

Video advocacy for kindy: Georgia

After taking part in advocacy training and learning how to film and edit videos, Khatia (17) and Tornike (18) were issued with a challenge: to create a video on an issue that is important to them.

Khatia and Tornike live in a community in the southern part of Georgia, near the borders of Turkey and Armenia. "We thought the kindergarten was the biggest issue for our community," says Tornike. The Ude #2 Kindergarten is for 3 to 5-year-olds and Khatia attended there as a child. The kindergarten was now 48 years old and rumours were going around that it would need to close because the building was in such a bad state.

First Khatia and Tornike spent a spring day at the kindergarten where they interviewed the manager, Natia, and the children's parents.



Photo: Michelle Siu / World Vision



A photo of the old building, held in front of the renovated kindergarten, shows the dramatic improvement.

Photo: Michelle Siu / World Vision

They also filmed plenty of footage showing the problems with the kindergarten. After two weeks of editing the video was ready to be screened.

Their 4-minute video showed that the kindergarten wasn't safe: bricks were falling out of walls and the roof was collapsing. The separate toilet block was old and inadequate. Every year, the cold, snowy winter threatened to destroy the building and risk the safety of the preschoolers attending there.

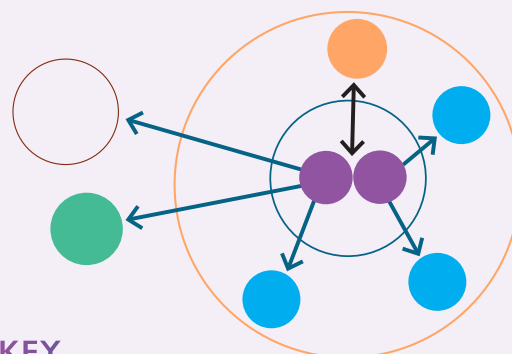
During her interview, the kindergarten manager, Natia, was clearly afraid there would be a catastrophe at the kindergarten. "Safety was the biggest issue. When the kids played, we made a 'live wall' of teachers to protect the children from the real wall in case any bricks fell from it."

Tornike and Khatia's video encouraged community-based organisations to work with the council to take action. These organisations included: World Vision Georgia, which contributed NZ\$41,700 for building materials; Save the Children, which gave NZ\$8,700 for a fence; and the Mercy Corps, which donated NZ\$10,700 for furniture, toys and books.

When the teens showed the video to the local council and the governor learned that community-based organisations were contributing to the renovation, the council managed to allocate NZ\$15,500 to help fund the improvements.

The council's governor says: "We knew for several years that safety was a problem. Although we wanted to, we couldn't solve this problem by ourselves." He continues: "Development of the country starts at the local level... It's really important for the community to see that youth were so involved with these changes."

ACTION MODEL



KEY

- Khatia and Tornika
- development staff, World Vision Georgia
- youth group
- community-based organisations
- kindergarten staff
- local council and governor



Kindergarten manager Natia with her son Mate (6 years) who is a former pupil of the kindergarten. Photo: Michelle Siu / World Vision



Kindergarten students enjoy their colourful, safe and warm environment. Photo: Michelle Siu / World Vision

SOCIAL ACTION STEP BY STEP

Tornike joins a youth group and learns to be a peer educator

Khatia and Tornike learn filming and editing skills

They are challenged to create a film about a local issue

They film and produce a video about their local issue

Their video is shown to community-based organisations

These organisations agree to fund improvements

Khatia and Tornike show the film to the council

The council uses the funding to upgrade the kindergarten