

UNICEF
INNOCENTI PUBLICATIONS

ANNUAL REVIEW

2002-2003

For every child
Health, Education, Equality, Protection
ADVANCE HUMANITY



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The UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre in Florence, Italy, was established in 1988 to strengthen the research capability of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and to support its advocacy for children worldwide. The Centre (formally known as the International Child Development Centre) helps to identify and research current and future areas of UNICEF's work. Its prime objectives are to improve international understanding of issues relating to children's rights and to help facilitate the full implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child in both industrialized and developing countries.

The Centre collaborates with its host institution in Florence, the Istituto degli Innocenti, in selected areas of work on child rights.

Core funding for the Centre's work is provided by the Government of Italy, while financial support for specific projects is also provided by other governments, international institutions and private sources, including UNICEF National Committees.

This Annual Review provides a brief outline of the UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre's ongoing work, as well as work completed in 2002. For further details please consult the Centre's website; www.unicef-icdc.org.

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Cover photo: UNICEF/HQ00-0485/Radhika Chalasani. A baby, held by a sling on his mother's back, looks back, amidst a crowd of other children and women waiting to be attended to outside the UNICEF-assisted maternal and child health clinic in the village of Rabdure, Somalia.

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I. INTRODUCTION

UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre (IRC) works to strengthen the capacity of UNICEF and its cooperating institutions to respond to the evolving needs of children and to develop a new global ethic for children. It promotes the effective implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, in both developing and industrialized countries, thereby reaffirming the universality of children's rights and of UNICEF's mandate.

UNICEF's Medium Term Strategic Plan (MTSP) for 2002–2005 highlights the need for UNICEF to act as a researcher, a policy analyst and communicator and affirms the role of IRC in research, monitoring and policy analysis, and in networking with others, including universities and research institutes. IRC supports the implementation of the MTSP, its human rights approach and results-based management. In particular, IRC works to ensure that its research supports the five priorities of the MTSP: girls' education; integrated early childhood development; immunization 'plus'; fighting HIV/AIDS; and increased protection of children from violence, abuse, exploitation and discrimination.

The work of the UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre (formally known as the International Child Development Centre) is guided by the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. Its research is selected on the basis of three criteria, endorsed by the Executive Board of UNICEF and by the Centre's own International Advisory Committee:

- To focus on areas that are relatively new to UNICEF and that may be of increasing importance in the future;
- To focus on statistics and areas that may be sensitive or even controversial;
- To fill knowledge gaps in areas of UNICEF's work that are already mainstreamed.

With its increasing recognition of the importance of a field-driven, action-oriented approach, the Centre informs UNICEF policy formulation, strengthens UNICEF's role as advocate for children's rights, enhances the organization's capacity to research and learn from its field experience, and supports programme development and capacity building.

Situating the Centre's work plan for 2002 within the MTSP and the follow-up to the Special Session on Children as well as the Millennium Development Goals of the UN, provided a strong opportunity for the Centre to vigorously contribute to the organization's advocacy and policy agenda, and to be even more closely linked with the regional and country offices of UNICEF worldwide. Efforts were focused on analyzing, documenting and disseminating information related to the implementation of international standards for all children, monitoring the impact of economic and social policies on children's rights, advocating the development of child-friendly policies and practices, and

enhancing partnerships and cross-fertilization of experiences both within and outside the organization.

In 2002, the Government of Italy continued to provide decisive support to the Centre. Moreover, the renewal of the agreement between the Government of Italy and UNICEF provided a critical framework for the Centre's activities in the course of its new 2003-2005 Programme of Activities.

2002 was also an important year for strengthening collaboration with the Istituto degli Innocenti, IRC's host institution in Florence. Building upon the unique resource provided by the joint Innocenti Library, inaugurated in 2001, important steps were taken to bridge the research capacity of the two institutions, including around the promotion of a European Network for a Research Agenda on Children in Armed Conflict.

The year 2002 demonstrated in concrete terms both *continuity* and *innovation* in IRC's accomplishments:

1. It maintained its annual review of social and economic trends in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States, but it also established a new series, the Social Monitor, to present the trends more clearly and comprehensively. This change allowed IRC to highlight significant trends, such as in HIV/AIDS and young people, that provided an opportunity for policy development and for advocacy that was widely used at the national level, in international media events.
2. It continued to produce the Innocenti Digest series, providing reviews of best practices on specific child rights issues, but focused these even more on areas of clear follow-up to the Special Session on Children, and of relevance to country offices. Birth registration and issues related to the urban child were the focus of Digests in 2002, and they served as basic resource documents at several international policy fora and shaped national action in countries in Europe, Asia and Africa.
3. It continued the Report Card series, filling the knowledge gap of the situation of children in industrialized countries, but focused the series more specifically on issues within the MTSP priorities and of interest to the National Committees, such as educational disadvantages within rich countries. The Reports Cards increasingly focus on linkages between the situations in industrialized countries and those in developing countries.
4. It continued to participate in the Child Friendly Cities Initiative, but gave it an even stronger advocacy focus in 2002, as a process designed to translate international commitments for children at the municipal level. The Special Session on Children offered a strategic opportunity to advocate around this initiative and to promote good local governance for children's rights, through close cooperation with other partners, including the National Committees and the World Bank. This work was closely tied to the Digest *Poverty and Exclusion among Urban Children* and to country realities in various parts of the world.

5. It concluded its global study on *Aids, Public Policy, and Child Well-Being*, on the impact of HIV/AIDS on children in selected countries of Africa and Asia, thanks to an additional contribution from the Government of Italy, and made public the findings through the IRC website, and as a contribution to the Barcelona Conference on HIV/AIDS. This work was closely linked to the 2002 Social Monitor, which also featured a major article on HIV/AIDS and young people in the CEE/CIS and Baltic region.
6. It published the first UNICEF study on child trafficking with a particular focus on West Africa, which formed UNICEF's main contribution to the discussion of child trafficking at the Special Session. It further initiated a study on child trafficking in the whole African continent in support of the EU/Africa Summit and its initiative on trafficking in human beings led by the Governments of Italy and Sweden. This action-oriented research enhances partnerships with UNICEF's field offices in Africa as well as several other partners, and supports the organization's MTSP priority on child protection.
7. Pursuing its past work on children in armed conflict, it published *International Criminal Justice and Children*, providing an overview of existing normative frameworks and a reference for the involvement of children in justice and truth-seeking mechanisms. In close cooperation with IDI and other partners, it set in motion a European Network for a Research Agenda on Children in Armed Conflict.
8. IRC also continued in 2002 the work on the Inter-Agency Project on Child Labour, and other cutting edge research to enhance UNICEF's child rights agenda.

2002 was also an important turning point in terms of IRC's efforts to steadily widen its donor base. On the one hand, the partnership with UNICEF offices generated excellent support for IRC studies and important contributions were made by the Governments of Finland and Norway, development agencies, the World Bank and UNICEF National Committees; on the other hand, and for the first time, the Government of Sweden pledged critical support to IRC's core programme for 2003-2005. At the same time, the core budget of the Centre was dramatically affected as a result of exchange rate fluctuations, a situation which is expected to be reversed as a result of the renewal of the agreement with the Government of Italy and the implementation of the new IRC programme.

II. PROMOTING ADVOCACY AND POLICY DIALOGUE TO SUPPORT THE IMPLEMENTATION OF INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF CHILD FRIENDLY POLICIES

1 The Social Monitor

The Social Monitor is a new annual series, partly replacing the eight Regional Monitoring Reports of 1993–2001. Its main purpose is to review recent social and economic trends in the 27 countries of Central and Eastern Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States.

Based on a consolidated network of researchers and statistical offices in 27 countries, and solid data driven policy analysis on children in the region, this new series offers a unique opportunity to promote a "Region Fit for Children" and monitor progress in the follow-up to the SSC.

The *Social Monitor 2002* contains three articles:

- Social trends in transition: a comprehensive review of trends in incomes, employment, poverty, demography, infant and adult mortality, infectious diseases, educational enrolment, child protection and the sentencing of young offenders.
- HIV/AIDS and young people—awareness, behaviour and policy: an analysis of the spread of the epidemic in several transition countries, focusing on young people and their knowledge about HIV prevention, and policy responses to the epidemic.
- Quality of learning—towards "unilateral educational disarmament"?: a comparison of academic knowledge of teenagers in transition countries and in advanced industrialized countries (an area also addressed by the most recent IRC Report Card, *A League Table of Educational Disadvantage in Rich Nations*).

The *Social Monitor 2002* is relevant in particular for MTSP priorities HIV/AIDS and girls' education.

It contains an extensive statistical annex, with trends in key indicators of children's and women's well-being.

Achievements

- *Social Monitor 2002* has been widely used as an advocacy tool for promoting debate on children's well-being and for lobbying policy-makers and opinion leaders. At the 4th European AIDS Research Conference in September, Queen Silvia of Sweden opened her keynote address by citing the report and its main findings.
- The Report received global media coverage, not just in the CEE/CIS region

and in advanced industrialized countries, but also in China and part of South Asia where HIV/AIDS is spreading rapidly. The Report was launched by Carol Bellamy, Executive Director of UNICEF, in New York in September 2002 and was subsequently launched in several countries in the CEE/CIS region.

Challenges

The challenge for the future is to build on the success of *Social Monitor 2002*, and establish this new series as a flagship publication of IRC that is relevant both within UNICEF and among policy-makers, researchers and international organizations. *Social Monitor 2003* will be launched during the summer of 2003 and will look at several important constraints for the realisation of children's rights in the region, including child poverty, external debt and international adoption. It will also include a special feature on infant mortality, and a comprehensive statistical annex.

In addition to following up key trends (for example, in economic growth, infant death and institutionalization of children), future editions of the Social Monitor will include analysis of women's employment and incomes, trends in family formation and structure, and changes in policies affecting early childhood development in the region.

With these major thrusts, the Social Monitor is guided by the goals and priorities laid out in *A World Fit For Children*, and designed to promote the fulfilment of children's rights and monitor progress towards a region fit for children.

2 The Innocenti Digest

The Digests act as 'road maps' on emerging issues, providing a succinct yet comprehensive review of best practices on specific rights issues.

The series takes a human rights approach, makes a critical and transparent examination of a given topic or problem, promotes awareness of international standards and informs policy dialogue and formulation and programme development. The Digests have been critical tools for the advocacy, policy and programming work of UNICEF country offices.

Achievements

In 2002, the most recent Digests covered the child's right to birth registration (No. 9, launched June 2002), and *Poverty and Exclusion among Urban Children* (No. 10, launched during the International Advisory Committee meeting). Both constitute a critical contribution to the follow-up process of the Special Session on Children.

In addition, an earlier Digest on independent human rights institutions for children laid the foundation for the first global meeting of Ombudspersons for children, held during the Special Session on Children and served as a critical resource for the development by the Committee on the Rights of the Child of its General Comment on the Role of Independent National Human Rights Institutions in the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of the Child, adopted at the end of 2002.

Birth Registration: Right from the Start stemmed from the need for an information and advocacy tool that would effectively underpin a major UNICEF effort to promote understanding of the fundamental significance of this human right, whilst promoting commitment to securing registration universally and effectively without unrealistic cost implications. This Digest emphasizes the crucial importance of birth registration (principally for children and their families, but also for states), explores the obstacles to universal registration and highlights the actions — including awareness raising, legislative changes, resource allocation and capacity building — that are needed to ensure the registration of every child.

As regards the MTSP priorities, the implications of the right of the child to birth registration, and to a name, nationality and identity are wide ranging. In as much as birth registration is often a key to ensuring service delivery, it is of particular relevance to “integrated early childhood development”, “immunization plus”, “girls’ education”, and “child protection”.

The Digest was launched in June 2002 in New York, Brussels and in Geneva, in conjunction with the Committee on the Rights of the Child. The publication has received wide media coverage—of special note was the series of six programmes on birth registration by the BBC World Service that it inspired.

It has also been used as a basic resource document at several international policy meetings, most notably an Anglophone African conference in Kampala in October 2002 involving 10 countries, and a regional conference in Bangkok in January 2003 attended by more than 25 countries.

Above all, it encouraged and enabled important national birth registration campaigns in many regions, providing a unique advocacy and policy tool for UNICEF field offices and National Committees. Countries in which birth registration campaigns coincided with the launch of the *Digest* include Bangladesh, Chad, East Timor and Uganda. A review of UNICEF’s 2002 Country Office Annual Reports shows that as many as 56 countries have started interventions supporting birth registration.

The Digest on *Poverty and Exclusion among Urban Children* was informed by IRC work in the context of the Child Friendly Cities Initiative. It fulfils a two-fold need. First, it focuses attention on the existence and extent of massive urbanization and child urban poverty and its effects, and balances this against the more commonly examined experiences of poor rural communities. Second, it underscores the need for good governance at municipal level as the most effective means of protecting and promoting the rights of city children. As such it covers a vast range of subjects, from sanitation to education and recreation to housing.

The Digest’s success is confirmed by the decision of the World Bank to finance its production in Arabic as a key information resource at the December 2002 ‘Children and the City’ Conference in Amman, jointly organized with the Arab Urban Development Institute and the Municipality of Greater Amman, in cooperation with the UNICEF Regional Office.

Challenges

The human and financial resources now being devoted to each Digest are considerable, and about 3 to 4 times greater than at their inception. This is largely due to increased average length, an improved preparation process which includes an expert consultation hosted by IRC, as well as an enhanced research component. Substantial funds therefore have to be found for each Digest, although some of them have been partly funded from UNICEF headquarters.

3 Child Friendly Cities Initiative: translating international commitments at the municipal level

Over two years of project implementation, the work conducted by the Child Friendly Cities (CFC) Secretariat laid the foundation for the development of a conceptual framework for a CFC, to promote good local governance for children's rights. The conceptual framework represents the result of data collection and analysis, and research to which the CFC project has contributed.

In the area of research, a knowledge base on CFC has been created. Lessons have been distilled from two major research studies carried out on two country cases, in the Philippines and Italy. Innovative experiences from all regions have been documented in short reports. Expert discussions have been promoted to identify innovative projects, good practices and lessons learnt from UNICEF and partners and to inform the Digest on urban children. The Special Session on Children became a strategic opportunity to share this work and to promote a strong process of mobilization around the initiative.

In this regard, the Digest on *Poverty and Exclusion among Urban Children* has been produced (in English, Arabic and Italian) and contributions made to the joint UNICEF/IIED's special monographic issue of *Environment and Urbanization* on building cities for children (October 2002).

Drawing from the knowledge acquired, support has been provided to policy and programme development, strengthening partnerships with child-friendly cities and mayors, including in the context of major international conferences, such as 'The Child and the City' organized by the World Bank in Amman. A special effort has been made to strengthen alliances with National Committees for UNICEF. They have requested the CFC Secretariat to support their work towards the development of the CFC Initiative in Europe.

Challenges

The CFC initiative has potential to expand UNICEF alliances with municipal governments and mayors enlisting them as partners in the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) and MTSP goals. On the basis of the results achieved, it is now critical to promote the enhancement of these partnerships. It is also important to mainstream the initiative in the overall agenda of IRC and UNICEF and to ensure that it becomes an effective mechanism for implementing the CRC locally while also advancing the agenda agreed upon at the Special Session on Children. In this context, the cooperation established with

several UNICEF country offices is strategic and has great potential to advance the initiative.

In Italy the solid groundwork achieved has strengthened relationships with the Italian National Committee, IDI, and other Italian partners at municipal level.

III. MONITORING THE IMPACT OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL POLICIES ON CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

1 Report Card Series

The Report Card series reaffirms UNICEF's universal mandate for children's rights. It focuses on a knowledge gap in research on the situation of children in industrialized countries. The Report Cards have stimulated policy dialogue and social progress on various issues affecting children in OECD countries. While the series provides support for National Committees' domestic profile, it is also a strong advocate to the follow-up to the Special Session on Children and UNICEF's commitment to the Millennium Development Goals.

Achievements

In 2002 the Innocenti Report Card *A League Table of Educational Disadvantage in Rich Nations* was the fourth in the now well-established series of Report Cards. The publication was underpinned by more than a year of original research in the field of social statistics with particular emphasis on education.

Once again the combination of original academic research, and a carefully designed format for communicating its results to a non-academic audience, resulted in a publication that was widely welcomed and served to increase the visibility and credibility of UNICEF among donor countries.

Media coverage was extensive and the Report Card continues to be increasingly popular with National Committees. The greatest indicator of success, however, was that a number of government departments and parliaments (Canada, Ireland, Italy) made active approaches to UNICEF or to National Committees to obtain copies of the report or to request briefings and additional information to inform a process of reform of the education system in their countries.

The credibility of the Centre and of UNICEF on issues relating to children in rich nations has been significantly enhanced by this series. A substantial research base on topics relating to children in rich nations has been developed and visibility for UNICEF's work has been generated among new audiences.

The Report Card provided the first 'big picture' on the performance of schools in reducing educational disadvantage in industrialized countries. It finds that mothers' education is a major determinant of learning achievement in every country and highlights the fact that educational disadvantage is established very early in life. The Report cites examples of how good quality early childhood care and education can mitigate educational disadvantage. It is particularly relevant for the specific MTSP priorities of girl's education and integrated early childhood development.

Today, the Report Card series is one of the Centre's most popular publications with the largest number of downloads from the IRC website.

Challenges

The Report Card series faces three major challenges in the coming years.

First, it is essential to maintain the very high quality of independent research and the carefully crafted marriage of content and format that characterise the series. This presents a challenge with regard to the topics selected. Many of the topics of interest to our audience and of importance to UNICEF are not amenable to the kind of data-led analysis, and league table formulation, that are fundamental in generating the high-level impact of the Report Cards.

Second, we face a challenge as we try to capitalise on the impact created and ensure that the work undertaken for each Report Card is effectively converted into 'organizational expertise'. The research programme of the Report Cards now represents a significant body of knowledge and is becoming the nerve centre of expertise for the organization on certain key issues for children in OECD nations. There is a risk that this expertise could become isolated within Innocenti rather than being fed constructively into the organization as a whole.

Third, the Report Card series faces strong financial challenges requiring a steady effort to sustain the achievements made.

Many have asked why the Report Cards are limited to an analysis of OECD nations. While the current study group is appropriate for the purpose of the series, IRC is interested in exploring the possibility of expanding the scope of the Report Card. A similar format (i.e. data-led analysis effectively communicated) could be used to examine the situation in developing countries drawing on the expertise of other parts of the organization. The impact the Report Card series has had on research and policy work in developing countries (e.g. the studies developed in Asian countries on child deaths by injury) is just one strong indication of the high interest generated by this work and of its potential for the future.

2 Public Policy and Child Well-Being – HIV/AIDS Research

The impact of AIDS on children is a corporate priority and the issue was at the heart of IRC studies during 2000–2002. It remains a concern for the 2003–2005 IRC programme.

Achievements

In 2002 the global study *AIDS, Public Policy and Child Well-Being* was concluded thanks to a voluntary additional contribution from the Government of Italy of approximately US\$ 300,000. The findings of the research were made public through IRC's website in June 2002, as a contribution to the Barcelona Conference on HIV/AIDS. The study was based on eight country case studies (five in Africa and three in Asia: Uganda, Kenya, Senegal, Ivory Coast, South Africa, Thailand, India, China), and reviewed five key areas: the health sector, the education sector, access to antiretroviral drugs, economic impact and child impoverishment and orphanhood.

The study documents how the disease devastates every part of society and dramatically affects the vast majority of children, whether from HIV/AIDS affected families or not. For instance, the weakening of education due to mounting AIDS mortality and morbidity among providers reduces the access to and quality of education for all children. Other ripple effects concern the crowding out of non-AIDS health services, the rise in user fees for public institutions, the drop in food consumption for children in foster families taking in AIDS orphans, and general impoverishment due to the economic slowdown induced by the disease. The study calls for a new focus on the wider impact of HIV/AIDS on children's lives, including falling school enrolment, increased malnutrition and rising poverty.

While HIV/AIDS is already widespread in the population of most developing countries covered by the AIDS, Public Policy and Child Well-Being project, it is developing as a major public health and political issue in the CEE/CIS/Baltics region. Accordingly, the 2002 Social Monitor featured a major article on 'HIV and Young People' in this region, calling attention to low awareness (and youth and women as particular risk groups) and discrimination against people with HIV as factors that hinder effective public response.

Challenges

Future Social Monitors will continue to ensure a special focus on the HIV/AIDS epidemic and on the support and care available for those affected. The publication will periodically provide fresh data and analysis within its main article on Social Trends and/or devote a separate article to HIV and related themes, as in 2002.

Moreover, IRC plans to issue an Innocenti Digest focusing on 'Alternative Family Care for Children Orphaned by HIV/AIDS'. More than 10 million children have lost either their mother or both parents to AIDS. These children are highly exposed to violations of their human rights, and are more likely to experience the decimating effects of poverty and discrimination. AIDS therefore represents a child rights catastrophe and it is vital that the implementation of the CRC and the commitments made move forward in this regard, also by ensuring that children grow up and develop within a family environment. The planned Digest will act as an advocacy tool to promote global awareness of the urgency of securing long-term alternative care for orphaned children and will provide instructive illustrations and lessons learned from programmes already in place, with examples of innovative family and community-based approaches.

With this process, IRC is committed to strengthening its collaboration with other parts of the organization in pursuing the MTSP priorities, while enhancing synergy between its main areas of technical expertise, namely on economic and social policy analysis, and on the promotion of children's rights.

IV. ENHANCING PARTNERSHIPS AND CROSS FERTILIZATION OF EXPERIENCES

“SPECIAL PROTECTION AREA”

1 Child Trafficking

The trafficking of children is one of the gravest violations of human rights in the world today. Every year hundreds of thousands of children are smuggled across borders and sold as mere commodities. Their survival and development are threatened, and their human rights, including to education, to health, to grow up within a family, and to protection from exploitation and abuse are denied.

This reality has led IRC to devote particular attention to this question, and to maintain it at the heart of its 2003-2005 programme, in particular through two main projects: one on the trafficking of human beings, especially women and children in Africa, and one on child trafficking in Central and Eastern Europe. The first project will include a report to inform the European Union/Africa Summit, scheduled for early 2003; the second will include data collection, analysis and dissemination of information on child trafficking in the CEE/CIS region.

Achievements

Since 2001 IRC, in close collaboration with UNICEF's West and Central Africa Regional Office, carried out the first UNICEF review of policy approaches to child trafficking. The joint study, *Child Trafficking in West Africa: Policy Responses* assessed this reality in eight countries: Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Ivory Coast, Gabon, Mali, Nigeria and Togo. The study analyzed policy responses and programme interventions in each country, promoting field-driven research to inspire strategic activities by UNICEF and its partners on the ground. The study was presented at the Yokohama Congress on Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children: it was UNICEF's main contribution to the session on child trafficking organized at the time of the Special Session.

In 2002 this successful initiative led the Governments of Italy and Sweden to request that IRC develop a study on child trafficking in the whole African continent. A special additional contribution of Euro 100,000 (€50,000 from the Government of Italy and €50,000 from the Government of Sweden) was allocated to IRC to develop the study. The research will inform the Plan of Action to be adopted at the EU/Africa Summit, scheduled for early 2003. It will also guide similar studies on other regions, including in Central and Eastern Europe where it is expected to enhance synergies with other activities in the region, and build upon other important IRC research initiatives, particularly the Social Monitor and Report Cards projects. The Swiss National Committee supports the development of this research in the CEE/CIS.

The child trafficking project enhances partnerships with African field offices and UNICEF partners, enabling field driven and action oriented research producing concrete policy recommendations. It also increases the understanding and visibility of the problem, outlines the risks for children, and produces a summary of good practices and lessons learned. The project promotes awareness of relevant regional and international standards. It advocates for effective policy responses at national, bilateral and regional levels, enhances inter-agency collaboration with major partners, particularly ILO, IOM, and relevant NGOs, while also informing programme approaches for UNICEF offices, and consolidating institutional knowledge to address the problem of child trafficking—identified by the MTSP as a corporate priority.

Challenges

- The need for a holistic and multi-country approach is challenged by different levels of perception and knowledge of the problems among different countries and different players.
- The enhancement of collaboration and partnerships requires great effort, sensitivity and time at all levels.
- The circulation of speculative estimates of any problem highlights the lack of strong and reliable data and creates high expectations for IRC's work in this area.

IRC is fully committed to tackling some of these knowledge gaps particularly by developing methodologies which can be used by policy-makers and advocates for children's rights.

In order to promote evidence-based policy making, it is crucial to:

- Optimise current research tools and methodologies to understand and monitor child trafficking.
- Organize data collection, publish data, and promote its use.
- Foster close interaction between policy-makers and researchers, where policy-makers are increasingly involved in the design of data collection and analysis.
- Develop statistics as a public good, and their use for advocacy for effective public policies.

In all this work, it is vital to develop a close partnership with other relevant parts of UNICEF, both in headquarters and at the field level.

2 European Network for a Research Agenda on Children in Armed Conflict

An international research seminar, 'Filling the Knowledge Gaps: A Research Agenda on the Impact of Armed Conflict on Children', convened in Florence, in July 2001, identified the need to enhance international cooperation and dissemination of research on children and armed conflict, with a view to improving joint research, identifying knowledge gaps and directing research attention to neglected issues. It was recommended that a Global Network on Children in Armed Conflicts be developed.

Since 2002 work on this initiative has been underway, with UNICEF and other partners actively involved. It was also proposed that a specific European network be developed, with IRC playing a leading role, and the Government of Italy decided to support this effort with an additional contribution of US\$ 100,000 from Emergency Funds.

Aims of the European Research Network

The European Network aims to facilitate, contribute to, document and disseminate multi-disciplinary research activities on children and armed conflict that is currently underway at European research institutions. It also promotes research on areas where knowledge gaps have been identified and where IRC has gained expertise. The Istituto degli Innocenti, one of the oldest child-care institutions in the world with a historic child registration system, will contribute to this effort by focusing on the Italian dimension. Based on its expertise in documentation, IDI has expressed interest in developing resources on this issue in the Innocenti Library.

The year 2002 also saw the launch of EuroChiCoNet, the database that maps out and promotes a network of European research institutes, projects and experts on children and armed conflict. It allows a first comprehensive overview of relevant research being undertaken within European institutions and enables an informed and strategic process to address identified knowledge gaps, including through IRC's own research projects.

One such area in which IRC is engaged is that of birth registration in times of armed conflict. In order to understand the extent to which birth registration helps prevent child recruitment into military groups and their participation in armed conflicts, this research builds on and advances previous IRC research on birth registration, cooperating with partners who have specific expertise in the area. Its objective is to explore challenges to registration and the implications of non-registration in the context of conflict, by drawing on experiences in the field. Findings will constitute the centrepiece for a consultative meeting of experts, to take place in mid-2003.

Achievements

Through IRC's efforts over 100 research bodies in Europe have been contacted, of which 25 per cent have already provided information for the research database EuroChiCoNet. This, and other incoming material, will go on line in the near future at a satellite website with its own domain address. These steps are critical to consolidate a strong network between research institutions and experts, to clarify knowledge gaps and to enhance effective protection of children in war affected situations. IDI has been identified as the counterpart in the project, and discussions are underway to improve networking in Italy with the benefit of the Institute's expertise.

Challenges

- To give this initiative visibility and to inform the agenda of the Italian Presidency of the European Union, in addition to other international fora.
- To help enhance synergy within UNICEF, including adding value to work done on children in war affected countries and the MICS (Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey) data.
- To better benefit from IDI's role in Italy.

Juvenile justice in post-conflict situations

In September 2002, UNICEF IRC, together with UNICEF Emergency Operations and the NGO, No Peace Without Justice, launched the publication, *International Criminal Justice and Children*. This study provides an overview of the international legal protection framework and serves as a practical guide for the involvement of children in justice and truth-seeking mechanisms. It is intended to foster a dialogue between child rights advocates and experts in international criminal law, addressing key issues related to the accountability for crimes against children. Written with important contributions and expert advice from the international criminal tribunals, the Coalition for an International Criminal Court, the NGO International Centre for Transitional Justice and others, it was launched during the first Assembly of States Parties of the International Criminal Court.

This study is a contribution to the development of child friendly procedures for children's involvement in the Special Court in Sierra Leone, as well as to training programmes for international crimes investigators, and to the design and support process for truth and reconciliation processes worldwide.

Building upon the findings of an IRC workshop held in May 2001 and broadening the analysis in *International Criminal Justice and Children*, IRC developed *Strategic Approaches to Juvenile Justice in Post-Conflict Situations*. Addressing the context of ongoing and post-conflict situations, the study, to be disseminated in 2003, takes account of such special challenges and risks as the treatment of child combatants, dealing with non-state armed groups, the role of peacekeeping and international police forces, and the destruction of judicial infrastructures.

3 Understanding Children's Work (UCW)

The International Labour Organization (ILO), UNICEF and the World Bank initiated the joint interagency programme 'Understanding Children's Work and its Impact' (UCW) as a follow-up to the 1997 Oslo Conference on Child Labour. The Project was informed by the Oslo Agenda for Action, highlighting the need to counteract the lack of data on the issue and to develop stronger cooperation amongst international agencies working on child labour.

The project, initiated in December 2000, was originally scheduled to end in December 2002 but has been extended until December 2003. It is financed by the Governments of Norway, Finland, and Sweden and is hosted by IRC.

Project implementation is taking place in three broad phases.

Phase I takes stock of existing information on child labour, i.e., child labour statistics, project interventions, and research publications, and makes this information widely available.

Phase II builds on this and analyses and extends current information on child labour. It involves analyses of current survey instruments and project interventions, as well as focussed research in areas where gaps in current knowledge exist.

Phase III assesses country policies on child labour and links the global-level information efforts pursued in Phases I and II with actions that directly impact on the lives of working children. Phase III involves analyses of the current child labour situation and critical reviews of current policies and programmes in each participating country, in order to develop new strategies and specific policy recommendations dealing with child labour.

Achievements

In 2002 the following activities have been completed:

- A database has been set up, listing about 300 data sets relevant for child labour analysis, with country statistics developed for nearly 50 countries and a comprehensive bibliography on child labour research and related issues. This information is now online at the UCW website and is updated regularly. A database has also been completed listing child labour projects and interventions, supported by two of the three agencies.
- An analysis of the existing data collection and measurement tools of the three agencies has been completed and a comparison of survey findings with an initial focus on the World Bank's Living Standards Measurement Study and ILO's Statistical Information and Monitoring Programme on Child Labour surveys in Zambia is available online. A number of research activities, grouped by topic such as the circumstances of working children, determinants and consequences of child work and impact strategies, are currently underway.
- Country analyses are almost complete for four of the six pilot countries in the project. Situation Analysis reports have been generated for Morocco, Yemen, Guatemala, Nepal and El Salvador. National seminars will be taking place to share the results with governments and other follow-up activities are being negotiated with local agency representatives and national counterparts.

A framework for capacity building is being developed focussing on issues such as data collection and analysis, economic analysis of causes and consequences of child labour, and good practices. The package will be targeted at counterpart officials from relevant government ministries (e.g., Finance, Planning, Labour, and Education) in selected countries.

Challenges

There is a need to diffuse results of research findings and raise awareness about the project, within and beyond the three agencies and to mainstream outcomes from this key inter-agency project.

4 Collaboration with Italian Partners

In 2002 the Centre forged ever closer links with its Italian counterparts, and its partnerships with the Government of Italy, the Istituto degli Innocenti (IDI), and the Italian National Committee for UNICEF were particularly fruitful.

The continuous collaboration between the Centre and IDI was highlighted in 2002 by the renewed cooperation agreement which has been signed for the next three years and caps more than a decade of collaboration between IRC and IDI. The jointly run library is now well established, attracting increasing numbers of researchers, students and others interested in children's issues.

The newly established IRC project, the 'European Network for a Research Agenda on Children in Armed Conflict' will also enhance collaboration between IRC and IDI as regards the growth of documentation and information in this area through the Innocenti Library.

The regular collaboration and partnership with the Italian National Committee for UNICEF has been particularly important in the launches of IRC publications.

IRC's expertise in children's rights has also been widely recognized during 2002. A two-day European Master's Degree seminar in Human Rights and Democratisation was held at IRC in March in cooperation with the University of Padua. Lectures have also been given by IRC officers at the Universities of Milan, Venice, Turin, and Padua. Regular cooperation with the Region of Tuscany is maintained through participation at congresses, seminars and workshops. It is also worth mentioning the exchange of information and data on countries where the Region of Tuscany cooperates in project activities. When possible IRC establishes contact between the Tuscan authorities and field offices to facilitate the development of partnership and collaboration at field level.

V. COMMUNICATION AND OPERATIONS

1 Communication

In 2002 IRC continued to consolidate and build on the steady progress of recent years and to introduce innovations, particularly on its website.

The website is the Centre's key communication tool, attracting an average of 5000 visitors to its home page each month. The website's Newsroom continued to enhance the Centre's links with journalists in 2002. The first of its kind within UNICEF, the Newsroom gives journalists and broadcasters access to a password-protected section of the site for embargoed media materials, and played a vital role in the Centre's promotional work throughout the year. Around 300 journalists are now registered. Another innovation is the electronic Publications Update — sent to almost 2000 e-mail addresses, including all UNICEF offices, NGOs, researchers and other partners — giving users the opportunity to register and to receive regular e-mail updates on recent and forthcoming publications. The new satellite sites section links the main IRC site and the project sites developed at IRC.

Regular statistics from the website allow the monitoring of downloads, with the Report Cards and Digests generally proving to be the most popular. Both the Report Card on Educational Disadvantage in Rich Nations and the Innocenti Digest on Birth Registration, for example, were downloaded more than 4500 times in 2002. Statistics provide other useful information such as the high demand for language versions, as well as for the Innocenti Working Papers.

In 2002 IRC also published its first CD-Rom, which contains an off-line version of the web site, the full publications catalogue, the TransMONEE database, as well as a description of IRC activities.

Working with UNICEF colleagues around the world, massive media coverage was generated for several of the Centre's publications in 2002, particularly Innocenti Report Card No. 4, *A League Table of Educational Disadvantage in Rich Nations* and Innocenti Digest No. 9, *Birth Registration: Right From the Start* (published in English, French and Spanish). This involved collaboration with a range of country offices and National Committees, as well as the media sections of UNICEF New York and Geneva. While attempting to maximise global media coverage, contacts continue to be built with the Italian media. The results for 2002 reported unprecedented Italian media coverage for a number of reports.

2 Operations

Financial Context

In September 2002, UNICEF and the Government of Italy (GOI) exchanged letters extending the current agreement for the financing of the Centre. Under

this renewed agreement, the Government of Italy will continue to provide funding for core staff and operational costs for implementation of the Programme of Activities for 2003–2005.

At 5.4 million Euro, the Government contribution has remained unchanged for the past fourteen years. However, subject as it is to exchange rate fluctuations, the US dollar value of this contribution has declined by some 50 per cent, just as costs have steadily risen. In 2002 the Government of Italy has contributed to sustain the work of the Centre and its cooperation with IDI through a yearly additional voluntary contribution of Euro 500,000.

Acknowledging the commitment to ensure adequate core support to IRC, and the devaluation in nominal terms of its core contribution, the Government of Italy will make efforts to reverse this trend during the next triennium.

In response to this very challenging situation, in the current cycle IRC has made concerted efforts to broaden the donor base, as well as to attract greater financial support from within the organization. The quality, relevance and visibility of IRC studies and publications have been instrumental in creating an encouraging trend that is expected to continue in 2003–2005. In 2002 IRC has secured important core financial support from the Government of Sweden (more than US\$ 2 million) for its next 2003–2005 programme.

Moreover, UNICEF has also raised its own financial contribution, both by covering the post of the Director from its regular resources (salary, travel and allowances) and IRC has been building a strong partnership and working jointly with an increasing number of Regional and Country offices as well as with Headquarters divisions, which have increased their support to IRC research.

Administration

The year 2002 saw the administration section faced with the major task of preparing the budget exercise for the new cycle (2003–2005), bringing with it the need to review the structure of the centre and work profiles.

Moreover, in 2002 there has been an increasing workload in terms of staff movement due to the introduction of new projects hosted by IRC. Fortunately the problem of office space to accommodate the additional staff at the Centre was addressed with the allocation of extra office space by the host institution, the Istituto degli Innocenti.

In 2002, managerial changes and the related reorganization, combined with the need to integrate new staff, consultants and interns, put an additional burden on the Centre which at the same time has undergone a trimming process.

VI. SUMMARY

With its increasing support of a field-driven, action-oriented approach, the Centre informs UNICEF policy formulation, strengthens UNICEF's role as advocate for children's rights, enhances the organization's capacity to research and learn from its field experience, and supports programme development and capacity building. With its academic independence, IRC focuses on areas that are relatively new to UNICEF, which raise sensitive and controversial topics, or where a knowledge gap has been identified.

The Centre is profiled as a nerve centre for the study of children's rights with a mandate to generate debate, influence partners' agendas, enhance partnerships with research bodies, policy institutions and development agencies, and develop and diversify its donor support basis. As such it constitutes a resource for UNICEF Headquarters, field offices and National Committees alike.

In 2002 IRC has moved forward on the three key thrusts of its corporate research agenda:

- the promotion of advocacy and policy dialogue on the implementation of international standards and the development of child-friendly policies;
- monitoring the impact of economic and social policies on children's rights;
- enhancing partnerships and the cross-fertilization of experiences.

During the past year IRC has continued to build synergies among key IRC research initiatives, both within UNICEF and in collaboration with external partnerships. Furthermore, it is improving the dissemination and external use of its data, research findings and publications and access to its thematic websites in order to raise awareness on all its projects, both within the organization and worldwide.

IRC's success in setting up new projects and consolidating on-going programmes, together with its increasing reliance on temporary staff and consultants to cope with an ever growing research, publication and media-related workload, have placed an additional burden on IRC's small team, and financial resources. This means that in 2002 the Centre has had to continue efforts to broaden its donor base to meet the continued and growing financial challenges facing the successful initiation, continuation, completion and promotion of all its research and publication programmes.

Lessons learnt from IRC's past three year programme implementation have informed the development of the new programme (2003-2005) approved by the UNICEF Executive Board (September 2002). Board Members have recommended that:

- It is critical to promote the mainstreaming of IRC's work in UNICEF's corporate agenda.
- IRC needs to continue to enhance its strategic partnerships with policy and research institutions in Europe and beyond, including by using its data dri-

ven analysis and policy studies to influence a child centred agenda of European institutions and European Union Presidencies.

- It is essential to sustain IRC's high level expertise as well as most critical areas of work (e.g. Social Monitor, Digests, Report Cards and Child Trafficking), which are expected to inform the development of UNICEF's future MTSP.
- The visibility of IRC's studies should be enhanced, both as a contribution to the mainstreaming of children's rights in the international political and development agenda, and as a means of consolidating wider institutional and donor support to the Centre.

These dimensions will decisively inform the implementation of the IRC 2003-2005 Programme of Activities.

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