

UNICEF
INNOCENTI PUBLICATIONS

ANNUAL REVIEW

2001-2002



United Nations Children's Fund
Innocenti Research Centre
Florence, Italy

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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 2001. For further details please consult the Centre's website; www.unicef-icdc.org or contact Centre staff via email.

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Cover photo: © UNICEF/HQ96-1460/Giacomo Pirozzi. In Uganda in 1996, in the village of Rwengwe near the south-western town of Bushenyi, a 75-year-old man, Irario, stands in the doorway of his home sharing a book with his granddaughter aged 8, whose parents died of AIDS.

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1. INTRODUCTION

The work of the UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre (IRC) is based on one guiding principle: the rights of the child. Under this over-arching principle, IRC researches:

- Areas that are relatively new to UNICEF
- Statistics and areas that may be sensitive or even controversial
- Knowledge gaps in areas that are already mainstreamed into the work of UNICEF.

2001 was a crucial year for IRC and for children the world over. The UN Secretary-General published his review of a decade of success and setbacks for children since the World Summit for Children in 1990. And world leaders prepared to meet in New York in September for the UN General Assembly Special Session on Children, where they would pledge themselves to a new agenda to build a world fit for children.

The Special Session was one of the casualties of the attack on the World Trade Centre in New York. This appalling tragedy underscored the need to put children at the very heart of human development – with investment in children as the route to lasting peace and security. It was with this resolve that world leaders finally gathered at the re-scheduled Special Session in May 2002.

IRC played an active role in the Session, providing research results on many of the issues raised: HIV/AIDS, child poverty, the role of ombudspersons for children, child-friendly cities and child trafficking, to name a few.

The Session itself recognized the critical need for research into the issues facing children, both now and in the future. And UNICEF has stated the need for authoritative research on its five priority areas:

- Girls' education
- Integrated early childhood development
- Immunization 'plus'
- Fighting HIV/AIDS
- Increased protection of children from violence, abuse, exploitation and discrimination

IRC is about to enter a new three-year programme that will provide the solid research necessary to underpin the work of UNICEF, with a strong focus

on these areas. As always, research will be carried out under the banner of child rights. Under its new Director, Marta Santos Pais, IRC has set itself one main goal: to become a Centre of Excellence on Child Rights within the next three years.

WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP

IRC never works in isolation. In 2001, its partners and donors included:

- The Governments of Italy, Finland, Norway, Sweden and the UK
- UNICEF headquarters in New York and Geneva
- UNICEF Regional Offices
- UNICEF Country Offices
- UNICEF National Committees, particularly those in Germany, Italy and Spain
- The World Bank
- The World Health Organization (WHO)
- The International Labour Organization (ILO)
- The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)
- USAID
- The European Union
- The UN Centre for Human Settlements/Habitat
- The World Organization of Scout Movements
- The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
- The UN Committee on the Rights of the Child.

Partnership with the host institution of IRC, the Istituto degli Innocenti (IDI), was particularly rewarding. 2001 saw the opening of the Innocenti Library – a unique child rights resource – and the first international meeting to discuss a research agenda for children in armed conflict, backed by the Government of Italy.

1. GLOBAL ISSUES

Child Labour

IRC has two research projects on this issue and both made good progress in 2001. First, the **Joint Inter-agency Project on Child Labour** (Understanding Children's Work and Its Impact – UCW) which aims to boost understanding of child labour and its solutions, while improving collaboration between the the International Labour Organisation (ILO), UNICEF and the World Bank on this issue. The Project, launched in December 2000 as a follow-up to the Oslo Conference on the Elimination of Child Labour, is financed by the governments of Norway, Finland and Sweden. The first phase of the Project was completed in 2001, including the creation of a database of around 300 data sets and the development of country statistics for nearly 50 countries – just part of the information available on the UCW website (www.ucw-project.org). The project is now examining areas where there are knowledge gaps and is focusing on country-level research and capacity-building. Six countries are participating: El Salvador, Guatemala, Morocco, Nepal, Tanzania and Yemen.

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Second, the **Project on Outsourcing of Manufacturing**, which aims to fill a knowledge gap within UNICEF and beyond on the home-based work of women and children – a phenomenon that is virtually 'invisible' in data terms. Surveys and studies were completed in five Asian countries in 2001: India, Indonesia, Pakistan, Philippines and Thailand, combining quantitative and qualitative approaches. Three employment sectors were studied in each country, including one export industry. A book and a number of Innocenti Working Papers are planned for 2002.

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HIV/AIDS

IRC research focuses on the impact of HIV/AIDS on social sectors, aiming to identify policies to sustain child well-being in the face of the epidemic. An analytical framework was completed in 2001, outlining the links between HIV/AIDS, child welfare and policy responses. UNICEF staff from the field were consulted, as well as many other experts on this issue. Comparisons were drawn between countries or areas with similar levels of development but with very different trends in HIV/AIDS, such as Uganda and Kenya; Thailand and Cambodia; Senegal and Côte d'Ivoire and Manipur (Bombay) and Nakilesh (Tamil Nadu). Best practices in policy responses – those that could be replicated to sustain child well-being – have been highlighted. In 2001 the project

began to create a network of experts on the long-term child welfare impact of the epidemic. Research papers will be published in 2002, together with a report on the main research results, identifying priority interventions for UNICEF. The project was developed in consultation with UNICEF Country Offices, who also funded the relevant country studies. Core funding has been provided by the Government of Italy, with additional funding from the UNICEF Regional Office for East and Southern Africa.

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Globalization

Carried out in partnership with UNICEF New York Headquarters, this study looks at how globalization affects children, identifying the policies that seize its positive aspects and address its negative side effects. Aiming to fill a knowledge gap on this issue, it focuses on a factual assessment of the benefits and costs of globalization for children, and on initiatives that try to harness the benefits on their behalf. Drawing on contributions from experts from all parts of the world, a policy summary, *Harnessing Globalization for Children*, has been prepared, and a larger publication, including most contributions in full, is planned for later in 2002.

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Building Institutional Knowledge

IRC has a mandate to fill knowledge gaps within UNICEF, enhancing staff capacity and knowledge on key issues. The focus is on special protection issues, with IRC contributing to UNICEF policy by clarifying the relevant human rights standards and their implications. In 2001, as in previous years, activities in this area are carried out in partnership with UNICEF New York headquarters.

The Innocenti Insight on **child participation**, *Promoting Children's Participation in Democratic Decision-making* was a key resource for the Special Session. Its simple checklists for successful child participation were welcomed by those working to ensure a genuine voice for children in the run-up to, and during, the Session. The Insight was published in English, French and Italian.

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Research on **child trafficking in West and Central Africa** continued – a collaboration between IRC and the UNICEF Regional Office for West and Central Africa and UNICEF Country Offices in Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Gabon, Mali, Nigeria and Togo. The project is founded on field-

based research that builds capacity on child trafficking as part of the research process. The findings reveal a lack of awareness of child trafficking and its complexity, poor coordination and a chronic lack of data, undermining attempts to end the phenomenon. The research was presented to experts from the region at a meeting in Florence, and also at the Second World Congress on the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in Yokohama, Japan. An Innocenti Insight based on the research was launched at the Special Session on Children and called for policy frameworks to eradicate child trafficking. A regional Inter-Agency Working Group on child trafficking is now being created in the region and a website is under development. IRC has been asked to support a European Union initiative on trafficking, led by Italy and Sweden, to create a Plan of Action on trafficking for the EU/Africa Summit in 2003. New funding is now required for further research into related issues, including the creation of tools and methodologies to monitor child trafficking, and project expansion to other regions.

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IRC has a long history of research on **juvenile justice**. In 2001 its draft strategy paper on juvenile justice, prepared in collaboration with UNICEF Headquarters, was presented at a meeting of UNICEF Regional Child Protection Advisers in New York and at regional child protection meetings in Côte d'Ivoire, Morocco and Romania. Country studies were prepared for an IRC Workshop on Juvenile Justice in Post-Conflict Situations, the results of which will be shared with colleagues working in such situations. An initial report on the minimum age of criminal responsibility was prepared – a topic on which the Committee on the Rights of the Child is expected to comment. IRC is examining the factors that influence the establishment of the minimum age and research into this complex issue will continue in 2002.

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2001 saw a major breakthrough on another child protection issue: **inter-country adoption**. Several countries decided to suspend or restrict adoptions from Guatemala, following intense lobbying by many actors, including IRC. In addition, UNICEF Romania asked IRC to represent UNICEF on a task force that includes the EU, USAID and DFID (UK) to review draft legislation on adoption prepared by the Romanian Authorities. The year ended with IRC hosting a consultation with the Regional Office for Central and Eastern Europe, the Commonwealth of Independent States and the Baltics, and agreeing to draft guidelines on intercountry adoption and its abuses in the region.

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Innocenti Digests

The Digests lay out the key facts and the main areas of debate on specific child rights issues. Before each Digest is written, experts on the particular issue gather in Florence for intensive discussion to ensure that the finished product reflects the latest thinking. The Innocenti Digests receive funding from the UNICEF National Committees for Germany and Spain and from UNICEF Headquarters in New York.

The Digest on *Early Marriage* published in March 2001 on the eve of International Women's Day, reported that half of all girls in some countries are married by the time they are 18. It called for a global campaign to prevent early marriage, condemning it as a fundamental violation of child rights and highlighting education as a key preventive measure.

Media coverage was unprecedented in scale and quality as a result of close collaboration between the Communication team of IRC and UNICEF counterparts throughout the world. The German National Committee launched the Digest in Berlin with the Director General of International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) and the German Minister for Development Cooperation, leading to radio and print coverage throughout Germany. Global media highlights included a Reuters TV interview with Carol Bellamy, UNICEF Executive Director, two articles in the *International Herald Tribune* and a piece in the *New York Times*. UNICEF colleagues in Ethiopia, Egypt, India and Niger were delighted when requests for interviews poured in. The Swedish National Committee translated media materials into Finnish and Swedish and the Italian National Committee generated national coverage with its Italian media materials and RAI television traveled to Ethiopia to cover the story in depth. UNICEF Niger funded a reprint of the French version of the Digest to meet demand for a key resource in the country's efforts to end early marriage.

One month after the launch, the Digest was presented to the Commission on Human Rights at an event organized by UNICEF.

The Digest on *Independent Institutions Protecting Children's Rights* updated the first ever Digest, *Ombudswork for Children*, published in 1997. Focusing on the need to create such institutions in every country, the Digest maintains that, without them, child rights rarely receive the priority they deserve. Children may be among the main users of public services, but they are the least able to influence the actions of governments. The Digest reviews existing institutions and the characteristics that are required to fulfil their role for children. It also finds rapid progress. In 1997, only 16 Ombudsmen or Commissioners for children could be identified. Since then, the number has almost doubled and all are listed in the Digest. As well as being presented to the Conference against Racism in South Africa in September, the Digest

was the basis for the first ever global meeting of Ombudspersons and Commissioners for Children – an event at the Special Session on Children. It has been submitted to the Committee on the Rights of the Child as essential background for the preparation of a General Comment by the Committee on this issue.

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Child Pornography on the Internet

IRC is developing research on the impact of measures to combat child pornography on the Internet, in partnership with Transcrime-University of Trento and UNISYS-Belgium SA. Funded by the European Union's Daphne Programme, the project recognizes the transnational dimension of the problem and the need for a common European approach. The project aims to improve preventive measures by developing a model for their evaluation, with findings turned into practical tools for those working in this field. IRC will collect and analyze information on preventive measures in the social and educational spheres and develop the framework for their evaluation. It will also produce a manual for NGOs and organize training seminars in various countries in partnership with Transcrime-University of Trento.

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International Child Friendly Cities Secretariat

The International Child Friendly Cities Secretariat, based at IRC, gathers and disseminates information on efforts to create child friendly cities – efforts that attempt to translate the international commitments to children's rights into tangible municipal action. Coordination that is essential, given the growth in such activities since the launch of the global Child Friendly Cities (CFC) Initiative in Istanbul in 1996. The Secretariat focuses on three areas: data gathering and field research; information exchange; and networking.

In 2001, the Secretariat completed case studies on Italy and the Philippines for publication in 2002 and created a database on good practices. It launched a website, distributed an information kit to key partners and worked with other IRC colleagues to develop an Innocenti Digest on *Poverty and Exclusion among Urban Children* for publication in 2002. The Secretariat collaborated with UNICEF Headquarters to organize an expert consultation on Human Rights-based Programming for the Urban Child, attended by more than 30 UNICEF experts on this issue. A Steering Committee was created to guide the Secretariat, including representatives from IRC, UNICEF Headquarters and Country Offices, the Government of Italy,

the Istituto degli Innocenti, the Italian National Committee for UNICEF and UNCHS/Habitat. The Government of Italy has provided initial funding for the Secretariat and additional donors will be required for the necessary follow-up. An event at the Special Session on Children attracted the main CFC partners, who called for dissemination and replication of good practices at the municipal level.

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2. MONITORING SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACT ON CHILDREN

Monitoring in Central and Eastern Europe, the Commonwealth of Independent States and the Baltics — MONEE

The IRC MONEE Project has monitored the human impact of social and economic change in the former Soviet bloc since 1992, building up a unique resource that proved invaluable in 2001. Its authoritative data was essential for the region's review of achievements since 1990 in preparation for the UN General Assembly Special Session on Children. In May 2001, for example, members of the MONEE team steered a working group on child poverty at the first Regional Conference on Children in Europe and Central Asia, held in Berlin. This first meeting between decision-makers from transition countries and Western Europe was a pivotal event in preparations for the Special Session.

The 8th Regional Monitoring Report, *A Decade of Transition*, was published in November 2001, providing the first comprehensive assessment of ten years of transition and revealing a mixture of success and failure. In most transition countries the rates of infant, adolescent and maternal mortality have fallen, and most economies in the region are growing. But the 1990s took their toll. Every transition country experienced an economic slump and one third of them experienced conflict.

The report found almost 18 million children living in poverty across the region at the end of the 1990s and around 1.5 million children in public care. It also reported alarming increases in tuberculosis, child malnutrition and in HIV/AIDS. A region untouched by HIV/AIDS in 1989 had an estimated 700,000 cases by the end of 2000 – probably more.

A Decade of Transition called for an attack on child poverty, for urgent action on the institutionalization of children, and for health and education policies focusing on adequate financing, efficiency and equity. With 13 per cent fewer children in the region than in 1989, the report said, there is no excuse for inadequate investment in children.

The report was launched in 14 countries, with an international media launch held in Geneva with Carol Bellamy, UNICEF Executive Director, and members of the MONEE team. Media coverage included articles in many of the world's leading newspapers such as the *New York Times*, the *Moscow Times* and *The Guardian* as well as most major Italian newspapers. Most major news agencies carried the stories, as did broadcast networks such as CNN, BBC, RAI (Italy) and TA3-TV News (Slovakia).

2001 also saw the launch of the *Young People in Changing Societies Discussion Guide*, based on the 7th Regional Monitoring Report. The Guide, pro-

duced in partnership with the UNICEF Regional Office for CEE/CIS and Baltics and the World Organization of Scout Movements (WOSM), aims to help young people assume their role as responsible citizens. It was launched in English and Russian at the 17th European Scout Conference in Prague in July.

The MONEE Project produced two Innocenti Working Papers in 2001: *Preferences for Inequality, East vs. West, and Children in Bulgaria: Growing Impoverishment and Unequal Opportunities*.

Meanwhile, the TransMONEE database continued to provide its unique services. This comprehensive database on social and economic trends in transition countries can be downloaded from the IRC website and is used extensively by other international organizations. The World Bank, for example, describes the TransMONEE datasets as “absolutely crucial” to its work.

The MONEE Project receives financial support from the Government of Italy, the World Bank and from the UNICEF Regional Office for the CEE/CIS and Baltics.

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The Mediterranean Project (MEDIN)

The Mediterranean Project (MEDIN) was completed in 2001, contributing to the review of progress for children in the region in the 1990s and paving the way for follow-up to the UN General Assembly Special Session on Children. With support from the Government of Italy, the Project aimed to boost national capacity to identify, assess and address child rights concerns in nine countries – Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine, Syria and Tunisia. The Project was a collaboration between the UNICEF Regional Office for the Middle East and North Africa and the Governments and UNICEF Country Offices of the nine countries. Research was action-oriented and field-based, with field missions, for example, speeding the transfer of ideas and experience between the different countries. In 2001 a report was completed on child rights issues in these countries, as well as a database of 1,000 child indicators spanning the 1990s. A series of project proposals have been developed as a result of the research, but more funding will be needed to turn them into action for children.

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Financing Basic Education

Despite all efforts to ensure universal access to basic education by the year 2000, the 1990s saw the percentage of children in primary schools world-wide rise by only 2 per cent, from 80 to 82 per cent. The number of children out of school stands at around 113 million and, as in 1990, most of them are girls.

India alone accounts for one third of all children out of school, making it a crucial location for research on the costs of sending a child to school. IRC is working with UNICEF India and with the country's leading education economists to find out how much supposedly 'free' schools actually cost, and pinpoint ways to ensure that they become genuinely cost-free to impoverished families. The results of research studies in eight Indian states that account for most of the children out of school were submitted to the Government of India in 2001 to stimulate policy dialogue on the financing of basic education. Innocenti Working Papers are planned, as well as a book on this issue.

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East Asian Economic Crisis: Indonesia

In 2001, IRC completed a research project into the impact of the East Asian economic crisis on the people of Indonesia – the fourth most populous country in the world – in collaboration with UNICEF Indonesia, and with funding from the Australian National Committee for UNICEF. Four publications were launched in 2001. Three Working Papers analyzed data gathered from a survey of 100 villages, an assessment of Indonesia's school scholarship programme, and an examination of UNICEF's 'family in focus' approach to social development, with all of this information pulled together in an Innocenti Insight *Beyond Krismon*. This contributed to the preparations in East Asia for the UN General Assembly Special Session on Children and was launched in Jakarta at a well-attended press conference. This project was an example of collaboration between IRC and the field to promote a report that examines a particular region, while having wider relevance to the situation of children affected by economic crises.

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ODA to Basic Services

IRC completed two projects on ODA to basic services in 2001 in collaboration with UNICEF Headquarters. First, *Public Spending for the Poor: Basic Services to Enhance Capabilities and Promote Growth*, a book for co-publication. Second, an Innocenti Working Paper: *The Rhetoric of International Development Targets and the Reality of Official Development Assistance* on the gap between the promises made at international level and the resources that are actually made available.

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3. CHILDREN IN INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES

Dynamics of Child Poverty

IRC research on the movements of children in and out of poverty in Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Russia, Spain, the UK and USA reveals that far more children experience poverty than are reflected in standard poverty statistics. The research aims to spur Governments to do more to gather and analyze such fundamental data. The findings were published in 2001 in *The Dynamics of Child Poverty in Industrialised Countries* (Cambridge University Press co-publication) and, in January 2002, they were presented at a major conference organized by the European Forum for Child Welfare.

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Report Cards

IRC published *A League Table of Child Deaths by Injury in Rich Nations* in 2001, the second in the groundbreaking Report Card series – the only UNICEF series focusing on children in industrialized countries. Report Card 2 found that injuries kill over 20,000 children every year in the world's wealthiest nations and that injury is now the leading killer of children in these countries. International media coverage included stories in the *International Herald Tribune*, the *New York Times*, the *Washington Post*, every major newspaper in Germany and the UK and the *British Medical Journal*, in addition to extensive broadcast coverage in a number of countries. UNICEF National Committees in Ireland, Italy and Spain also reported excellent media coverage.

The series generates new alliances for UNICEF in industrialized countries. The UNICEF National Committee in Portugal, for example, worked with APSI (Associação para a Promoção da Segurança Infantil) on a joint media campaign to launch Report Card 2. The European Child Safety Alliance used the Report Card as the core reference for its White Book for Child Safety in Europe and commissioned a MORI poll that found that most European government officials responsible for child injury prevention knew their country's position in the League Table – an unprecedented level of recognition. The research was also presented at various major events in 2001, including the Conference of the Austrian Safety Council in Vienna.

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4. GETTING THE MESSAGE OUT

The IRC Communication Team is responsible for every aspect of the Centre's promotion, such as media liaison, launches, marketing, website and publications, and has strong links with communication colleagues throughout UNICEF worldwide. Highlights of IRC communication outreach in 2001 included the superb media coverage generated for IRC publications, particularly the Digest on *Early Marriage*, the *League Table of Child Deaths by Injury in Rich Nations* and the 8th Regional Monitoring Report: *A Decade of Transition*. In every case, the Communication Team worked in collaboration with UNICEF Headquarters and with a range of UNICEF Country Offices and National Committees. And, as always, the team continued to build on its contacts with the media in Italy. The results were clear in 2001, with unprecedented Italian media coverage for a number of reports.

Other publication highlights were the collaboration with the UNICEF Regional Office for CEE/CIS and the Baltics and the World Scout Movement to produce English and Russian versions of a Youth Discussion Guide on the previous year's Regional Monitoring Report, *Young People in Changing Societies*, two Innocenti Insights: *Promoting Children's Participation* and *Beyond Krismon*, and the *Annual Review*, produced in English, French and Spanish.

The website is established as the key IRC communication tool, attracting around 8,000 visitors each month. The Newsroom – the first of its kind in UNICEF – now has more than 200 registered journalists, all of whom have advance access to IRC media materials. A new innovation in 2001 was the electronic Publications Update allowing users to register for e-mail updates on publications.

2001 also saw a trebling of the number of publications distributed: 120,000 publications went to every part of the globe, to the right people at the right time. This spectacular rise in demand for IRC publications illustrates the impact of its greater public profile in recent years.

As always, IRC produced a large number of language versions of its publications in 2001. The Digest on *Early Marriage* and the *Annual Review* were produced in English, French, Italian and Spanish. The Insight on *Child Participation* was published in English, French and Italian. The Regional Monitoring Report, *A Decade of Transition* and the *Youth Discussion Guide* were both published in English and Russian.

The quality of IRC communication outreach is recognized throughout UNICEF. Two members of the team were, for example, seconded to assist

UNICEF Headquarters during the UN General Assembly Special Session on Children.

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6. WHO'S WHO AT THE UNICEF INNOCENTI RESEARCH CENTRE

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