



activate

creative
community
partnerships
worldwide

2012

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VALUING CULTURE THROUGH LOCAL STORIES AND TRADITIONS



An international peace education organization, CISV educates and inspires action through a network of local Chapters, Junior Branches, educational programmes and projects. Our programmes and activities are for all ages, starting with 11-year-old children. For descriptions of CISV programmes featured in Activate, please see the back cover.

Throughout its 60-year history, CISV has worked in cooperation with like-minded organizations for the purpose of educational research, national, regional and international relations and, increasingly, to develop our community-based programmes and activities.

Activate magazine is written to inspire action for a more just and peaceful world. Please pass this issue along to anyone who might be interested. If you are part of a CISV Chapter, share it with other members. If you're interested in starting a local project of your own, start by sending this to the partner organization you would like to work with.

If you found this magazine on the street and you are curious to know more, then get in touch! Most importantly, if this magazine planted a seed of inspiration in you, don't wait to take action: dare to dream and start planning your local community project right now.

Activate Team:

Laura Valenciano, CISV Costa Rica
Marietta Möhlen, CISV Germany
Paul Hinterberger, CISV Germany
Safiya Dhanani, CISV Canada
Ulrika Dane, CISV Sweden

MOSAIC

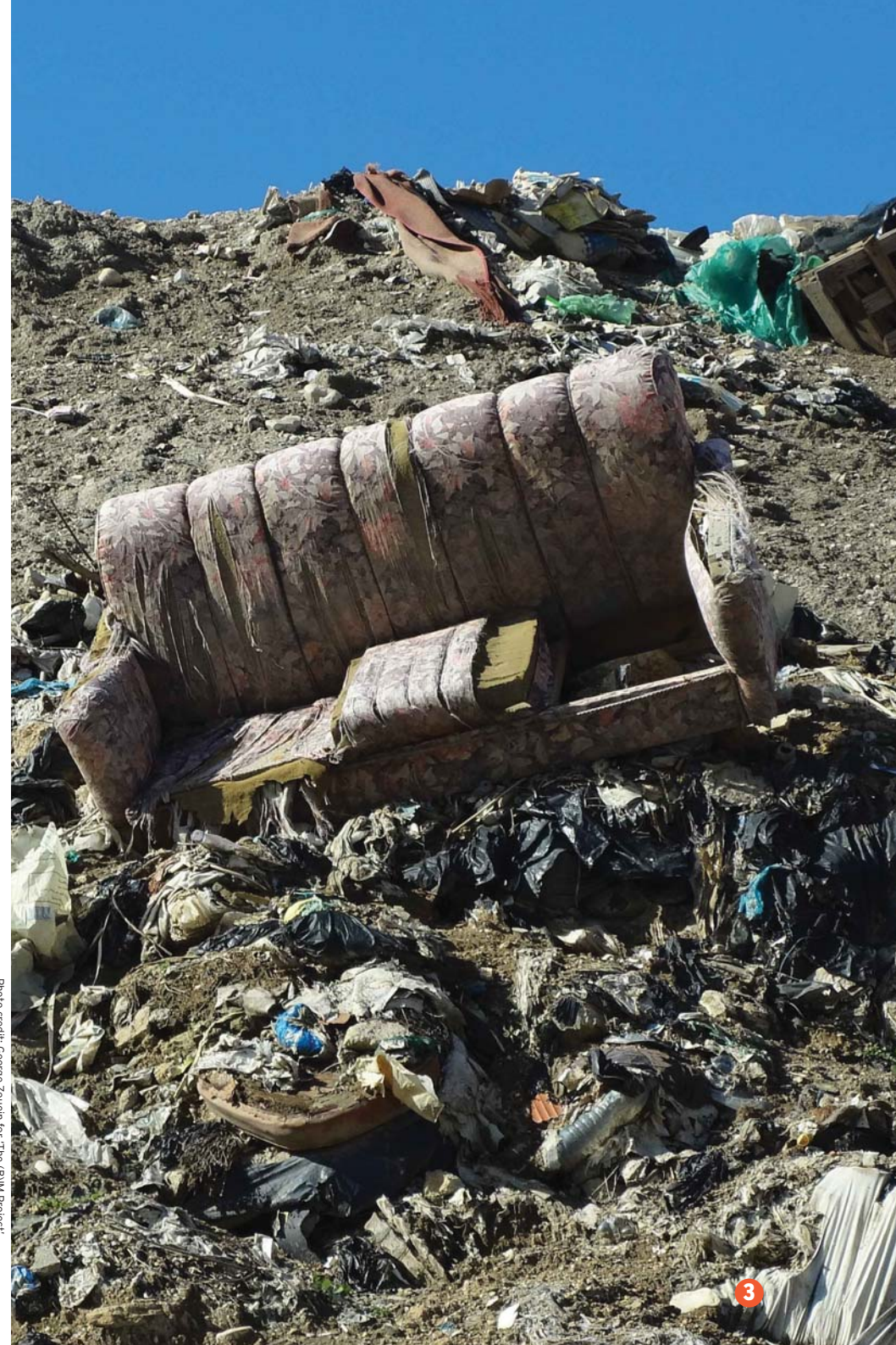
TAKING STEPS TOWARDS POSITIVE CHANGE IN LEBANON

Beyond these four walls

In March 2011, CISV Lebanon launched its first Mosaic project called 'Beyond these four walls.' The project ventured out of Beirut, where the majority of Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) work is concentrated to a city called Saida. Saida or Sidon, Lebanon's third largest city, is a bustling port metropolis in the south, which hugs a stretch of the Mediterranean coast adorned with sandy beaches and ancient ruins. Despite its idyllic setting, it is also home to one of Lebanon's greatest environmental problems. From afar 'Jabal al-Zbeleh,' which literally translates into 'garbage mountain,' appears to be a regular mountain, however as one ventures closer the stench and sight is overwhelming. Today Jabal al-Zbeleh, which dates back to 1975, towers 300 meters above the sea, has a volume of 1 million cubic meters and is now overflowing into the sea. Lebanon's environmental concerns extend far beyond this one garbage mountain but Jabal al-Zbeleh, laden with medical waste, plastic bottles and bags, and heavy industrial metals, serves as a stark visual representation of just how much work needs to be done. According to the website www.nowlebanon.com, "Lebanon annually produces 1.5 million tons of solid waste, with 40 percent ending up in makeshift dumps, 50 percent in established landfills and only 10% being recycled".

Not only does it highlight an environmental problem but the mountain is also a symbol of conflict and poverty. Buried among the garbage are the ruins of destroyed houses and buildings from Israel's invasion of Lebanon in 1982, a time when the mountain saw its most significant growth. Today, Palestinian refugees from the neighbouring Ain Al-Hilweh camp use the garbage mountain as a source of income as they rummage through the heap in search for valuable items. There have been many attempts and proposals in regards to a clean-up effort, however decisions surrounding the clean-up have been riddled with politics and as a result the mountain is growing by the day.

Photo credit: George Zouein for The (B)IM Project.



MOSAIC

TAKING STEPS TOWARDS POSITIVE CHANGE IN LEBANON



PARTNER ORGANIZATION

SIDON ORPHAN WELFARE SOCIETY

The Sidon Orphan Welfare Society is a Lebanese non-profit organization established in 1952. It provides comprehensive services and care to the most vulnerable groups in the community, especially orphans. They also work with children who have living parents and relatives but who face adverse social and economic conditions, including those with special needs and the hearing impaired.

The Society offers comprehensive welfare, educational, instructional, rehabilitation, social, vocational, and support services through five specialised channels: the Children Residential Unit, the Saida Generations School (a free elementary school), the Vocational Training Center, the Center for Children with Special Needs, and the Rehabilitation and Orientation School for The Hearing Impaired.

For more information about the partner organization visit:

www.maytamsaida.org

In the face of many complex and daunting issues such as the garbage mountain, CISV Lebanon's first Mosaic project identified developing critical thinking and raising awareness, specifically amongst the youth, as important steps towards positive change in Lebanon. The project partnered with an orphanage in Saida to deliver peace education activities focusing on the themes of diversity, the environment, and peaceful conflict resolution. An important aspect of the project was the focus on delivering content to children, who ranged from 11 to 13-years-old, in a non-traditional manner. In line with CISV's philosophy of educating through experiential learning, the staff delivered content through hands-on activities. This allowed participants to learn for themselves and go through an educational process, which extended far beyond words in a textbook, but rather consisted of tangible experiences, emotions, and epiphanies. As the children were not used to learning through activities and the staff team was new to the orphanage, the first phase of the project consisted of activities focused around getting to know one another.

Phase two, which began in October 2011 after summer vacation, was inspired by a documentary John Hunter made entitled 'World Peace and other fourth grade achievements'. John Hunter is a schoolteacher, musician and filmmaker, who created an intricate simulation called the World Peace Game. The game is 'a hands-on political simulation that gives players the opportunity to explore the connectedness of the global community through the lens of the economic, social, and environmental crises and imminent threat of war'. The project decided to take elements from this incredible simulation and incorporate it into a popular CISV activity 'peace war peace.'

The activity went through a series of steps in which the participants, now divided into groups representing hypothetical nations, had to create their own nation, explore ideas of nationality and identity, decide how to allocate their nation's limited resources in a live auction, trade, and make diplomatic negotiations. Layers of complexity were added to the activity as each nation was given a unique goal and, despite differing national interests, the final stage of the activity required all nations to find a way to unite as one global community.

Perhaps most significant, was the enthusiasm and passion of the participants. The activity was not confined to class time but discussed over snacks and was a testament to the capacity that children have to engage in activities dealing with complex issues. Children who were quieter in the classroom were given a unique platform to contribute their ideas and express their opinions, both vocally through discussions and simulations and creatively through arts and crafts. In addition to the impact on the participants, the staff involved also gained an immense amount from the project. Having a specific goal to work towards, and actually taking action in their community, rather than just discussing issues was described as ‘empowering’ and ‘unifying’.

Safiya Dhanani, CISV Canada

For more information about the project visit:

www.mosaic.cisv.org

“The project partnered with an orphanage in Saida to deliver peace education activities focusing on the themes of diversity, the environment, and peaceful conflict resolution.”

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Photos courtesy of Sidon Orphan Welfare Society.

NGO COLLABORATION

CONTRIBUTING THROUGH A LARGER
NETWORK IN INDONESIA

Indonesia Global Compact Network Voluntary Days



PARTNER ORGANIZATION

UN GLOBAL COMPACT

The UN Global Compact (UNGC) is a global network founded by ex-UN Secretary General, Kofi Anan in 2000, to engage corporations in running responsible business activities as part of the solutions to global issues.

The Network grows with NGOs joining as members in different parts of the world.

For more information about the partner organization visit:

www.unglobalcompact.org

*“IGCN promotes active citizenship (which) matches
our mission to educate active global citizens”*

The Indonesia Global Compact Network (IGCN) is part of the United Nations Global Compact which aims to promote and implement values of human rights, labour, environment and anti-corruption. Since CISV Indonesia feels that most of those values match CISV International's educational purpose, CISV Indonesia joined IGCN in 2010. The Network's members include profit and non-profit NGOs, and they inspire and involve each other through different ways; the profit organizations or corporations contribute through Corporate Social Responsibility programmes, while the NGOs do so through projects. Sometimes these organizations collaborate to give the best of each other's resources.

In December 2011, an interesting opportunity to participate in a concrete project knocked on our door. One of IGCN members, Habitat for Humanity, sponsored by a corporate member called Asia Pulp and Paper, organized a project to help build facilities to support ecotourism in a village in Central Java. Considering it an opportunity to contribute, while at the same time take lessons learned for a future CISV project (similar to Mosaic or International People's Project), CISV Indonesia asked some members to participate. Here is a perspective of the participation from one Indonesian CISVer who answered the call, Andris Adhitra.

WHAT WERE THE GOALS OF THE ACTIVITY?

"The activity aimed to raise the awareness of the people of Soran Village (Klaten, Central Java) of their village's sustainable potential as an ecotourism spot. But our goal for the two days was to help them build the facilities for that. The project was led by Habitat for Humanity, another member of IGCN, who has the experience in building houses for communities."

WHAT DID YOU CONTRIBUTE TO THE ACTIVITY AND WHAT CAN YOU TAKE FROM IT?

"I helped rehabilitate a house that could be used as a home stay for tourists. The participants observed the village's potential and discussed the marketing strategy for the villagers to promote ecotourism there, as a potential sustainable income for them. During those two days, I worked with the villagers, learned their traditions and enjoyed their cultural performance."

WHAT WAS THE IMPACT OF THE ACTIVITY TO THE COMMUNITY?

"The community learned to identify their village's potential to improve their livelihood through sustainable tourism. I immediately saw the increase of ownership of the on-going project."

WHAT DO YOU PERSONALLY THINK OF CISV'S PARTICIPATION IN THIS ACTIVITY?

"I think the fact that the IGCN promotes active citizenship matches our mission to educate active global citizens. The Network provides a platform for diverse organizations to work together for a better society, something that CISV could explore for further partnership. We could work together in manifesting the values that we promote into concrete projects. As for myself, I felt a sense of camaraderie in helping a society with people who work for the same goal as we do, and that motivates me to do more."

Interview by **Nanda Muandar**, CISV Indonesia



CHAPTER PROJECT AND MOSAIC IN COLOMBIA AND NORWAY

A PROJECT TO INSPIRE THINKING,
EDUCATING AND ACTING FOR
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

I have a mango

PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

LNU

The Norwegian Children and Youth Council (LNU) is an umbrella organization for more than 90 Norwegian NGOs for children and youth. The member NGOs work within a wide range of areas, from education and politics through culture and music to scouting and religious work. LNU represents the youth organizations' views to authorities and other important institutions.

For more information about the partner organization visit:


www.en.lnu.no

FREDSKORPSET NORWAY

Fredskorpset Norway is a public body answerable to the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and financed totally by the State. The objective is to contribute to lasting improvements in economic, social and political conditions in the world. Through their programmes they help participants to integrate their know-how and experience into their own societies, enhance the ability of the people to set and achieve their own development goals, and promote greater participation by developing countries in international cooperation.

For more information about the partner organization visit:

www.fredskorpset.no



“When people hear the term sustainable development they immediately relate it to recycling, windmills or not leaving any leftovers. People still think that sustainable development is only a matter of being eco-friendly and just caring for the environment, but they often ignore the real meaning of sustainable development and the importance of it in our rapidly growing human population”.

The quote above is to be found in ‘The Lunchbox’ - a booklet aimed at highlighting different aspects of sustainable development through short articles, facts and inspiring stories. The booklet is one of the products created by ‘I have a mango - A project to think, educate and act for sustainable development’. CISV Norway had the chance to create this project with the support of The Norwegian Children and Youth Council (LNU) and Fredskorpset Norway, inviting CISV Colombia as their partner.

The project started in August 2011 and ended nine months later in May 2012. It was created in line with the educational focus area of 2012 for CISV International - sustainable development - and has been an exchange project, where the first half was carried out in Norway and the second half in Colombia. One of the main goals of the project was to create a link between the academic field of sustainable development and general society, particularly youth.

By raising awareness, running workshops, collecting facts and creating inspiring and user-friendly tools about sustainable development, the project has challenged organizations and the estimated 1.215 people reached by the project to act for sustainability in their local communities.

“We show how fun and simple it is to make local projects and we inspire mainly youth to develop the projects,” said the project team, Kamilla Haaland, Karianne Sørbo (CISV Norway) and Alejandra Echeverri, Juan Manuel Oviedo (CISV Colombia).

The accomplishments of the nine-month project have been extraordinary and include: leadership trainings in Bergen, Oslo, Bogotá and Medellín; meetings with like-minded organizations and external researchers; running sessions at CISV International's Regional Training Forums; involving two Mosaic projects together with Fundación Conconcreto (a building company that runs several projects to work for social development) in Medellín; touring through eleven Chapters in Norway carrying out a workshop called 'Damn consumerism!'; and, rounding up the project with an open exhibition showing pictures, thoughts and results from both CISV Norway and Colombia.

To have a long lasting and sustainable impact beyond the expiration date in May 2012 has been a central goal for the project. The 'I have a mango' project team have, together with the Education Department of CISV International, developed the content area of sustainable development and created activities and tools to be used in all CISV's programmes to facilitate the process of working with the theme and making it accessible.

The positive results from the 'I have a mango' project make it an example of the ability CISV has regarding project co-operations, both internally and externally. It definitely makes a bright future both for the theme of sustainable development and further work on CISV educational content areas.

Ulrika Dane, CISV Sweden

For more information about the project visit:

www.cisv.no/mango



YOUTH MEETING AND MOSAIC

WORKING ON LOCAL ISSUE
WITH NATIONAL HELP

National Youth Meeting

“SO much more than an extended mini camp.”

PARTNERSHIP ORGANIZATIONS

TOGETHER FOR PEACE

Together for Peace is a Leeds-based charity working to develop and support cooperative projects that strengthen communities and promote active citizenship and organize fund-raisers.

For more information about the partner organization visit:

www.t4p.org.uk

CITY OF SANCTUARY

City of Sanctuary is a movement to build a culture of hospitality for people seeking sanctuary in the UK. Our goal is to create a network of towns and cities throughout the country which are proud to be places of safety, and which include people seeking sanctuary fully in the life of their communities.

A City of Sanctuary is a place of safety and welcome for people whose lives are in danger in their own countries.

For more information about the partner organization visit:

www.cityofsanctuary.org

Great Britain, is a diverse country with a high rate of immigration and, in some cases, extreme cultural differences and conflicts. CISV Great Britain (GB) saw an opportunity to work on this as a local issue with the help of a national programme. So a national Youth Meeting was created. Not only was it CISV GB's first national Youth Meeting but also its first Mosaic project. The Youth Meeting, with the theme 'Cultural Conflict', ran over eight days and was for participants aged 12-13 years old.

CULTURAL DIVERSITY AROUND THE CORNER

During the camp, the group worked with two different partner organizations. One partner was 'Together for Peace', which promotes active citizenship and organizes fund-raisers for a community centre in Leeds in the North of England. The other partner was City of Sanctuary which is trying to find groups or communities that are willing to help refugees to find their way in a new city and new surroundings.

An activity that left an impression was a question and answer session with refugees from different countries, where the CISV participants could ask anything and no taboos existed. This was an eye-opening experience for the participants who, in their daily lives have little to no contact with refugees. Many of them also learned new things about Islam as well as Muslim customs and traditions.

The Youth Meeting was also invited to a dinner hosted by 'Together for Peace', where a Muslim community from Leeds celebrated the breaking of the fast in the evening of Ramadan. Participants again learned new things about a group of people living right next to them, but with which they usually do not interact.

VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTION

At the end of this meal all the participants decided to give five pounds each, out of their spending money, to the Islamic Relief.

This first-time national Youth Meeting was a great success for all involved. CISV GB is now planning to be a part of City of Sanctuaries, meaning that refugees will be invited to join any meeting of CISV GB to help them get more connected to the community they live in.

Paul Hinterberger, CISV Germany

Helen Scott, CISV GB

Just over a year ago, many Egyptians from all ages and backgrounds took part in peaceful demonstrations and sit-ins all over the country.

One of those movements was University Strike, which started, like so many others, through peaceful demonstrations. Students at the American University of Cairo were frustrated about an ongoing increase of fees for their courses. Over a course of four years, fees increased by 10,000 Egyptian pounds (roughly 1700 US dollars) per semester. They also saw the unfair treatment of University employees, where administration workers would make a more than comfortable living but workers in sanitation or gardening were struggling to get by. This led to a protest when a cut of workers' payments by 40 percent was announced.

Motivated students hosted a sit-in demonstration, but university officials tried to dismiss them as acts of mischief. As the movement gained more and more momentum and support, they could not ignore the students' demands any longer.

The group formed committees in order to create spaces of discussion between the university officials and the protesters as well as crowd sourcing, social media and the workers' education. In general however, the movement stayed leaderless and based their decisions on the common goal of changing things for the better.

Two active members of Junior Branch from CISV Egypt, Soliman el Ashkar and Ramy Tadros, took part in this movement. They've worked in areas such as leadership skills, facilitation and goal-based planning. They both felt their work within CISV reflected in themselves, as they took an active role in the movement. Soliman and Ramy were not alone in this, since other people they worked with in Junior Branch participated too. More importantly they identified a shared mindset; wanting to act in order to make their community a fairer place to live in.

The revolution has had many setbacks since Mubarak stepped down and there's still a lot to get done, however the movement stays hopeful.

Paul Hinterberger, CISV Germany



Photo copyright D.C. Munjo.

ACTIVE GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP

STUDENTS FOR EQUALITY

Making your community a fairer place to live in



INTERNATIONAL PEOPLE'S PROJECT

HOMELESSNESS AND DEPRIVATION IN URBAN BRITAIN

IPP Leeds - The Big Issue



PARTNERSHIP ORGANIZATION

ST ANNE'S COMMUNITY SERVICES

St. Anne's has been developing and providing services for people with learning disabilities, mental health problems, homeless people, and people with drug or alcohol problems since 1971. Care and support services are available to a diverse range of people whilst still focusing on their individual needs and encouraging them to live as full and active members of their local community.

For more information about the partner organization visit:

www.st-annes.org.uk

"This IPP gave me the opportunity to see a different side to my home city and really explore this issue of homelessness within my own community." Sophie, GB Participant.

HUMAN RIGHTS

In December 2011, the Leeds Chapter of CISV GB, in collaboration with local organization St Anne's Community Services, hosted an International People's Project (IPP). The project aimed to delve into the subject of homelessness within the city, and investigate how the recent economic crisis had impacted upon the issue. In a country where 65,000 people are registered as homeless, but where the issue is rarely seen to be large scale, the IPP created a space for discussion and sharing of diverse experiences on the theme.

Exploring the theme with CISV participants from a wide range of countries to reflect and question the stereotypical images that they had brought with them to the IPP. They looked at questions such as what it means to be homeless: do you have to be sleeping on the street or just not have a permanent address; what is the typical homeless person's story? This also prepared the group for the time with the partner organization – allowing them to go in with an open mind and a level of knowledge about the subject.

Throughout the IPP, participants worked with two different elements of St Anne's Community Centre. Firstly, in their resources centre, which provides a range of services for clients including classes in employability skills and language classes. Secondly, participants spent some time translating materials for the centre such as posters, leaflets and forms.

Language was also an asset in other ways at the centre as a number of participants spent time talking in their native tongue to clients returned several times to have the chance, and comfort of, talking to someone in their native language about home when everything else in their life may feel so foreign. As Barbora from the Czech Republic commented "For me it was fascinating to talk to Czech immigrants who have come to England to follow their hopes and dreams, which have not come true. We shared life stories, news from the Czech Republic and everyday things like music. These people have to deal with problems I can barely imagine and meeting them has changed my views and priorities in life".

The second element to this IPP was based around Holdforth Court – a 36-bed hostel for single homeless men, which supports clients for a number of months until they are able to become independent. Here participants cooked international food for residents of the hostel – who often helped with the preparation of the food as well as the eating! Ingredients were sourced from the local market which gave the IPP participants a chance to experience what it was like to live on a budget and source food locally rather than from supermarkets. During this time a cook book was also created of simple dishes from around the world that the hostel residents could continue to use in the future. One of the most successful elements of this part of the IPP was the informal interaction between IPPers and clients – many stories were shared over games of cards and both sides opened their ears to a world they had not encountered before.

The culmination of the IPP was a cultural day to which clients of both St Anne's resources centre and Holdforth Court were invited to sample a little culture from all of the IPP countries, including brigadeiro from Brazil and tortillas from Spain. In addition to this there was a number of games, such as dry cracker eating and mini bowling, which helped to break the ice between the two groups and facilitate inter-cultural learning. At the end of the day the staff of the centre – with decades of combined experience – commented that never before had they had so many clients engaged in activities and conversation together, it was something that St Anne's would not forget in a long time.

Jess Wanless, CISV GB



ORGANIZATIONAL RELATIONS - INTERNATIONAL, REGIONAL, NATIONAL

DEVELOPING CISV'S PARTNERSHIPS

The Youth Peace Ambassadors project - Council of Europe

Last November's call for participants for the Council of Europe's Youth Peace Ambassadors project by CISV International was a great success. Three CISVers got selected for the programme! The three successful candidates are Hanna Gynnerstedt from Sweden, Deimante Narijauskaite from Lithuania and Joanna van der Hoek from The Netherlands.

The Youth Peace Ambassadors project promotes and supports the role of young people in peace-building activities that contribute to living together in dignity and dialogue. This will happen through a network of specially trained young people to strengthen the presence and promote the values of the Council of Europe in conflict-affected areas and communities.

The participants will not only develop their personal competencies as Youth Peace Ambassadors, but also start a peace-building initiative in co-operation with local NGOs. They will be attending several training seminars at the European Youth Centres of Strasbourg and Budapest and work together with other participants in mentor groups through an online learning platform.

Hanna Gynnerstedt, CISV Sweden

For more information about the partner organization, visit:
www.youthpeace.coe.int



CISV Germany in the BundesForum - Engagement on a national level

Since 2008 CISV Germany has been a member of the German BundesForum, which is the German association for child and youth travel and combines nationwide umbrella organizations, agencies, and societies, which have agreed on a common set of quality criteria. Volker Bergmann, the German CISV President, is the CISV representative.

The BundesForum offers a platform for discussions and innovations, with quality assurance representing a joint issue of special significance. The members of the BundesForum focus on achieving common goals and objectives, regardless of the form or type of the individual agency or association involved. All members remain independent entities.

This relation is very beneficial for CISV Germany since they belong to a big umbrella organization with 25 other members and over 60 partners. With these partners CISV Germany can network, take part in their projects and profit from studies the Bundesforum initiates. Through active participation and contribution to the Bundesforum, Volker is making CISV Germany's needs more visible to an audience that is involved with taking decisions on a national level about child and youth organizations.

CISV Germany now has the ability to help shape questions about education and quality management. This gives CISV Germany an important role on the national level and offers the opportunity of funding programmes. Through this relation CISV Germany is now better integrated in the child and youth debate in Germany and Europe.

Marietta Möhlen, CISV Germany

For more information about the partner organization, visit:
www.bundesforum.de



UNESCO Youth Forum 2011

Since 2005 CISV International has been a partner NGO with UNESCO, which means that CISV International is officially represented at UNESCO. Béatrice Naegeli Lorino of CISV France attends the meetings throughout the year with the other youth NGOs at UNESCO.

Every second year UNESCO hosts a Youth Forum, where all UNESCO member countries and NGOs send youth representatives. The 7th Youth Forum took place in October 2011, with the theme 'How youth drive change', and all sessions and workshops throughout the forum were based around this theme. We thought it was interesting and useful to learn about the impact of youth in all different parts of the world and how youth can drive social change towards peace.

Throughout the forum CISV International had a booth in the Youth Expo, where all NGOs had a chance to promote and display their organizations. Besides that it was an opportunity to network with other Youth NGOs and the delegates.

Elisa Omodei, CISV Italy

Camilla Wetzel, CISV Denmark

For more information about the partner organization, visit:

www.unesco.org



CHAPTER PROJECT AND MOSAIC

ENRICHING LIVES OF PHILIPPINE
CHILDREN, AND THEIR FAMILIES,
DIAGNOSED WITH CHRONIC ILLNESS

Suntown Camp: 'A Touch of Magic'

PARTNERSHIP ORGANIZATION

SUNTOWN CAMP FOUNDATION

Brings together children who are either ill with cancer or in remission, children who have parents that has been diagnosed with cancer, and children with serious illness.

www.suntowncamp.org

SunTown Camp

TELE TECH

Is committed to making an impact on one of society's most pressing issues – education – by dedicating its resources, expertise and forward-thinking approach to schools and educational organizations.

www.teletech.com



Children diagnosed with cancer and chronic illness often have to grow up too fast and miss out on activities that healthy children experience daily. Seeing the devastating impact on families when a child is diagnosed with cancer led CISVers in the Philippines to take an initiative and act. Their concern led to 'Suntown'; a project to provide support for children with chronic illness and their families, and to increase awareness in the local community.

Suntown started as a Chapter-led project by CISV Bacolod in 2007 and became the Suntown Camp Foundation in 2008. Since then Suntown has, with the support of TeleTech Community Foundation, been an annual gathering of children aged 8 to 19-years-old who are either ill with cancer or in remission and children with chronic illness.

Around 90 percent of the children attending Suntown come from underprivileged families and due to their diagnosis are usually unable to leave home and therefore not able to socialise. Suntown camps are aimed to help them enjoy their childhood, make them realise that they are no different from other children and make them more confident and hopeful about the future. They are given the opportunity to make new friends and discover new interests. Marx de la Rosa, Executive Director for Suntown and member of CISV Bacolod, explain, "They [the participants] have the right to live a life of joy, love, hope and healing like everyone else. The disease is trying to crush their body... Suntown Camp will not allow the disease to crush their spirit".

The Suntown camps are organized in the same way as the CISV International programme, Village. The leaders plan and run activities suited to the participants' health conditions and are there to provide both emotional and physical support. The camp allows the children to understand and accept their situation, express their feelings and see that they are not alone in their struggles.

Suntown and CISV's network of volunteers has extended its work in organizing a range of monthly activities, that include support group sessions, to make the project more sustainable. CISV Bacolod are now looking for 'Suntown Ambassadors' who can encourage more people to help sustain Suntown's projects and future programmes.

Ulrika Dane, CISV Sweden

In March 2011, the Tohoku region in North-East Japan was struck by one of the most powerful earthquakes recorded in modern time, measuring a magnitude of 9.0 on the Richter Scale. The devastating aftermath of 'The Great East Japan Earthquake' - as it is now often referred to - led to the community facing a number of challenges, many related to the impact on the children of the community.

Members from the CISV Kanto Chapter saw a need to empower children and youth in the disaster-affected area and motivate their community-building. Since 2011, CISV members have been visiting one of the affected areas, Akebono, once a month carrying out CISV activities for elementary school children living in the community. The project, named Smile Tohoku Empowerment Project (STEP), is an approved Mosaic project and is a cooperation project together with Akebono Kodomo-kai (Akebono Kids Club).

The first monthly meeting - STEP Act Day number 1 - was held in July 2011 and attracted 31 young participants. The children were able to join in with activities, run around, play with other participants and staff without hesitation or pressure from the aftermath of the disaster. As well as being a place for the children to enjoy themselves the project also relieved the children's parents, making it possible for them to relax after the disaster.



STEP is created as a three-year project (2011-2013) and has already achieved great results. Adding on to the success STEP will this year also be accompanied by an International People's Project (IPP) aimed to inspire a long-term programme of activities in order to develop the participants' initiative and leadership on recovery.

Ulrika Dane, CISV Sweden

CHAPTER PROJECT AND MOSAIC EMPOWERING CHILDREN AND YOUTH IN AN EARTHQUAKE-AFFECTED AREA AND MOTIVATING COMMUNITY-BUILDING

Smile Tohoku Empowerment Project (STEP)



PARTNERSHIP ORGANIZATION
AKEBONO KODOMO-KAI

Akebono Kodomo-kai is a local children's centre running a range of activities.

INTERNATIONAL PEOPLE'S PROJECTS

VALUING CULTURE THROUGH LOCAL
STORIES AND TRADITIONS

IPP AMAZÔNIA, Raizes da Floresta



We've all heard about it before, some still dream of going; Amazônia.

The São Paulo Chapter in Brazil ventured on what would be a successful IPP programme based in the basin of the Rio Negro [Black River] in Amazônia. In this programme CISV Brazil paired up with Amazonas Sustainable Foundation (FAS, for its name in Portuguese), a private, independent, non-profit NGO founded in 2007, by the Amazonas State Government and the Bradesco Bank. FAS's mission involves environmental conservations, improvement of the quality of life of the residents in the areas of conservation and promotion of sustainable involvement. The project was planned over the course of a year by the CISV staff in cooperation with both FAS and the communities. The participants delivered it over 23 intense days, the effects of which can still be seen.

Aiming towards 'Amazonidade'

Amazonidade is a broad concept deeply related to identity. It refers to the connection between the individual and Amazônia. Amazonidade is the recognition and appreciation of traditional culture within the communities in this area. It is reflected by a feeling of ownership and connection of group identity, natural surroundings and individuality. One of the goals for the IPP was promoting Amazonidade amongst the participants and communities around the Rio Negro. Several educational activities were facilitated during the project, focusing on harvesting the Amazonidade feeling among the youth from the communities of the Sustainable Development Reserve of the Rio Negro. Their goal was to develop the feeling of Amazonidade for the people of the forest, and help them promote this feeling to the rest of the world.

Aside from the educational activities facilitated, the IPP participants also worked on promotion for the Reserve through social media. The content creation included photography, documentary videos and written material and they worked on it in cooperation with the communities' inhabitants. This exchange also offered the opportunity for enriching cultural exchange, fostering once again ownership over traditions and identity. The knowledge shared between the volunteers from FAS and CISV was also successful and it took place parallel to the transfer and sharing of knowledge and information amongst the different communities along the river.

Integrating efforts

At first the work done during the IPP engaged the volunteers from CISV, FAS, community leaders, and the educational team in the school where the project took place. In the following stages the volunteers had direct contact and interaction with youth from the communities.

The educational activities not only focused on promoting the feeling of belonging in the participants but also took a practical approach. They applied the local knowledge about the environment in several educational activities centered on environmental sustainability and sustainable development.



The volunteers also had the chance to learn about the different conservation techniques and distinct cultural aspects of the communities in the area. When interviewed, Bianca Monti from CISV Argentina said that one of the greatest benefits participants received from the experience, was the constant exchange of perspectives and ideas. She also

thought that the real impact of the project went beyond achieving the programme goals - which they did - and included the personal changes that would affect them later. Due to the work done during this IPP some participants even became further involved with FAS and the communities.

"In my personal experience, I got inspired to develop and propose an educational project for the school in the community and I will be working with them for two months developing and applying the proposal."

Bianca Monti, CISV Argentina IPP Participant



activate

The CISV programmes featured in Activate are Mosaic, International People's Project (IPP) and Youth Meeting, along with a number of Junior Branch and Chapter activities. For full descriptions of all CISV programmes please visit www.cisv.org



International People's Project

19+ years / 14 - 23 days

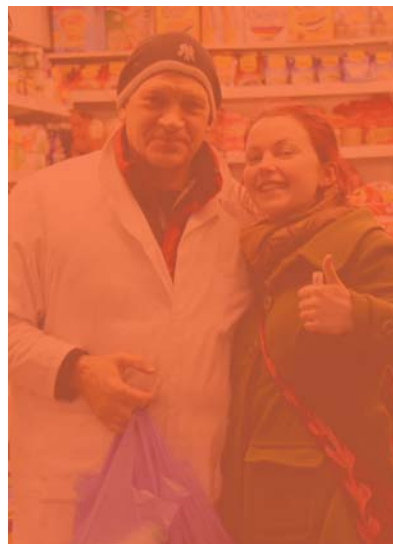
International People's Project brings together volunteers from around the world to explore global challenges in a local context. Through working on a project with a diverse group, participants develop as active global citizens. Each project is a collaboration between CISV and an organization offering expertise in the theme.



Mosaic

All ages / Any length

Mosaic offers our Chapters a model for community-based peace education. Each project responds to local needs and interests in meaningful ways. Most of the projects are planned and delivered in cooperation with partner organizations and come in many shapes and sizes.



Junior Branch

11 - 25 years / ongoing

Junior Branch is an international network of young people taking local action, while inspiring and enabling others to do the same. Based in our Chapters, Junior Branches are self-governing groups that organize activities throughout the year.



Youth Meeting

Youth Meeting

12-19+ years / 8 or 15 days

Youth Meetings bring small groups of participants together from different countries within a region - or, with a National Youth Meeting from different regions within a country. They explore aspects of peace education related to a specific theme and share their different perspectives. The participants also think about how they can apply what they have gained from their experience within their own community, such as knowledge of the theme, along with planning and communication skills.



Chapters

All ages

CISV has Chapters in over 200 towns and cities worldwide. While each is very different, they are all communities of active global citizens. Chapters are locally organized and open to anyone who would like to join.



We want to hear from you

Share your experiences of partnership working in the next issue of Activate! We are looking for good examples of working in partnership with other organizations, whether this was as a CISV Programme, Chapter or Junior Branch. It could be a small one-time local co-operation or a larger, on-going project - we are interested in them all! For more details of how to contribute, please contact denise.farrar@cisv.org