15, Alexandru Lahovari National College - Ramnicu Vilcea, Ionesti, Valcea county

"Along with being a group that helps solve some of the issues in Romania, the CCC is a family. A family where everyone has a different personality but where everyone has a desire to help!"



Popa Nicoleta - 15, Dezrobiti Middle School, Dezrobiti, Valcea County

"For me, the CCC is a way to help others, of making a change but also a way of affirming myself, of growing and evolving by stepping out of my comfort zone."



Bobaita Rebecca Vasilica - 15, Stefan Velovan National College - Cernatesti, Dolj County

"The CCC and my involvement in the activities that came with it meant commitment and responsibilities. First of all commitment because you are choosing to do it and you need commitment to make it happen. Responsibility because each CCC member is a voice for the children and young people in the county and the person who listens to their problems and grievances both in the family and in the community environment and must try to find appropriate solutions."



Enea Adrian-Ionut - 15, Stefan Odobleja College Craiova - Cleanov, Dolj County

"The CCC is not only an opportunity to make a change in my community but also a privilege to be able to express my proposals and my thoughts in a group that shares common interests. It is great to see what people from other parts of the country think as they always come with different mentalities, opinions and thoughts and we share the intention to make a change. The CCC is one of the best things that have ever happened to me."



Gavriluta Andreea - Alexandra - 15, Nicolae Ciubotaru Middle School - Vulturesti, Vaslui County

"For me, the CCC is an opportunity to be the voice of children, to help solve issues in my community, to learn new things, to grow as a person and to make new wonderful friends."



Harbuzariu Giorgiana - Florentina - 16, Nicolae Iorga Technical High school Negresti - Todiresti, Vaslui County

"The CCC is about how I represent the voice of children, learning things that will help me later and develop. So far, it has helped us define our personalities, learning about ourselves, socialize and make many friends. As part of the CCC, we have designed activities that we presented to our communities. The CCC has helped me grow and I am enormously happy to be part of it."



Faifer Arlett-Evelyn - 15, Mihai David School – Negresti, Vaslui County

"The CCC is a group that aims to bring forward voices of children from different communities, an opportunity to change mentalities and improve the lives of those in difficult situations. It is also a great environment to grow in different ways and to meet new people and make friends."



Scafaru Petru Alexandru -17, Nicolae Iorga Technical High school Negresti - Todiresti, Vaslui County

"To summarize what the CCC means to me, I can say that it is more than a context in which to grow, it's becoming a part of me. Even more, it has become a way of being that is also reflected in the wish to be the voice of young people in my community and that of a united group. Being a member of the CCC makes me feel part of a giant puzzle that I call BE the change! But a part that grows together with the group."



Simiciuc Denisa-Gabriela - 17, Petru Maior High school Gherla – Livada, Cluj County

"For me, the CCC is a chance to make a change, to bring forward the voice of children, through our projects. This has helped me strengthen my personalities, to do something important and feel responsible for other people. I am very grateful to be part of this project together with my colleagues."



Baran Liviu Vinicius - 17, Petru Maior High school Gherla – Livada, Cluj County

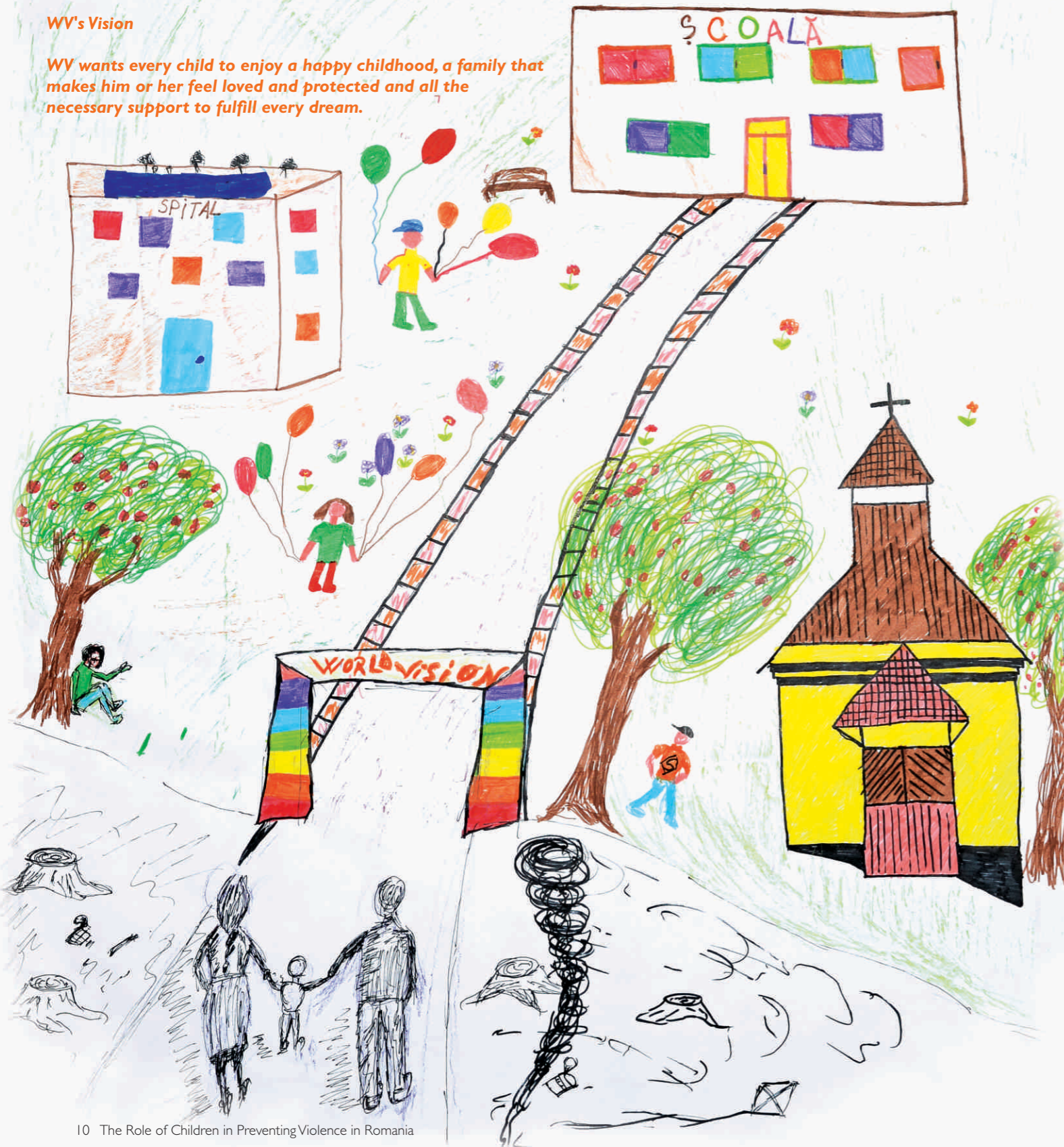
"First of all, the CCC means responsibility and confidence in myself and in others. I feel honored by my role in the group, it isn't an easy one. The CCC is also a family where people with different personalities give their best and, in the end, accomplish something important."

VIZIUNEA W.V.

W.V. ÎSI DOREȘTE CA FIECARE COPIL SĂ SE BUCURE DE O COPILĂRIE FERICITĂ, DE O FAMILIE ÎN CARE SĂ SE SIMTĂ IUBIT ȘI PROTEJAT ȘI SĂ BENEFICIEZE DE SUPORTUL NECESAR PENTRU AȘI ÎNDEPLINI TOATE VISURILE.

WV's Vision

WV wants every child to enjoy a happy childhood, a family that makes him or her feel loved and protected and all the necessary support to fulfill every dream.



World Vision Romania Children's Consultative Council manifesto

We are the Children's Consultative Council, we are part of World Vision Romania and this is our Manifesto:

Have you seen, around you, children that were being exploited or abused?

Are you aware that some of us are unable to attend school because we are forced to work in agriculture, beg on the streets or take care of younger siblings?

Are you aware that some parents think it is perfectly acceptable to beat their children? Have you ever thought about what that means to us? Have you ever tried to put yourselves in our shoes?

Does anyone care about what we want? Do you realize that we also have dreams?

Have you ever wondered why we tend to solve conflicts with violence? Could it be because we have been exposed to such experiences or because we are following our parents' example?

Have you ever wondered why some of us only feel respected when terrorizing or humiliating other children?

Have you ever thought that we can't find role models in schools anymore, that many of those in charge of our education are examples of how not to behave? Are you aware that violence also happens during school hours?

If we fall victim to violence in our families and in schools, how are we supposed to feel out in the community?

If we are worthless in the eyes of those know us so well, our parents and our teachers, what are we to the larger community?

Does what we think even matter anymore? Does

our voice count or are we just objects to be traded? In this context, how can we build self-esteem, how can we not be vulnerable to drugs, pornography and human trafficking?

Isn't it BECAUSE of this that we look for comfort in the virtual world, trying to be SOMEONE at least there? Is that the solution or just another risk of becoming victims again?

Have you ever stopped to think about all these or were you hoping they would solve themselves? **NOW IS THE TIME TO GET INVOLVED!**

Let's admit that all this is happening and that this is the reality we live in!

LET'S ALL GET INVOLVED!

We need you, our parents, to listen to us, to trust and protect us. We need you, our teachers, to educate us and be real role models!

We need communities where we can feel safe and supported to fulfil our true potential! We need a whole world to end violence against us!

We need **LOVE, EMPATHY, RESOURCES, COURAGE AND ACTION**, to end this vicious circle!

It is our responsibility – mine, yours, everyone's, to make this world better! Let's start working on that now, together we can do it!

LET'S MAKE SURE THAT EVERY CHILD ENJOYS A HAPPY CHILDHOOD, A LOVING AND PROTECTIVE FAMILY AND A COMMUNITY IN WHICH DREAMS CAN BE ACHIEVED!

It takes a world to end violence against children

Whether we realize it or not, violence is everywhere: physical, verbal, mental or sexual, neglect, ill treatment, abuse, trafficking, labor exploitation, certain practices and traditions. All these threaten children's development.

Family and community violence or violence in school (bullying) are well-known. Therefore, there is an acute need for campaigns aiming to reduce effects and consequences on children and young people.

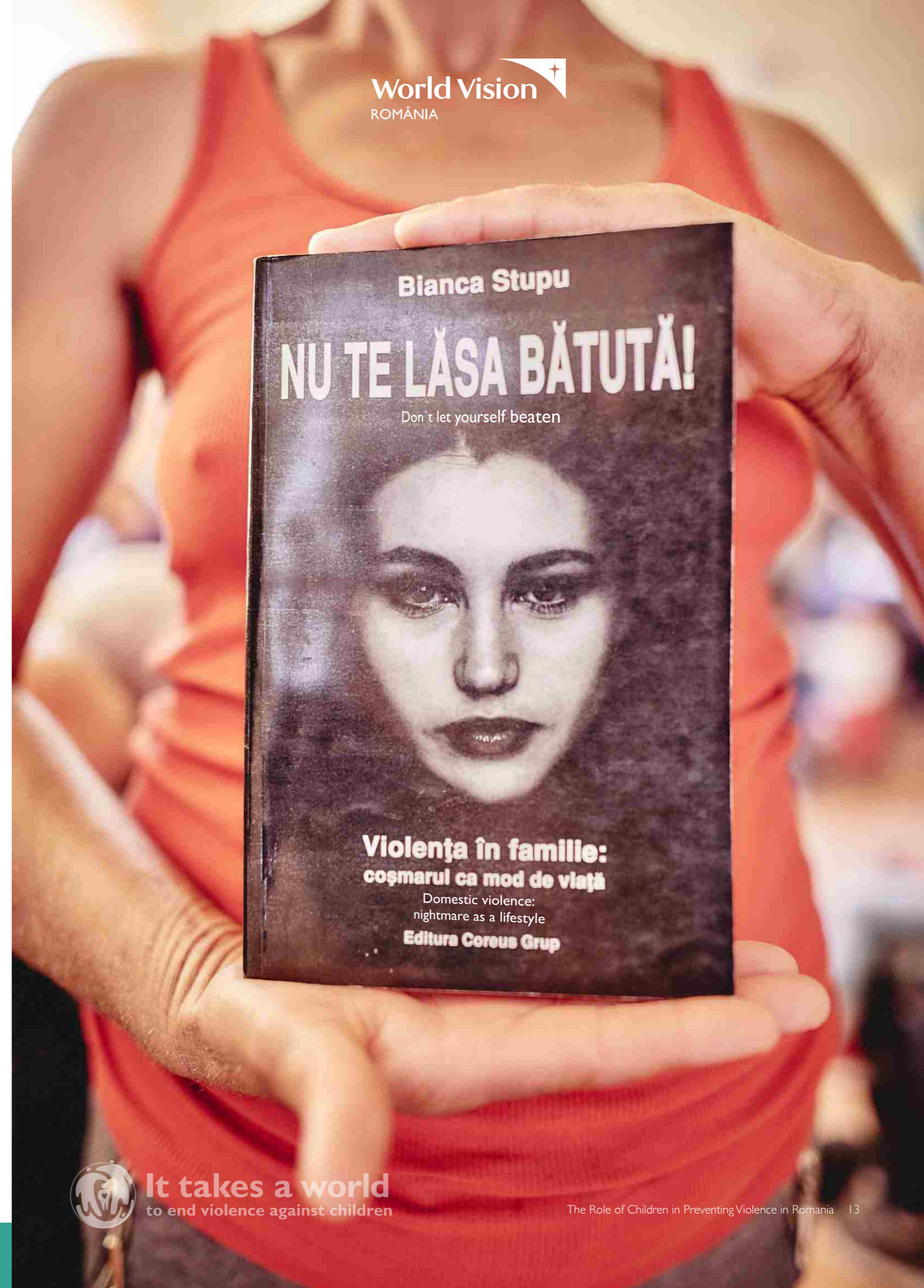
In March 2017, World Vision launched a five-year global campaign – It Takes a World to End Violence Against Children. The campaign aims to positively impact the lives of vulnerable children, significantly contributing to ending violence against them and reaching the Sustainable Development Goals.

Romania is a PATHFINDER member state, along with El Salvador, Mexico, Jamaica, Indonesia, Paraguay, Tanzania, Sweden, Uganda, Sri Lanka and The Philippines. Governments in these countries have taken on national commitments as part of the Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children.

A working group has been created and recognized by the Coordination Council and it is being run by the National Authority for Protection of Child Rights and Adoption. The group includes NGO representatives like UNICEF, The Romanian NGO Federation for Children (FONPC), Save the Children, World Vision Romania and other partners.

World Vision Romania is one of the 80 countries that have joined the It Takes a World to End Violence Against Children global campaign. Through its projects and programmes developed mainly in rural areas, World Vision Romania is addressing the issue of family violence by directly involving communities, through their representatives, in ending violence against children.

Children and young people will play a special part in this campaign through children's local initiative groups and, at a national level, through the Children's Consultative Council.



Violence prevention campaigns

Number of children involved in activities developed by the CCC:



Approximately 1.000 Romanian children have learned about violence in all its forms and consequences and about the means available to put

an end to it. They've learned all this through a series of activities organized by the Children's Consultative Council together with local action groups and under the guidance of World Vision Romania staff, parents and police representatives.

Starting with identified needs and the local context, young people have organized drawing competitions and info sessions; they've put together and distributed leaflets and posters, organized summer camps and published articles in students' magazines. In addition, they designed and ran a research project highlighting how young people, together with their parents, should be part of more info campaigns on the dangers of violence in the media.

Most of the activities took place in middle schools from communities where World Vision Romania works, gaining a strong impact on children and encouraging them to share what they have learned with siblings, parents and colleagues.



Info sessions for hundreds of children

Representatives of the Children's Consultative Council in Cluj, coordinated by World Vision Romania staff, have organized info and debate sessions for students in Iclod and Livada.

„We are happy that you've chosen our school for this campaign especially because you've involved some of our former students (now members of the CCC). Violence is real and, many times, we also find it difficult to manage it. We need families and the community to support us but there is also a need for children to have a better understanding of violence,” said Lavinia, one of the teachers involved in this campaign.

In Iclod middle school, activities were organized by fourth-grade children. Along with being part of the info session, they have participated in a drawing competition themed “Violence against children.”

Three of the drawings were used to create a poster that was later used in all the 13 communities where WorldVision Romania is working in Cluj County.

Children in Iclod school were also part of a county-wide competition on violence prevention. Seventh grade students were then involved in a debate revealing that students avoid taking a stand when witnessing episodes of violence for fear of being called “tattletales”. During the debate, the students were very open and recounted episodes of violence that happened in their school. One of the most compelling stories talked about how a student chose to transfer to a different school because of a violent colleague.

In Livada middle school (Cluj County), a debate was organized and it involved students in the third, fourth and seventh grade. Discussions were aimed at strengthening information around violence in school, circles of friends, family and community.



In each situation, discussions helped students gain more information and a deeper understanding of violence. They've understood their potential role in ending the phenomenon along with the legal levers they can access with the support of adults.

„This meeting helped us better understand violence. We understood that we are surrounded by violence but also that there are things we can do about it. At least within our peer groups”, concluded Larisa, a seventh-grade student.



In Dolj, a component of the campaign organized by CCC members was aimed at encouraging primary school children to draw about how they saw violence. The drawings were then analyzed to see how they perceived violence in the school, family and wider community. This took place outside of school hours, during an after-school program and with the support of teachers. Encouraged by World Vision staff, children set their imagination free and expressed how they see violence in the community. Children's response to this activity revealed their need to be involved and to feel that they are being listened to.

„I liked being able to show the violence in my village through my drawing.”

„Yesterday, two colleagues were pushing each other around. I wanted to put that in my drawing and show that it is not right.”

„I appreciated that we addressed one of the biggest problems in my village.”

In Ialomita, young people have put up posters illustrating the consequences of violence on children (“A picture is worth a thousand words”). World Vision staff together with school counselors and teachers delivered presentations of the subject to students in middle school.

Young people from Vaslui County distributed fliers addressing violence while two members of the initiative group in the area delivered a presentation on types of violence and its consequences. This was done in the form of a dialogue and with the participation of local Police representatives who shared two relevant videos with the children. Students from grades 5 to 8 were invited along with some primary school children.

„These activities not only explain violence but also show us that it is not good for kids or adults to behave like that. We all did it at some point, for different reasons: because we were nervous or angry but this is not good behavior. As a conclusion, violence is everywhere (in the way we speak, in cartoons, movies,



shows, etc.). These have a great influence on the violent way that teenagers behave towards one another”, concluded 14-year-old Simona.

„Some of the students identified with the aggressor but also with the victims and, after seeing the videos, they were deeply impressed when realizing the consequences violence can have on others. They were also reminded about the people they can go to for help when witnessing episodes of violence”, said Gianina Gavrilita, one of the adults involved in the activities organized in Vaslui.

The anti-violence campaign ran by young people in Valcea initially targeted primary school students, explaining why it is essential that they understand the problem and how serious it is. Students were encouraged to talk to their parents, teachers or older friends if they are ever subjected to violence.



With the support of teachers, student council members and other students, posters and other materials were created and posted around in the school hallways.

These activities were aimed at helping students understand that any form of violence can greatly impact a child's present and future and, most importantly, that violence is never the answer when trying to solve conflicts.

„The activities helped me realize that certain things happening in my family are wrong. Now I know that I can ask for help”, said 13-year-old Denisa.

„Many children around the world face these problems and I am happy that this activity was organized in my school. Many people might not





understand the consequences of violence and I am sure that this activity had an impact on children and the way they think”, 15-year-old Alexandra believes.

In Francesti local library (Valcea County), discussion about violence became more personal and participants could better understand what they can do when exposed to violent situations. More specifically, students learned what violence is how often violent situations occur and what can be done about it. The emphasis was on violence in school and those present shared with World Vision staff and teachers about how they handled violent situations in the past and, if unable to solve the conflict, about what they would do differently.

Bullying as a serious form of violence causing daily suicide cases around the world was also discussed.

„This meeting was a perfect opportunity to socialize, have fun but also learn. The subject showed a sad reality: that violence exists but, together, we can put an end to it. We can change something, we can act and take a stand and that is what I've learned here”, explained 15-year-old Anisia.

„I liked working as a team and discussing about the relationship with our parents which can help us understand ourselves more in the future. We also talked about violence. Thousands of children become victims of their parents or friends. I'm happy there are foundations like World Vision trying to protect children”, said 14-year-old Gabriel.



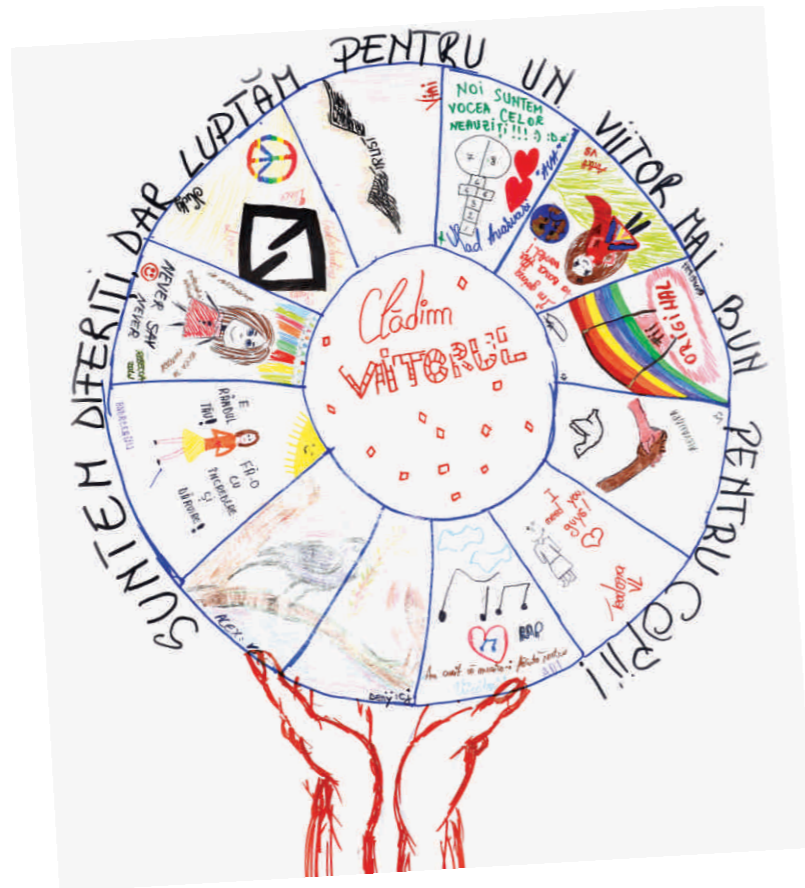
Questionnaires and materials published in youth magazines

325

students from Baciu commune learned more about the „It Takes a World to End Violence Against Children!”

43

high school students in Craiova responded to questionnaires about violence



WE ARE YOUNG BUT WE ARE FIGHTING FOR A BETTER FUTURE FOR CHILDREN

Along with activities that directly involved young people in creating posters or in free discussions for a better understanding of violence, young people from different areas where Word Vision is present have also tried to highlight violence in other ways.

In Baciu school (Cluj County), young people wrote an article on violence and published it in the Students' Magazine. This made it possible for 325 fellow students to learn more about violence as a phenomenon, about the It Takes a World to End Violence Against Children campaign and how they can become more involved.

Young people in Dolj used questionnaires to collect information about violence from students in several schools.

They aimed at analyzing and understanding the causes of violence in school – frequency of conflicts

between students, between students and teachers, types of children/young people predisposed to violence, prevention measures suggested by children/young people to reduce violence in schools, communities and families. They also wanted to learn about the sense of safety in the community and the people seen as potential supporters when confronted with conflicts that could escalate into violent episodes.

The questionnaire was created by a group of volunteers from the Children's Consultative Council in Dolj, with support from Word Vision Romania staff.

The questionnaires were filled out by young people coming from both urban and rural schools.

Summer schools promoting „It Takes a World to End Violence Against Children!” campaign

The summer school organized by the Children's Council in Ialomița included 53 people that learned more about the campaign against violence led by World Vision Romania and included the PhotoVoice project themed “Violence against children affects everyone.”

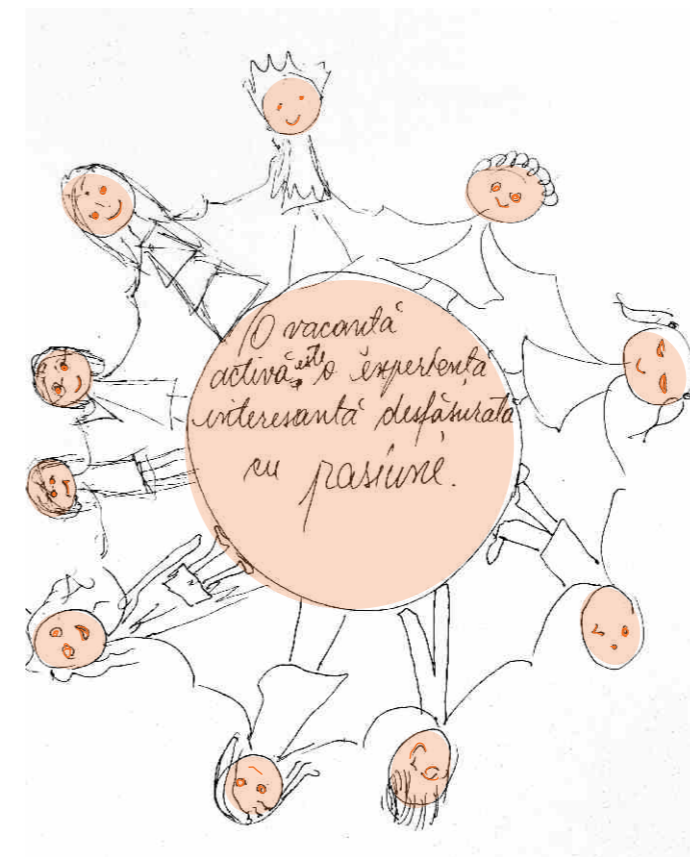
Along with activities focusing on how to implement projects impacting vulnerable children's wellbeing, the young camp participants attended a photography course, learning basic principles of photography used for advocacy purposes. Following the course, they worked on photo assignments on the same theme - “Violence against children affects everyone.”

AN ACTIVE HOLIDAY, AN INTERESTING EXPERIENCE RAN WITH PASSION

Anti-violence activities were included in the summer camp organized for “I want to be in the ninth grade” scholarship project in Valcea.

Participants worked on improving leadership, public speaking and coordinating abilities as part of personal development activities.

„I spent a few wonderful days as a volunteer for World Vision Romania's Ialomița office, working with two age groups: teenagers and adults. We expressed opinions, we tried to improve communication and understanding, to believe more in ourselves and in our parents. We also tried to find solutions for innocent children facing violence. There were also play, positive energy and rest”, told 24-year-old Valentina, WV volunteer and “I want to be in the ninth grade” alumni.



„I really enjoyed the PhotoVoice project and I can't wait to follow up at home. It was great to be reunited with good friends during this summer school and we had fun seeing new places, playing the guitar and playing outdoors”, said 16-year-old Corina, member of the Children's Consultative Council in Urziceni.



Media violence and its impact on children and youth in Negresti

Between April – July 2017, as part of the It Takes a World to End Violence Against Children global campaign, a group of 15 children (members of the initiative group from “Mihai David” Middle School, included in WorldVision’s community development project) from Negresti town, Vaslui County have run a research project Negresti. The research assessed the impact of violence in the media (through different TV programs but also through information and imagery circulating online) on children and young people’s development.

This research aimed to raise the alarm, within communities, on the risks that children are subjected to when exposed to violent information. Based on the findings and conclusions of the research, the “Young people in Negresti” group will design and implement activities to promote these findings.

Before launching the research, they organized a series of meeting to choose instruments: focus-groups, interviews and questionnaires, providing the

necessary quantitative and qualitative data. One focus-group was organized and it included child protection professionals from the General Direction of Social Assistance and Child Protection in Vaslui County, church, school and local authorities representatives and World Vision Romania staff. Teachers from “Mihai David” Middle School and “Nicolae Iorga” technical high school were also included in the focus-group.

Media representatives from Iasi County were also interviewed - Mrs. Maria Florea (TVR Iasi, Romanian public TV network), Mr. George Onofrei (Radio Hit) and Mr. Ovidiu Mihaiuc (Digi 24 Iasi).

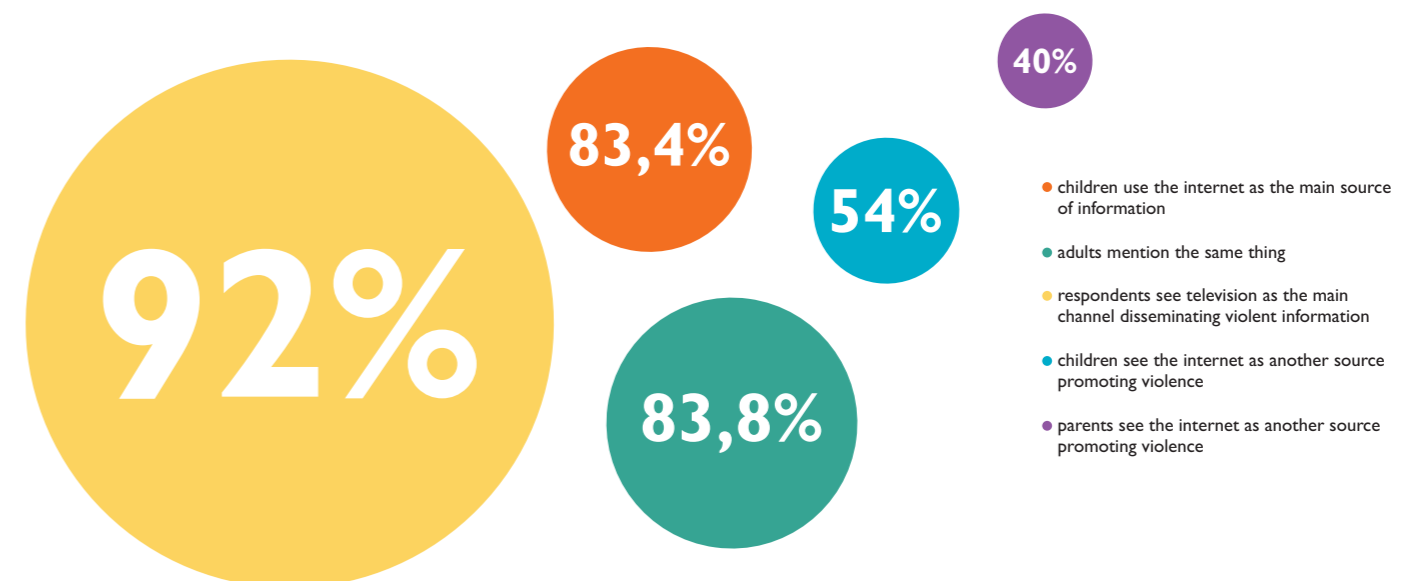
During the research, 290 questionnaires have been applied: 219 questionnaires addressed to young people aged 11 to 18 and 71 to parents who had children in that age range.

Children and young people spend the most time online or in front of the TV and should be aware of the dangers they are exposed to. They should also

Based on the information they've collected, the research group identified four major themes:

1. Types of violence and transmission sources
2. Relationship between the child's age and the risk of manifesting violent behaviors
3. The role of adults in preventing and acting against violence in the media
4. The role of children in preventing and acting against violence

Analysis of qualitative and quantitative data revealed that both children and adults (parents and representatives of the media) mention the media as the main source of information for children and young people.



Recommendations →

understand that, most of the time, the programs they follow don't promote positive behaviors or attitudes.

One of the things the group recommend based on their research was that TV stations should remove programs that promote violence. Another interesting observation in the research was that most of the respondents, both children and adults, couldn't notice less obvious forms of violence like emotional violence of bullying.

This issue can be addressed by running information sessions for both young people and adults explaining the various types of violence.

The research on the impact of violence in the media on children and young people in Negresti showed that some of the things promoted in the media, especially those of violent nature, do have a subliminal influence on both children and young people and directly affect their development and, later, their behavior.

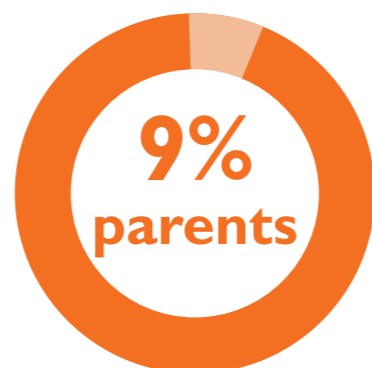
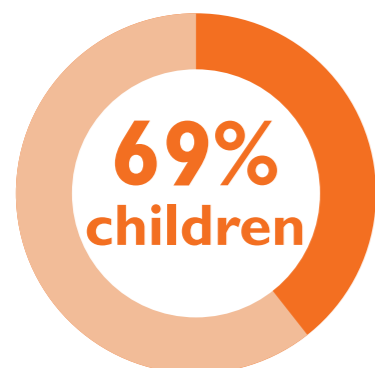
When looking at the age range when children and adults are more at risk of internalizing certain behaviors, respondents had different opinions. 31% of the parents believe that 6 to 10-year-olds are more prone to imitating behaviors while.

49% of children and young people think 11 – 14 is a more critical age range, also because they believe that this is the time when children feel the need to

belong to a group.

Mrs. Maria Florea, journalist and TV programs producer warns about the dangers of violence shown in cartoons, especially since these are addressed to a very young audience. Many times, there is a lot of aggression and violence both in terms of behavior and language hidden behind the apparent humor.

Percentages of adults and children that understand the risks when exposed to violent information:

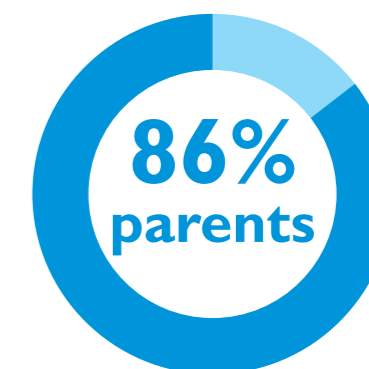
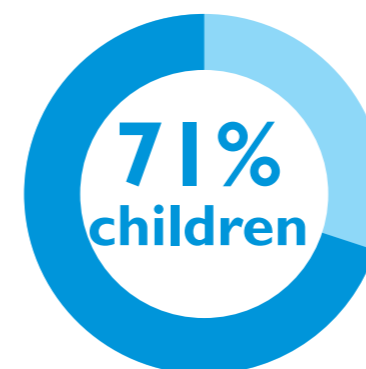


Mrs. Florea believes that a potential solution would be for parents to join their children in watching different programs and to filter out what is inappropriate. It would be almost impossible to completely restrict children's access to all programs, especially when the child is well integrated in the community.

Mrs. Gabriela Pitaru, who leads the Day Centre in Negresti, is of a similar opinion – that parents should spend more time actively participating in outdoor activities together with their children.

Data from the research showed that adults are responsible for children's growth and development and that they need to manage children's access to inappropriate violent information and to involve children in discussions about this type of information. și tinerilor, reflectându-se mai târziu în comporta-mentul lor.

Violent materials should not be shared, believe:



Media representatives also spoke about the role played by the Ministry of Educational in informing and educating children and young people, through the national curricula. Journalist George Onofrei says that “the power is in the hands of the parents.” He believes that parents need to act as role models, ensuring that the family environment is free of violent behaviors and that parents should enforce control but never through physical violence or punishment.

Ideally, parents should direct free time towards playing with children outdoors and avoiding media altogether. Psychologists say that children below the age of two should not have access to computers, TVs, smart phones or tablets as these devices can impair development.

Media representatives believe that children can play an important role in preventing and fighting against violence in the media, especially since they can understand the risks and can get involved in different types of activities. Mr. Ovidiu Mihaiuc advises children and young people to get involved in as many as campaigns as possible, especially since they are more creative than adults and have more free time and access to information.



General conclusion of the research

There was a special focus on the level of involvement of parents in children's lives, especially looking at the role of parents in monitoring how and where children are getting their information. There was, however, a difference in perspective between the two age groups – children and parents. Looking at the main themes of the research, parents believe that they are sufficiently involved while children seem to think that parents need to be even more involved.

Children, young people and media representatives interviewed recommend that parents spend more time with their children and that they more carefully monitor access to information. It is also vital that children are given more options in spending free

time and that access to television and the internet should be limited.

Young people involved in this research realized that promoting violent information and behaviors through the media has a major impact. They believe that both children and parents should be part of more information campaigns about access to violent programs. This is also why they intend to run information campaigns around preventing violence and they will look to build partnerships with other youth groups and public figures willing to join their efforts.

It's time

to end violence against

children!

