



Greetings from Video Volunteers!

2010 has started off at an extraordinary pace for Video Volunteers. For the first time, we are going to North East of India where we will launch a Community Video Unit for the tea garden workers in partnership with ICICI Prudential Life Insurance. We also have an Ambassador now in Indian film actor Abhay Deol, whose involvement with Video Volunteers has generated a lot of media interest this month. Beyond India, our Favela producers in Brazil are working hard on their personal business plans. Read about each of these projects bellow.



Also, Video Volunteers' new batch of Community Journalists begin their training this month in Ahmedabad of Gujarat state. The batch has 40 trainees, representing nearly each of the Indian states. [Please support these Community Journalists and help them to lead their own communications revolution.](#) It costs only \$1500 to support a community journalist for one year or \$75/month. We are training them to earn this income on their own within several years as rural media entrepreneurs. Give them the support they need to begin their careers as journalists and storytellers.

There are four ways you can support us to make their voice heard:

1. **Contribute online** on the VV site via google checkout, paypal or Global Giving.
2. **Contribute in the UK via GlobalGiving.** For the first time, **VV's UK friend's can make tax-deductible donations to VV.**
3. **Donate by check.** Send your checks to: Video Volunteers, c/o Temin and Company, 750 Lexington Avenue, 26th Floor, New York, NY 10022. Indian nationals can send their checks to Video Volunteers India, 600/1, Retreat House Road, Near New Baga Bridge, Baga-Calangute, Bardez, Goa-403516, India
4. **Donate cameras** – cellphone cameras, flip cams, or mini-DV cameras

Highlights from January-February' 2010



*** New Community Video Unit in Assam:** Video Volunteers' first CVU in the North East of India is all set to take off. Located in a picturesque tea garden in Dimakuchi of Assam, the new CVU is being launched in partnership with ICICI Prudential Life Insurance, a company engaging tea garden workers into microcredit finance projects. It is the first time ever that workers of a tea garden will be trained in video making. The

problems through films.

Read about the impacts brought by producers, government and local people in Video Volunteers' other CVUs [Here](#) in a new booklet.

*** Film Actor Abhay Deol is Video Volunteers' new Ambassador:**

Video Volunteers has got its first celebrity ambassador Abhay Deol, who has acted in some of the most talked about films of the last few years. Abhay and film director Imtiaz Ali were recently at a slum in Mumbai to attend a screening of films from our different Community Video Units. When the screening was over, Abhay and Imtiaz stood on the stage and told the Producers that their videos were better than some of what was coming out in Bollywood! Abhay will help us to outreach to TV news networks whom we are approaching to air content produced by communities and also help us popularize community media. Abhay's association with Video Volunteers has been already reported by dozens of national and international media. [Click here](#) to read an article in Hindustan Times, One of India's leading news papers. You can also watch him on [MSN video](#), telling the media why he chose to join Video Volunteers. We are thrilled to have an ambassador who articulates VV's message so well!



***Video Volunteers' Brazil project creates slum video entrepreneurs:**

Based out of an incredibly beautiful space in Sao Paulo [VCU.br](#) trains motivated young people from Favelas - Brazilian slums- how to make a living through videos. This means, the main focus is on livelihood and also on building entrepreneurial skills. So the training here is not just about how to shoot or write a script, but also about how to sell the videos that they make. This is why the young trainees are also learning how to pitch story ideas to TV industry and other clients. These young people are learning how to use their difficult background as an asset. They have a unique voice to tell stories only they have access to. Read [Jessica's blog](#) on Brazil project.

It is your ceaseless support that has helped us come this far. So please help us to continue empowering community voices. [Support our Community Journalists!](#)

Thank you again for your generosity and we wish you a great month ahead!

In gratitude for all that you do,

Video Volunteers Team

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