

## **Biography of Bruce Wilkinson**

### **Chief of Party of RAPIDS *Reaching HIV/AIDS Affected People with Integrated Development and Support***

Bruce Wilkinson is the Chief of Party of RAPIDS *Reaching HIV/AIDS Affected People with Integrated Development and Support*. It is a six-year (2004 - 2010) United States Government funded program, aimed at scaling up activities and applying good practices in support to orphans and vulnerable children, palliative care for People Living with HIV/AIDS and for youth livelihood and abstinence promotion activities. RAPIDS is a group of 6 non-governmental organizations who have come together bringing their experiences in working with different categories of people that have been variously affected by the HIV/AIDS Pandemic in both rural and urban Zambia. The RAPIDS consortium consists of Africare, The Catholic Relief Services (CRS), The Expanded Church Response (ECR), Salvation Army, CARE and World Vision.

Mr. Wilkinson brings to the position 6 years (January 1999 to Jan 2005) of work as Senior Vice-President for International Programs at World Vision United States where he was responsible for allocating US\$400 million a year and supporting program quality in co-operation with World Vision offices around the world. He also brings to the position 15 years of work in West Africa and experience in relief and development efforts, quality and impact in program development, and cross-cultural team management. Of the fifteen years, he served seven years as World Vision's regional director for West Africa, based in Senegal, where he oversaw relief and development efforts in eight countries.

In his current role since February 2005 to date, Wilkinson is responsible for providing overall direction and effective implementation of the RAPIDS program (At the end of this project, the program envisages directly benefiting 350,000 Orphaned & Vulnerable Children, 150,000 People Living With HIV/AIDs (550,000 indirectly) and 18,000 youth). He ensures strategy formulation and organizational development of the RAPIDS program. Mr. Wilkinson liaises with donor organizations in order to source and secure diversified funding for the program. His responsibilities also encompass collaborating with bilateral, multilateral, Government, private donors and other key stakeholders to achieve overall program goals.

Wilkinson has also served with the Peace Corps and the Summer Institute of Linguistics. He holds a bachelor of economics degree from Gordon College in Massachusetts and an MBA in international management from the University of Cambridge. In addition, he pursued graduate studies in French and international development at the University of Geneva.