



taking
part



PROGRESSIO

CHANGING MINDS • CHANGING LIVES

annual review 2007



"everyone has something to contribute and the right to participate"

TAKING PART

Marta Galarza and Guadalupe Cuba Huamani are part of a grassroots social organisation in Cusco, Peru. In 2007 they attended classes in the school for community leaders run by COINCIDE, one of Progressio's partner organisations in Peru. Progressio's development worker, Belén Pont, is directly involved in the leader training project.

Marta and Guadalupe say that what they have learned has helped them improve their work with local communities. Their aim is to encourage local people to exercise their rights. They focus in particular on vulnerable groups including young people and women. Activities include helping people gain access to services such as health and education, contributing to local roundtables on fighting poverty and tackling violence, and taking part in forums that give ordinary people a say on what local government spends its money on.

"Taking part in the school for leaders has taught us not to be afraid of participating," they say. "Before we used to think certain spaces were only for intellectual people – not for us. Now we take part in a wide range of forums and decision-making bodies."

OUR SHARED VISION

Progressio believes everyone has the right to a life free of poverty, where human rights are respected and people can exert control over their own lives.

We believe in people's ability to find solutions to the problems they face. That's why we support their efforts by placing development workers with local organisations that work with and on behalf of local people. Our development workers bring expertise, skills and commitment to the shared goal – the goal we share with impoverished people throughout the world – of tackling poverty and injustice.

The people we work with are not poor by choice. They are impoverished by their circumstances and by the unjust systems and structures which often prevent them from breaking free of poverty. That's why we support local people and organisations in speaking out against injustice and speaking up for change. Many of our development workers provide training and support in advocacy skills, and we campaign on people's behalf, nationally and internationally, to bring about real change.



People who experience poverty know best what the problems are. Progressio works with them to find the solutions and help make the solutions work.

How do we meet
the challenges of

- HIV and AIDS
- environmental
vulnerability
- powerlessness?



How do we
tackle

- poverty
- injustice
- inequality?

Achieving change

By the end of the year 2006/7, Progressio had 77 development workers in place. By the end of 2007/8 we aim to increase this number by at least ten, and to begin placing development workers in our new country programme in Malawi. We seek to maximise our effectiveness by focusing on three key areas:

- developing effective responses to HIV and AIDS, such as our work in Yemen to raise awareness about HIV and AIDS and reduce stigma and discrimination
- promoting sustainable use of the environment, such as our work in Ecuador to help farmers make a real livelihood out of agroecology
- promoting effective civil society participation, such as our work in Peru enabling ordinary people to have a say over local policies and practices and so bring about positive change in their communities and their way of life.

During the year we researched and drafted international advocacy strategies on HIV and AIDS and on sustainable environment. We also developed objectives for regional advocacy in Africa and the Middle East, and Latin America and the Caribbean. Our advocacy work draws on our experience and practice in our country programmes. It seeks to reinforce and support our practical development work by achieving change in policy that has a real benefit for the lives of people in developing countries.

*We give people a
voice
We give people a
choice
We give people a
chance*

HONDURAS



THE COST OF TAKING PART

Total income 2006/7: £4,356,840

Sources: Department for International Development 64%, Progressio Ireland 7%, Irish Aid 5%, Comic Relief 5%, The Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria 4%, CAFOD 3%, Christian Aid 2%, Cordaid 1%, European Commission 1%, Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand 1%, Missio 1%, Membership subscriptions, donations, sales, legacies, sundry receipts 6%. Other agencies and individuals donating more than £1,000: Big Lottery Fund; British Embassy Addis Ababa; Canadian Catholic Organisation for Development and Peace; The Daughters of Jesus; Revd Canon P Davies; The Franciscan Friary - Woodford Green; Isle of Man Overseas Aid Committee; Penarth Support Group; Society of the Holy Child Jesus (Rome); Society of the Sacred Heart; Trócaire.

Progressio wishes to thank the organisations and individuals who made donations to our work in 2006/7.

Total expenditure: £4,340,966

Charitable activities (country programmes, advocacy, campaigns and communications): 83%



Governance: 13%

Expenditure on Programmes

Central America and the Caribbean: 45%

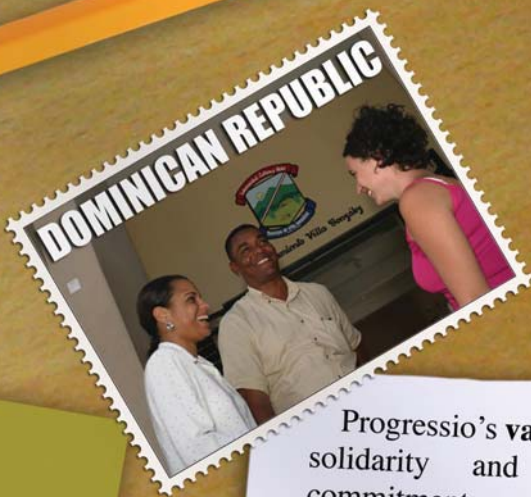


South America: 19%

Africa and the Middle East: 31%

Progressio's financial statements for the year 2006/7 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.

MS-80VER
TWO WAY POWER



Progressio's **values** – integrity and respect; solidarity and justice; courage and commitment – underpin all our work. Our **belief** in human dignity and justice is rooted in our radical Catholic heritage and is shared by the people – people of faith and people of no religion – with whom we work. We take practical **action** for development by working with **partner organisations** through our **development workers**. We raise **awareness** about the injustices that keep people locked in poverty and, in all that we do, we are committed to helping achieve **real change** in the lives of impoverished people.

We are
taking
part -
are you?

POSTAL

TAKING PART IN THE SCHOOL FOR LEADERS HAS TAUGHT US NOT TO BE AFRAID OF PARTICIPATING. WE HAVE SEEN HOW PROGRESSIO'S PARTNER ORGANISATION, COINCIDE, WORKS WITH YOUNG PEOPLE, WOMEN AND MEN FROM ALL KINDS OF DIFFERENT GROUPS. THEY BELIEVE EVERYONE HAS SOMETHING TO CONTRIBUTE AND THE RIGHT TO PARTICIPATE. IN OUR WORK AT COMMUNITY LEVEL WE HAVE LEARNT FROM THAT. WE HAVE MIXED OUR EXPERIENCE WITH THEIR THEORY AND NOW WE WORK WITH MORE LOCAL PEOPLE - TO FIGHT POVERTY, TO TACKLE VIOLENCE. BEFORE, WE THOUGHT 'WHY SHOULD WE INVITE EVERYONE TO PARTICIPATE?' NOW WE REALISE WE CAN ALL WORK TOWARDS A COMMON OBJECTIVE.

MARTA GALARZA AND GUADALUPE CUBA HUAMANI,
COMMUNITY ACTIVISTS



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REINO UNIDO

POSTCARD

It was great that our project at Villa González won a United Nations Development Programme best practice award (for incorporating gender issues in a civil society participation project). But what really matters to me, as a Progressio development worker, is the project's impact for the women of Villa González. They now have a channel for making sure their demands are heard and their needs are met. The women's association, the Asociación Municipal de Mujeres, has been legally recognised. It can begin to tackle problems like violence against women. And ultimately, its voice in the municipality means more transparent, better services for all Villa González's citizens - be they women or men.

Alice Auradou, Progressio development worker



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POSTAL

To be honest, the documentary 'Positive people' (made by Progressio partner organisation Fundación Luciernaga) hit me hard. I felt what people living with HIV and AIDS (PLWHA) are going through. The problem in Nicaragua is we have chosen to close our eyes to the pandemic. We live in ignorance. And because of this we have ended up discriminating against PLWHA. This video could be part of a bigger awareness campaign. We will use it at my Sunday School, and as a church we commit ourselves to work towards the improvement of life for PLWHA: not to exclude them, but to make them feel that the doors of our community are open.

José Antonio Espinosa, school director



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POSTCARD

I HAVE BENEFITED IN SO MANY WAYS FROM THE WORKSHOPS ORGANISED BY PROGRESSIO PARTNER ORGANISATION GAVO. THE SKILLS I GAINED, FOR INSTANCE ON LEADERSHIP AND COMMUNITY WORK, ARE IMMENSE AND HAVE CHANGED MY LIFE. THE TRAINING BY PROGRESSIO DEVELOPMENT WORKER ROGAJIAN MASSUE ON HIV AND AIDS HAS CHANGED THE WAY I BEHAVE, AND MY COMMUNICATION SKILLS ARE MUCH BETTER THAN THEY WERE BEFORE. I'M NOW USING THESE SKILLS IN MY COMMUNITY YOUTH ORGANISATION. IT WAS SET UP TO RESPOND TO THE SITUATION OUR COMMUNITY IS IN: POVERTY, ILLITERACY, POOR HEALTH FACILITIES. WE WERE OF THE IDEA THAT PUTTING OUR EFFORTS TOGETHER WE MAY DO SOMETHING HELPFUL TO OUR COMMUNITY.

FAISAL ABDI SIYAD, YOUTH ACTIVIST



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We grow everything agroecologically, without using chemicals. The workshops run by Progressio's partner organisation, Red Agroecológica del Austro, have helped with production techniques. They also helped set up marketplaces for organic farmers to sell our produce. We sell well because people know how we grow, and they know it is healthier. I make a better income now than I did when I grew using chemicals. What we grow is also for our own food, to feed the family. Before, when we farmed in a different way, we had to buy more as we didn't grow such a mixture of things. This way is much healthier for us and for everyone.

Rosa Jara, farmer



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When my husband died a few years ago, I had nothing. I have five children to raise, and also I am HIV positive. So life was hard. Then Progressio partner organisation Batsirai helped me and some friends set up this small grocery shop and taught us how to run it. Now the shop keeps me very busy. I no longer have to sit at home thinking about HIV and being ill. It has changed my life. Now I am involved in a local self-help group called 'YevKai: it means 'remember' in Shona. I remember how hard it was when I first knew I was HIV+, but I am not scared to tell people any more. I want everyone to know I'm HIV+.

Violet Tapfuma, shop-keeper



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The lack of access to water is a real problem. We women have to spend four hours each day looking for water. This means that our work is put at risk, we face tiredness and a lack of safety on the journey, and we do not have time for other things like education. That's why, along with 5,000 other people, I took part in a march on World Water Day to demand better investment and the protection of people's right to water. The march was organised by a group of social organisations including Progressio partner UNES (the Salvadorean Ecological Coalition). We hope that now our voice will be heard.

Alma Orellana, water rights campaigner



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POSTAL

My work with the Environmental Movement of Olancho (MAO) is about helping defend and strengthen the way of life of people in rural areas, under threat from deforestation and illegal logging. Corruption and vested interests mean environmental campaigning can be dangerous: indeed, in December 2006 two environmental leaders from MAO were murdered. As a Progressio development worker, my role is to help MAO advocate and campaign effectively for justice and change. At long last it looks like our efforts are bearing fruit, with new land planning and forestry laws going through which will limit illegal activities and help transform the forestry sector.

Francisco Hernandez Montoya, Progressio development worker



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POSTCARD

I thought it would take me time to understand HIV and AIDS and I always asked myself, will I be able to tell the communities about HIV and AIDS in a clear and simple way? The approach shown to me by the Progressio development worker, Ronnie Murungu, has made this work much easier and more interesting. I have seen the change in people's knowledge after our awareness sessions. One woman said she gained not just good information but also the confidence to tell others. She has since shared the information with 30 other women in her neighbourhood. When I hear this, I know that I am doing the best I can.

Huda Bamatraf, HIV & AIDS trainer



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KARTA POS

Attending the Progressio workshop on women, faith and peace-building, alongside other women from East Timor, Papua and Mindanao, was amazing for me. It was a new discovery that women from such different backgrounds voiced the same dream: ending discrimination against them, against us, women. They are all actively promoting equal rights for women, each in their own place and context. I felt very encouraged for my own work with HAFOFI (which promotes income-generating projects with women's groups around the country). One of my dreams is that I can contribute to overcoming the problems of male dominance and injustice, and all the consequences it carries for women in our society.

Abenta dan Costa, women's rights
activist



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Progressio annual review 2007

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Progressio is governed by a Board of Trustees who are also directors of the company. For more details see www.progressio.org.uk/trustees

A fuller report for the year 2006/7, the Trustees' Report, is available on request from Progressio or at www.progressio.org.uk/annualreport

Photos: Theo van den Broek (East Timor), Ernest Cañada (Nicaragua), Janice Flower (Zimbabwe), Graham Freer (Malawi), Michelle Lowe (Ecuador, Peru), Rogasian Massue (Somaliland), Marcos Sanjuan (El Salvador), Nick Sireau (Dominican Republic, Honduras), David Tanner (Yemen)

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