

CHILDREN'S INSTITUTE

annual report

2006/2007



children's
institute

child rights in focus
Research • Advocacy • Education



UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN



Contents

About the Children's Institute	2
Management & Governance	4
A New Director Reflects	6
The Year in Review	8
Research Programmes	
Child Health Services	12
Child Poverty	13
Child Rights	14
HIV/AIDS	15
Projects	
The Caring Schools Project	18
The Child Survival Project	19
The Children Count – Abantwana Babalulekile Project	20
The Children's Bill Project	21
The Dikwankwetla – Children in Action Project	22
The Evaluation Project	23
The Firearms Project	23
Growing up in a time of AIDS: Abaqophi basOkhayeni	
Abaqinile Children's Radio Project	24
The Means to Live Project	25
Project 28	26
The Residential Care Project	27
Operations Support Services	28
Grants and Finances	29
Recognition of Our Supporters	30
Staff	30
Communication Products and Other Publications	31

Contact details

Children's Institute, University of Cape Town
46 Sawkins Road, Rondebosch, Cape Town, 7700, South Africa
Tel: +27 21 689 5404 Fax: +27 21 689 8330
E-mail: info@ci.org.za
Web: www.ci.org.za

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Photographs by Brooke Fasani.





About the Children's Institute

Vision

A society in which children are valued, nurtured and protected; their rights are realised; and where they are able to participate, develop, and reach their full potential.

The Children's Institute was established at the University of Cape Town in 2001 with the specific intention to harness the collective institutional capabilities related to child-focused academic endeavours in fields of research, teaching and development. Evidence-based advocacy forms an important continuum with research, teaching and development activities, and is the vehicle by which the Children's Institute maximises the impact of academic endeavours on the policy and practice environments.

The Children's Institute is currently the only academic unit in the country that focuses exclusively on children's policy. The essence of the Institute is to bring primary and secondary research and information to bear on the development of laws, policies, programmes and service interventions for children across a number of disciplines.

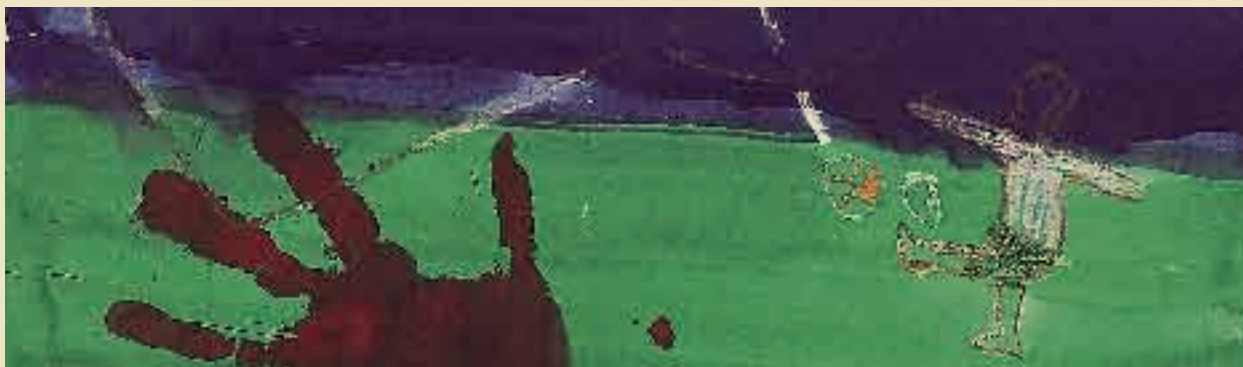
The Institute's key areas of focus are in line with major issues that impact significantly on children's lives, namely poverty, and HIV/AIDS. These are addressed within a rights-based framework underpinned by the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Bill of Rights in the South African Constitution.

The Children's Institute over the past six years has established itself as a credible policy research institute both within and outside the University of Cape Town. Within the University the Institute

is regarded as a model for a socially responsive academic unit. Outside the University the Children's Institute has contributed significantly to a number of policy and legislative processes, and has participated in numerous – or sometimes initiated – collaborations and networks with both government and civil society duty-bearers to children's rights.

The Institute has a strong foundation of work in the field of children's policy, and this is widely acknowledged by the academic, civil society, government and news media sectors. Its communication products are used extensively in the South African children's sector, and the Institute is gaining a good reputation in Africa, as well as globally.

The Children's Institute furthermore has a pool of donors who believe in its mission and who continuously invest in its work. Finally, the Institute is made up of highly competent, multi-disciplinary staff who represent a vast collective experience, and who are all passionate advocates for children and the realisation of children's rights. This combination of resources continues to make it possible for the Children's Institute to contribute to alleviating the plight of South Africa's children by advancing policies and strategies that are in their best interest.



Mission

To contribute to policies, laws and interventions that promote equality and realise the rights and improve the conditions of all children in South Africa through research, advocacy, education and technical support.

The objectives of the Institute are to:

- characterise the major challenges facing children in South Africa
- conduct policy research, analysis and commentary
- provide evidence-based information and technical assistance to all relevant role-players in the policy-making process
- undertake training and teaching
- promote and impact on policy-making decisions that affect children's well-being
- monitor and evaluate the impact of policy on child well-being
- disseminate information and research findings to all interested, involved and affected role-players.

The Institute, in all its work, strives to achieve excellence, promote an inter-disciplinary research focus, develop indigenous models of policy and intervention, and respects diversity. The work of the Institute operates at national, provincial and local levels and focuses on all phases of policy development and implementation. The Institute collaborates with interested role-players including academics, policy makers and practitioners in government and in non-governmental and community-based organisations.

The functions of the Institute are:

• Research

- defining research questions in specific child policy areas
- conducting quality policy research and clarification
- stimulating inter-disciplinary research
- collating and analysing secondary research and data sets

• Teaching

- conducting policy research training for graduate students from different disciplines
- contributing child policy modules to existing programmes
- delivering short courses or other appropriate training to child practitioners and policy makers

• Technical assistance and support

- providing technical assistance to policy makers and practitioners
- supporting child policy role players with information, training and practice guidelines

• Advocacy

- communication with government decision-makers
- producing publications directed at the policy, service provider, academic and popular fields
- information dissemination
- participating in and supporting social movements that prioritise and promote children's well-being
- increasing the cadre of practitioners, scholars and researchers versed in evidence-based approaches to child-focused policies and practices

The main research programmes in the Institute have been carefully selected, based on priority areas for children. Current programmes focus on:

- Child health services
- Child poverty
- Child rights
- HIV/AIDS

The multi-faceted nature of these priorities for children and the multi-disciplinary approaches needed to address them require continuous collaboration between the programmes. Most of the major projects involve teams made up of staff from all the programmes. See pp.16–17 for a diagrammatic representation of Children's Institute research programmes and projects.

Cross-cutting support areas include general and financial administration, human resources, communication and knowledge management.



Management and Governance

The Institute is administered through the Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Cape Town. A director leads its activities and is supported by a university-wide Governing Board directly accountable to the Vice-Chancellor. The Governing Board members are:

Prof Marian Jacobs, Chairperson

Prof Marian Jacobs is the Dean of the Health Sciences Faculty at the University. She has a wide range of academic and management leadership experience, both nationally and internationally, and has many close relationships with institutions like the World Health Organisation and the Council on Health Research for Development. Prof Jacobs is a founding member of the Children's Institute and served as the director from 2001 – 2005.

Prof Haroon Borat

Prof Haroon Borat is Professor of Economics at the University. He is also the Director of the Development Policy Research Unit and the Deputy Dean for Research in the Faculty of Commerce. He serves as a member of the technical working group of the government's Joint Initiative on Priority Skills Acquisition Project and as an economic advisor to the President.

Ms Judith Favish

Ms Judith Favish is the Director of Institutional Planning at the University. She is responsible for the Institutional Information Unit, the Academic Planning Unit, the Quality Assurance Unit, and monitoring of social responsiveness. She serves as a co-convenor of a task team consisting of the institutional planners from the four higher education institutions in the Western Cape and the provincial government. She serves on the executive of the Board of the Higher Education Quality Committee.

Prof Evance Kalula

Prof Evance Kalula is a Professor of Law (employment law and social security) in the Faculty of Law at the University, and the Director of the Institute of Development and Labour Law. He is the chairperson of the Employment Conditions Commission, a statutory body set up under the Basic Conditions of Employment Act.

His academic research interests are labour market regulation, social protection in the jurisdiction of the Southern African Development Community, and international and comparative labour law.

Prof Shirley Pendlebury

Prof Shirley Pendlebury is a Professor of Education and currently the Director of the Children's Institute. She served as the head of the Division of Curriculum at the University of Witwatersrand where she held several senior management portfolios within the Faculty of Humanities and the legacy Faculty Education.

Associate Prof Andre Smit

Associate Prof Andre Smit is the Head of the Department of Social Development at the University. He provides management development consultancy, training and development to various organisations.

Prof Crain Soudien

Prof Crain Soudien is the Director of the School of Education at the University and teaches in the fields of sociology and history of education. He is involved in a number of local, national and international social and cultural organisations.

Prof George Swingler

Prof George Swingler is the Director of the School of Child and Adolescent Health at the University. He is a contact editor of the Cochrane Acute Respiratory Infections Group and also a member of the Editorial Board of BMC Medical Research Methodology, an open access journal publishing articles in methodological approaches to health care research.

In addition, the Institute is guided by an international Board of Advisors, made up of the following members:

Mrs Graça Simbine Machel, Chairperson

Mrs Machel is the President of the Organisation of Mozambican Children, Foundation for Community Development in Mozambique and is the Chancellor of the University of Cape Town.

Prof Harold Richman, Deputy Chairperson

Prof Richman is the Hermon Dunlap Smith Professor Emeritus and the founding Director of the Chapin Hall Center for Children at the University of Chicago. He has a special interest in policies and institutions affecting children.

Prof J. Lawrence Aber

Prof Aber is a recognised expert in child development and social policy, and is currently Professor of Applied Psychology and Public Policy at the Steinhardt School of Culture, Education, and Human Development, New York University.

Prof Cheryl de la Rey

Prof De la Rey is a Deputy Vice-Chancellor at the University of Cape Town. Her portfolio includes academic leadership and development of the University. She is also responsible for research, innovation and postgraduate affairs.

Prof Jonathan D. Jansen

Prof Jansen was until recently the Dean of Education at the University of Pretoria and is the Vice-President of the Academy of Science of South Africa. He is a Fellow at the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching and will be a Fulbright Scholar at Stanford University from 1 October 2007.

Prof John R. Pinkerton

Prof Pinkerton is Professor of Child and Family Social Work in the School of Sociology, Social Policy and Social Work at Queen's University, Belfast, Northern Ireland. His areas of special interest are young people leaving state care, family support and the translation of research into policy and practice.

Dr Jon E. Rohde

Dr Rohde was the director of the EQUITY Project in the Eastern Cape province after serving for 12 years in India as the UNICEF country representative and the global advisor on health and nutrition to the UNICEF chief at that time, Mr James P. Grant. Dr Rohde now works as an international consultant in Africa and Asia, while teaching and writing from his home in South Africa.

Adv Tseliso Thipanyane

Adv Thipanyane is the Chief Executive Officer of the South African Human Rights Commission. He has had extensive work experience in human rights, democracy and good governance over the last 15 years.





A New Director Reflects

In April 2007, three months before the end of the year under review, I took office as Director of the Children's Institute.

I had come to know the Institute from its visionary founding director, Marian Jacobs; from its compelling publications and informative website; and from regular e-mail updates from the Children's Bill Working Group. The Institute's location at the University of Cape Town, one of Africa's leading universities, also shaped my expectations.

The inside view confirmed much of what I had glimpsed from the outside: remarkable energy and passion; lived commitment to realising children's constitutional rights in South Africa; care in building bridges from research to policy and practice; a multi-disciplinary research team; and a talented in-house division of Communication and Knowledge Management. I arrived at a time when spirits were high at the Children's Institute after the much publicised launch of the *South African Child Gauge 2006*. Here I could see clearly the collaborative endeavor in research, writing, and dissemination which I had glimpsed from the outside.

Yet the view from the outside did not fully prepare me for the view from the inside.

During the first few weeks I was struck by how much the Children's Institute is like a well-run non-governmental organisation and, in some respects, how little like other university research groups I have known. Advocacy, organisational development, operational planning, protocols, reporting deadlines and cost recovery seem to rule much of the talk, in corridors and in meetings. Amongst an impressive array of publications for a diverse reading public, a handful appears in the books and journals that universities count as research and scholarly publications. Amongst a multi-disciplinary team of researchers, most have informal links with their disciplines within the University, and only a few contribute to teaching in university courses related to children's rights and well-being.

In those early weeks as a new director, I came to see the importance of strengthening the Institute's place within, and contribution to, the University and the wider scholarly community in Africa and beyond. Advocacy has been central to Children's Institute activities since its inception, and rightly so. But the time has come to play a greater role in shaping scholarly debate on the development of locally attuned theory and methodology. The challenge, of course, is to do this while maintaining and extending our substantial contributions to advocacy and policy development for children.

An idea that animated the founding of the Children's Institute was to provide a supportive intellectual location for bringing together, from across the University, the many separate debates and advances of knowledge within studies pertaining to children, their well-being and rights, their social contexts and their position. While researchers at the Children's Institute represent different disciplines, I think we haven't yet fully met the promise of this animating idea. We need to strengthen and develop inter-disciplinary scholarship that cuts across the traditional boundaries of health, law, the social sciences and humanities; and do so in a way that incorporates questions of and lessons from advocacy and activism into our research and publications.

A socially responsive Children's Institute based at a university should, I think, do more than research and evidence-based advocacy. It should also help to develop a new generation of leaders in the children's sector and in the field of child-focused research and policy. One of my goals is to introduce an internship and graduate fellowship programme to enable mid-career professionals and emerging researchers with an interest in the position of children to undertake postgraduate or post-doctoral research at the Institute in association with the relevant academic departments at the University of Cape Town. A priority for such a programme would be to attract black South Africans and a linguistically diverse cohort of interns and research fellows.

The Children's Institute sets out to shape public agendas and debates on the position and rights of children. We do this through activities in the children's sector, through engagement with Parliament, and in the virtual spaces of the new media. But we can do more. The Institute can become a place for public deliberation and conversation, not just between adults who care about children's rights and their well-being, not just between researchers who share a common vision or complementary ways of pursuing knowledge, but between academics, policy makers, members of local communities and children themselves.

Children's rights are a primary lens for Children's Institute research and education and, to mix some metaphors, the clarion call for advocacy. While a legal understanding of children's rights on its own is crucial, it is not enough to improve the situation of children in South Africa. We also need to understand the ways in which socio-economic policies and conditions, as well as different social practices, shape the realisation of children's rights and the possibilities for children's survival, health and well-being.

This is why child poverty is a second lens for our work. Taking poverty as a lens is risky. It can result in dead sentiment or, in the opposite direction, a moral underclass discourse which blames the poor for deprivation, violence, substance abuse and all manner of other social ills. Responsible research and advocacy require respect for the aspirations, dignity, agency, experiences and strategies of children and families in disadvantaged communities. They also require an understanding of the systemic and structural conditions of poverty. For as long as poverty is a deep, enduring and trans-generational condition of so many South Africans, a multi-dimensional understanding of poverty must continue to guide the Institute's choices of which projects to undertake, and how.

Shirley Pendlebury





The Year in Review

Since its establishment in 2001, the Children's Institute has built a reputation in policy research and advocacy for children's rights in South Africa. The Institute's sixth year has been one of considerable internal change and many notable achievements.

At the end of 2006, Maylene Shung-King – the Acting Director and Child Health Services Programme manager and a founding member of the Institute – left to pursue doctoral studies in Oxford. The attractions of doctoral study also lured Annie Leatt, who led the Child Poverty Programme. Annie left towards the end of 2006 to take up a fellowship at WISER (Wits Institute for Social and Economic Research).

With the departure of these two leaders, the year was a challenging time for the Institute. Careful succession planning, the enduring legacies of the founding members, a supportive Board of Advisors, and the unstinting service of an acting directorate – Paula Proudlock and Kevin Erntzen – all helped to maintain direction and productivity. The two programme manager posts were filled by the end of 2006 and a new Director took up the reigns in April 2007.

The international Board of Advisors gathered in March 2007 for its annual review. As director designate, Prof Shirley Pendlebury attended the Board meeting and the new programme managers, Dr Beverly Draper for Child Health Services and Dr Johannes John-Langba for Child Poverty, joined programme staff in presenting current and planned activities for the Board's review. The Board's comments testify to the Institute's buoyancy during a period of upheaval: "[R]esearch, advocacy and training [are] all on track ... there is a new sense of confidence in the actual research being done ..."

A prominent achievement was the release of the second issue of the *South African Child Gauge*. This annual publication reviews the situation of children in South Africa, specifically the extent to which their socio-economic rights have been met. Multi-disciplinary expertise across the Institute informs the conceptualisation, evidence and arguments presented in each edition. Child poverty was the central theme of the *South African Child Gauge 2006*. The launch in February 2007, sponsored by Save the Children Sweden, was carefully timed to coincide with the President's State of the Nation speech and attracted considerable media attention. It also opened opportunities for engagement between Children's Institute staff and a range of government policy makers. The 2007 issue of the *South African Child Gauge* will review the State's progress in realising children's constitutional right to

social services in terms of s 28 (1) (c) of the Bill of Rights.

While the Children's Institute focuses on promoting children's constitutional rights, its leadership at parliamentary hearings, working groups for legislative reform, and a range of community and stakeholder workshops also contribute more widely to realising the ideals of a deliberative democracy and vibrant civil society. During the past year, as part of a civil society collective called the Children's Bill Working Group, the Children's Institute has played a leading role in public deliberations on the Children's Amendment Bill. A new version of the Bill (B19B of 2006) incorporates many of the working group's recommended changes, and demonstrates the impact that an informed, deliberative public can have on legislative processes. The *Dikwankwetla – Children in Action*, a group of 12 children from four provinces, worked with the Children's Institute to add their views to the making of this crucial law for children.

Mission and activities

Two distinguishing features of the Institute are its multi-disciplinary character and its ongoing commitment to evidence-based advocacy, policy development and education. All Children's Institute activities are research-led and all its research is socially responsive in its aims, methods and means of communication. In the past year, the Institute has maintained its focus on four selected areas: child rights and the laws pertaining to them, child health services, child poverty, and children affected by HIV/AIDS.

Successful socially responsive research, policy intervention and advocacy depend on user-friendly forms of communication – roundtable discussions and public forums, parliamentary updates and a range of publications. For the visual impact and readability of the *South African Child Gauge* and other publications, the Children's Institute has its Communication and Knowledge Management division to thank. Their sharp editorial eyes, attention to design detail and sensitivity to plain language are invaluable assets in an organisation that aims to reach wide and diverse audiences.

In its review meeting, the Board of Advisors remarked on the emergence at the Institute of a coherent methodology for bringing research to bear on policy development. Documenting and assessing this methodology is crucial for understanding how, and how much, the Children's Institute influences policy processes and law reform. Such assessment is conducted through an ongoing *Evaluation Project*, which publishes periodic case studies. The

most recent case study, *The Ebb and Flow of Child Health Policy Development in South Africa*, analyses the Institute's contribution to the development of three government child health policies over a seven-year period.

Other notable publications for the year include the *Rights in Brief: Defining children's constitutional right to social services*, and a research report by the *Residential Care Project* entitled *Home Truths: The phenomenon of residential care for children in a time of AIDS*. The rights brief presents a colloquial and colourfully illustrated analysis of children's right to social services, and is aimed at informing discussions on and analysis of legislative measures needed to give effect to this right, which is currently being debated in relation to the Children's Act. A story about *Home Truths* will feature on the new website of the Rockefeller Brothers Fund.

Children's participation in decisions that affect their lives has been a topic of perennial interest at the Institute. Hence, over the past year, the Institute has developed a child participation strategy. Children's right to participation and their experiences in the delivery of health services has now been identified as a new focus area for the Child Health Services Programme. Two projects in the HIV/AIDS Programme – *Dikwankwetla – Children in Action*, and the *Growing up in a time of AIDS: Abaqophi Basokhayeni Abaqinile Children's Radio Project* – continued to provide opportunities for children to participate in decisions affecting their lives. The *Children's Radio Project* released a second CD-ROM of children's radio programmes in mid-2007; it is a vivid audio-visual testimony to children's agency.

The *Children Count – Abantwana Babalulekile Project* has earned reputation in the last year as one of the few systematic attempts to meet South Africa's need for a central data source on children. Readers are invited to visit the project's revamped, interactive website at www.childrencount.ci.org.za. For more details on the Institute's projects and support services, please see the relevant sections in this annual report.

Staffing and governance

Despite some departures and new appointments, the number of staff has remained stable. At the end of June 2007 the staff number stood at 29. Six staff joined the Institute in the year under review, while four moved on to other interests.

Wanjirū Mūkoma, the HIV/AIDS Programme manager, completed her doctoral thesis and graduated in mid-2007. Lizette Berry, who leads the *Children Count – Abantwana Babalulekile Project*,

was promoted to Senior Researcher. Zelda Warrin was appointed Executive Administrator to the directorate in January 2007.

Recruitment for a Deputy Director was postponed until the new Director had settled into her position. The aim is to complete the recruitment process and make an appointment by January 2008.

The Children's Institute is guided by an international Board of Advisors, which has also performed many of the functions of a university-based Governing Board. In the year under review,





The Year in Review (continued)

a Governing Board was revived and consolidated, and terms of reference were developed to delineate the functions of the two Boards. In the coming year, the membership of the Board of Advisors will be expanded to include more local specialists on children's issues. The Institute continues to benefit from the support of Prof Marian Jacobs, Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences and Chair of the Governing Board.

Collaboration, networking and conferences

The Children's Institute has continued building and maintaining excellent links and relationships with government structures, civil society, academic and research institute partners, and children participating in its various projects. The Children's Bill processes, in particular, have helped to strengthen many of these relationships. A Memorandum of Understanding between the Children's Institute and UNICEF, signed in October 2006, has ensured a stronger relationship, with opportunities for complementary activities in the near future.

In order to achieve and maintain recognition as a university-accredited research entity, the Children's Institute is building a more vibrant research culture. In mid-2007, two events aimed to stimulate a critical conversation towards this end. Prof John Pinkerton, from Queen's University in Belfast, Northern Ireland, presented a seminar on "A social ecology of childhood as an approach to theorising the Institute's work". The Institute also organised a colloquium on the theme "Perspectives on university-based policy research units", with four invited presenters: Lily Artz (Director: Gender, Health and Justice Research Unit at the University of Cape Town); Sophie Oldfield (Environmental and Geographical Sciences at the University of Cape Town); Pamela Reynolds (Professor of Anthropology at the Johns Hopkins University); and Andries du Toit (Deputy Director: Programme for Land and Agrarian Studies at the University of the Western Cape).

Conferences offer an important opportunity for networking, particularly beyond South Africa's borders. Involvement in Southern and Pan-African initiatives is especially valuable. During the year under review, information officer Anthea Arendse and Dr Johannes John-Langba represented the Institute at a Roundtable of Experts on the African Child Knowledge and Information Centre in Nigeria, where Johannes also presented a paper. Helen Meintjes presented a paper at a joint conference of Anthropology Southern Africa, the Pan-African Anthropological Association and the International

Union of Anthropological and Ethnographical Sciences. *Children Count – Abantwana Babalulekile Project* leader Lizette Berry presented a paper at the First International Society for Child Indicators Conference in Chicago. Dr Beverly Draper attended a workshop in Chile as part of an international collaboration to develop a context-sensitive Child Rights Education Programme for Professionals.

The Institute's work on children's participation also featured in international gatherings during the year, with a presentation by Sue Moses to an international seminar at the University of Edinburgh and one by Helen Meintjes to the Fifth World Summit on Media for Children.

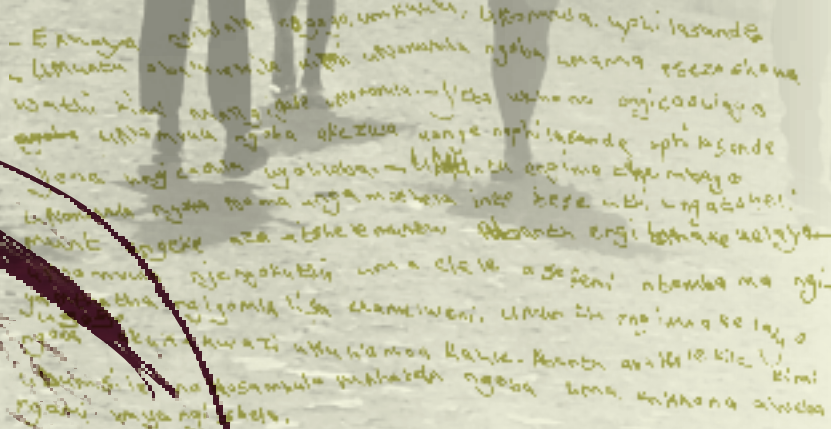
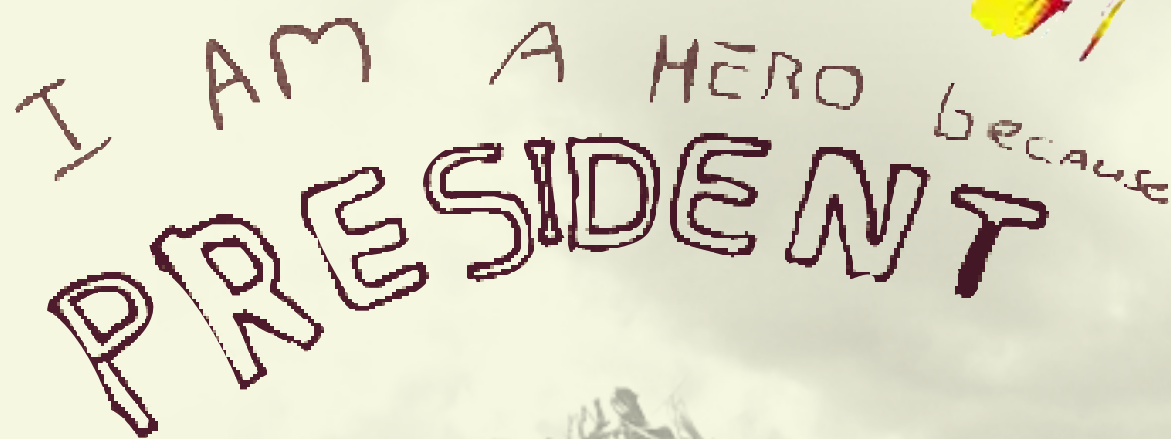
Finances and plans

As ever, the Children's Institute appreciates the generosity and interest of its donors and friends, from near and far. Atlantic Philanthropies has played an invaluable role in the Institute's development and success. Their founding grant has now been fully disbursed. The Institute is grateful to Atlantic Philanthropies for an additional "exit" grant for core operational costs over the next two years.

In the year under review, the first tranche of a three-year grant from The Elma Foundation contributed to strengthening leadership and programme capacity in the Institute. This grant also backs the Institute's sentinel publications. The Elma Foundation's confidence and interest in the work of the Children's Institute is enormously encouraging.

During 2006/2007 many of the existing donors renewed another funding cycle with projects they have been supporting. In addition, several donors have helped to advance the Institute by connecting it to their other grantees and inviting its members to participate in collaborative workshops.

Under its new Director, the Children's Institute has consolidated its operational plan and looks forward to exploring fresh areas of research, advocacy and education. New partnerships, within South Africa and beyond, and a plan for visiting researchers and postgraduate fellowships are also on the cards for the Institute as it moves into the second year of its next five-year phase.





Child Health Services

On 7 July 2007, the world passed its halfway mark to attain the Millennium Development Goals. Some of these goals directly address the well-being of mothers and children. The *AIDS and Demographic Model* of the Actuarial Society of South Africa estimates for 2006 an infant mortality rate of 48 and an under-five mortality rate of 73 per 1,000 live births respectively. In addition, the rate of trauma amongst older children continues to raise alarm.

The burden of disease and the need for increased human resources continue to hamper progress in the delivery of health services to South Africa's children. The challenge is to implement existing policies and to strengthen services that will address morbidity and mortality in children.

The strategic focus of the Child Health Services Programme is aimed at contributing to the advancement of child health policies and services, thereby contributing to children's right to health. The programme aims to place the right to health and health services within a holistic child rights perspective, which falls within the broader goals of the Children's Institute.

The programme has retained child survival as a major research and advocacy focus through its *Child Survival Project* (see p.19). Work involved developing a comprehensive review of all laws, policies and programmes that may affect child survival, and which serves to contextualise the constraints to children's well-being. In addition, specific policies related to violence to children and the effect of AIDS on infant and child mortality were reviewed with the aim of informing new research projects.

These initiatives underline the necessity to take a preventive approach that will ultimately have a more profound effect on the health of children. For this purpose, an observational study of firearm injuries and fatalities among children in the Cape Metropole is being conducted by the *Firearms Project* (see p.23). This project reviews and analyses data spanning a six-year period (2001 – 2006) to inform on trends in firearm injuries and deaths among children to policy makers and service providers who offer protection and management of this class of injuries.

The threat of HIV/AIDS to the present generation of children could be dealt with in different ways, including taking a preventive approach. Annually, thousands of infants are infected with HIV through mother-to-child transmission. The Child Health Service and HIV/AIDS Programmes have been collaborating to develop research that will examine the constraints to successful prevention of this

form of HIV transmission. The approach is based upon the premise that prevention is the gold standard in the management of an epidemic of this proportion, and that all efforts need to be directed at containing unnecessary infection of children.

In addition, the programme has been involved in technical support to other research and service projects that address prevention of mother-to-child transmission, and which in turn has served to strengthen partnerships in the fight against HIV in children.

Children's right to participation and their experiences in the delivery of health services is a new focus that has been identified for the Institute. This comes with the opportunity to collaborate with the International Institute for Child Rights to initiate a project aimed at developing, implementing and sustaining education in child rights for health professionals within the South African context. Such training will have a far-reaching effect of promoting children's protection, development and well-being to a sector that comes into contact with children on a daily basis.

The programme has sought to maintain relationships with clinicians and government departments, especially the Department of Health, who serve to inform and advise on the programme's strategic focus and projects. An exciting new collaboration with UNICEF and the Child Poverty Programme is underway to improve indicators that address child survival in South Africa. Programme staff continue to be involved in teaching activities related to health service and policy, and in providing cross-cutting technical support related to child health to the other Children's Institute programmes.

The programme has undergone change of management with the departure of Dr Maylene Shung-King, who for many years did sterling work at the Children's Institute. The new programme manager, Dr Beverly Draper, is assisted by two researchers and an administrator.



Child Poverty

In spite of the multitude of policy interventions being undertaken by the post-apartheid government, child poverty in South Africa continues to be pervasive. This could be attributed to rising unemployment, inequality and the impact of HIV/AIDS.

Child poverty in South Africa is multi-dimensional and encompasses not only the lack of financial or material resources but also a range of deprivations, exclusions and vulnerabilities that are related to limited access to the basic requirements for child survival and development. Due to the apartheid legacy, most children in South Africa live in under-developed rural areas with limited access to basic services, infrastructure and educational opportunities. Growing up as a poor child in South Africa could mean residing in overcrowded and inadequate housing, lack of access to safe drinking water, inadequate sanitation, limited access to health services and insufficient nutrition for growth and development.

The Child Poverty Programme therefore aims to address and mitigate the impact of the high levels of poverty, in all its dimensions, on children in South Africa by monitoring the government's poverty alleviation programmes and social security for children, and by conducting research and engaging in advocacy that informs appropriate legislative, policy and programme development and implementation. Project selection criteria include research and interventions that could result in real and strategic impact on national policy decisions affecting children to ensure that child poverty alleviation strategies are appropriate and effectively targeted within a child rights framework.

Aimed at evaluating a package of government services, grants and other benefits of which children are the direct or indirect beneficiaries, the *Means to Live Project* (see p.25) investigates the effectiveness of poverty alleviation programmes for children. The *Children Count – Abantwana Babalulekile Project* (see p.20) advocates for the improvement of children's socio-economic conditions in South Africa by monitoring progress in the realisation of children's socio-economic rights, based on a selection of reliable indicators.

The programme has established collaborations and networking relationships with various government departments, research institutions, and civil society organisations including the Alliance for Children's Entitlement to Social Security (ACCESS), the African Child Policy Forum, the Centre for Actuarial Research (University of Cape Town), the Centre for Social Science Research (University of Cape Town), the Centre for South African Social Policy (University of Oxford), Child Watch International, the Comparative Research

on Poverty Network, the Human Sciences Research Council, the Institute for Democracy in South Africa (IDASA), the International Society for Child Indicators, Statistics South Africa, and UNICEF.

During the year under review, programme staff have participated in a number of conferences and workshops, including presenting a paper at the First International Society for Child Indicators Conference in Chicago, USA, as well as at a Roundtable of Experts on the African Child Knowledge and Information Centre in Lagos, Nigeria.

Programme manager Annie Leatt was succeeded by Dr Johannes John-Langba during the period under review, and Solange Rosa vacated her position as researcher. Other programme staff include two researchers and a statistician.



Child Rights

In 1994, South Africa embraced democracy with a Bill of Rights entrenching everyone's fundamental rights. Keeping in mind a past where children were deprived of basic rights such as health care, water, sanitation, food and education, and were detained without trial and tortured, the drafters of the Constitution included a children's rights clause in the Bill of Rights. This clause (section 28) ensures that children's rights are protected and prioritised in the new democracy and includes clear rights to a basic package of socio-economic benefits and services.

To realise children's rights, policy and law have to be reformed; programmes have to be designed and reasonably implemented; and service providers need to be trained, managed and supported.

The Child Rights Programme contributes to this national programme of reform firstly by promoting discussion, understanding and implementation of the constitutional obligation to prioritise delivery of a basic package of socio-economic services and benefits to children; and secondly by promoting the creation of a sound legislative framework to enable the delivery of socio-economic services and benefits to children.

The programme works at achieving these aims through the vehicles of legal research and writing, law reform advocacy, child rights and legislative literacy training and providing support to public interest litigation.

The programme is currently focusing on the Children's Amendment Bill through its *Children's Bill Project* (see p.21). The project started in 2003 and will continue into 2008. The work of this project has been supplemented by the *Dikwankwetla – Children in Action Project* (see p.22), which enabled the participation of 12 children in the Children's Bill law reform process.

Project 28 (see p.26) contributes to the aim of promoting discussion on and implementation of section 28 of the Constitution. Project staff conduct child rights research, child rights training and provide child rights technical support to other projects within the Institute.

The project also provides support to public interest litigation which has the potential to further advance jurisprudence on children's rights.

In addition, the *Evaluation Project* (see p.23) promotes the analysis of policy and law reform advocacy methodologies to ensure continued reflection on and development of the Institute's advocacy methodologies, and to enable the sharing of successful methodologies via case studies and training.

Key civil society partners include the Centre for Actuarial Research (University of Cape Town), Childline, the Child Litigation Project (University of Pretoria), the Community Law Centre (University of the Western Cape), the Disabled Children's Action Group, the Legal Resources Centre, the National Alliance for Street Children, the National Association of Child and Youth Care Workers, Resources Aimed at the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect, and the South African Society for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect.

The continued engagement with the national Department of Social Development and Parliament ensures a good and mutually beneficial working relationship, especially on the Children's Bill process.

The programme is made up of the programme manager, a senior advocacy co-ordinator, two legal researchers and two administrators (both part-time). In addition, the services of a senior economist, two advocacy co-ordinators and one administrator were recruited for short-term contracts to work specifically on the *Children's Bill Project*. Legal researcher, Prinslean Mahery, left the Institute during the period under review.



HIV/AIDS poses one of the greatest threats to child development in South Africa. Commonly cited statistics of children infected or affected by HIV/AIDS do not sufficiently convey the devastation and suffering caused by HIV/AIDS in many communities. The combination of HIV/AIDS and poverty exerts additional pressure on already overstretched families, communities, and entire social and economic systems. Deaths of parents and caregivers leave many children orphaned, some with no adults to care for them and many in worsened economic and social conditions. This in turn diminishes their life opportunities and renders them more vulnerable to HIV infection.

2006 was a significant year in the fight against HIV/AIDS. Locally, there were some policy shifts, which included the revival of the Inter-Ministerial Committee on HIV and AIDS, a review of the South African National AIDS Council (SANAC), and the development of the *National HIV and AIDS and STI Strategic Plan for South Africa 2007 – 2011*. Internationally, Africa's leaders committed themselves to stepping up prevention, care and treatment, and the Toronto AIDS Conference reaffirmed HIV prevention as a priority. Sadly, children are still largely overlooked in these and other important initiatives, debates and discussions in the local and international arenas.

The work in the HIV/AIDS Programme aims to keep South Africa's children on the agenda of the national and global fight against HIV and AIDS. The programme does this through generating primary research that informs engagement in the relevant policy and legislation debates. In the past year, the HIV/AIDS Programme has been very involved in the processes leading up to the finalising of the *National HIV and AIDS and STI Strategic Plan for South Africa 2007 – 2011* through the children's sector of SANAC. Programme staff have also engaged in and provided evidence to inform debates and public hearings on the Children's Amendment Bill.

Research in the *Residential Care Project* (see p.27) navigated new ground and provided new perspectives in an area in which there is much debate but little local empirical evidence. The project was timely, as the findings intensified debates about residential care within the Children's Bill Working Group (see p.21) and will continue to inform policy and regulations.

Increased numbers of children made vulnerable by AIDS and poverty have demanded more creative responses at all levels of care and service provision. One such response that has increasingly

gained momentum is the notion of schools as "nodes of care and support". Through research, networking and capacity building the *Caring Schools Project* (see p.18) has provided critical input into understanding the expanded role of schools in responding to the needs of vulnerable children both locally and in the Southern Africa region.

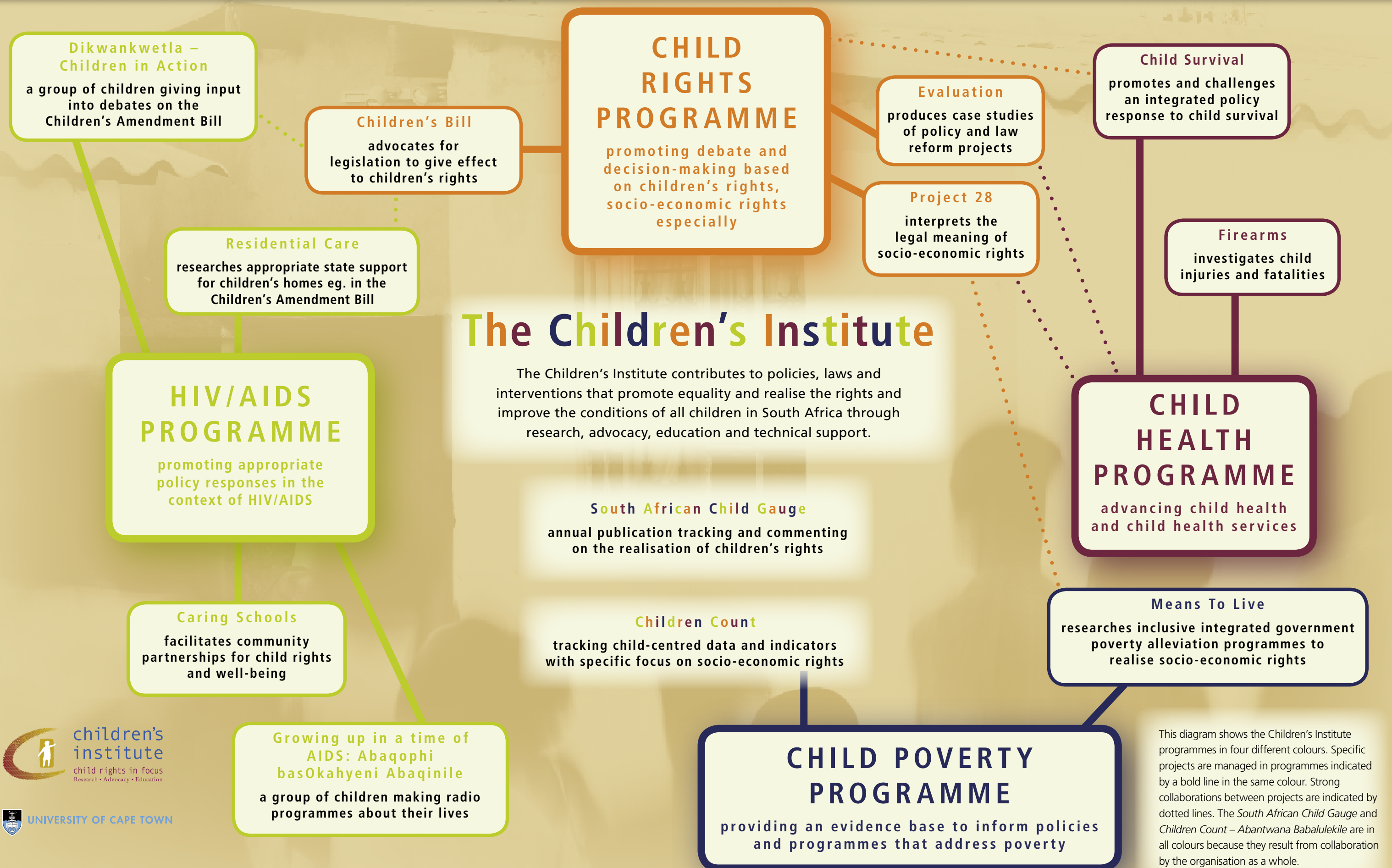
Children's right to participate in decisions that affect their lives continued to be addressed through the *Dikwankwetla – Children in Action Project* (see p.22) and the *Growing up in a time of AIDS: Abaqophi basOkhayeni Abaqinile Children's Radio Project* (see p.24). Both these projects have provided vulnerable children from poor communities severely affected by HIV/AIDS with the opportunity to participate in decision-making at a higher level to begin change processes towards realising children's rights within their communities.

Nationally, there has been progress in various areas in addressing HIV/AIDS, including increased coverage of the Prevention of Mother-To-Child Programme; an increase in the numbers of HIV-infected children on treatment; and increased access to voluntary counselling and testing services. However, there remain research gaps and the need to scale up and evaluate policy implementation and intervention programmes. Planned future activities include research aimed at meeting the needs of HIV-infected children and increasing children's participation in new projects.

In the past year, the programme has forged relationships, collaborations and partnerships with various key individuals, non-governmental organisations, government departments and academic institutions. These include the Caring Schools Network (CASNET), Departments of Education in the Western Cape and Free State provinces, the Office of the Rights of the Child (Western Cape), Soul City, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) and others as noted in each of the relevant project discussions on the next pages.

The programme will continue to strengthen these collaborative partnerships as they are essential in meeting its objectives and achieving the mission of the Children's Institute. Programme staff have also disseminated research evidence at various international and local forums (see pp.31–32) and will continue to engage in various advocacy activities.

The programme is staffed by a programme manager, three researchers and a new administrator, Nafeesah Majal.





The Caring Schools Project

Given that the well-being of many children is severely compromised by the HIV/AIDS pandemic, compounded by deep poverty and recurrent cycles of floods and drought, schools have been identified as potential gateways for service delivery. This necessitates modifying current notions about the functions, roles and responsibilities of schools and teachers, the way in which schools engage with other service providers, and how these service providers in turn engage with schools and each other.

The *Caring Schools Project* takes up this challenge, combining capacity building, development and research. The overarching aim of the project is to help facilitate and understand an expanded role for schools as “nodes of care and support” to vulnerable children in the context of HIV/AIDS.

In the last year, Phase One of the project was being completed, while the preparatory steps for Phase Two began. Completion of Phase One included a final evaluation workshop with the provincial implementation teams, and further support to participating schools to ensure that capacity was in place to take the process forward independently. Other project outputs included the preparation of school community cases; a project report; and the *Champions for Children Handbook*. It is envisaged that the handbook will be used by communities, civil society and government role-players to develop and sustain multi-sectoral teams to realise child rights and support child well-being. Findings from this phase have been presented at various forums locally and internationally.

The aim of the next phase is to research and understand the potential and limitations of the expanded role for schools as “nodes of care and support” in communities using the handbook. The capacity-building approach will be tested, reviewed and strengthened through partnerships with individuals and organisations across provinces. Partners include the Catholic Institute of Education, Save the Children UK and Targeted Aids Intervention.

In addition to implementing the project in the participating sites, the Institute is taking a leading role in advocating for building communities of practice that can support this new role of schools. This includes a strategic planning and support role in the Caring Schools Network (CASNET) and leading the Stop AIDS Now! (SAN!) Networks of Care learning track.

The project is funded by the South African Teachers' Union; the Rockefeller Brothers Fund; IBIS and the Humanist Instituut voor Ontwikkelingssamenwerking (HIVOS).



The Child Survival Project

The *Child Survival Project* aims to contribute to research and advocacy on child survival in South Africa, given the large amount of preventable child deaths. The mission of the project is to harness evidence to aid integrated planning between various sectors that can potentially impact on improving child survival outcomes for the country.

The project has continued to deliver on the advocacy objectives identified at a roundtable held in May 2006. A positive development has been strengthened relationships with key stakeholders such as the Office on the Rights of the Child, the national Department of Health, the Joint Monitoring Committee on the Improvement of Quality of Life and Status of Children, the Youth and Disabled Persons, and UNICEF to take the child survival agenda forward in a collaborative manner.

The Child Health Services Programme and the Child Rights Programme have consistently worked in partnership to further the research and advocacy agenda of the project. An outcome of this joint collaboration was a written and an oral submission that were delivered in May 2007 at a public hearing of the South African Human Rights Commission on “Access to health care services”.

The submission focused on children’s particular constitutional right to basic health care services within the context of everyone’s right to access to health care services, and all the other constitutional socio-economic rights, as well as the right to life. An evidence-based approach in the submission portrayed child survival as a key theme and outcome measure of the realisation of the right to access to health care services in the country.

The current research focus of the project identifies the measures taken by the South African government that have the potential to impact directly or indirectly on child survival. Governmental measures (policies, laws, programmes) are analysed by using a refined and detailed version of the “reasonableness test” which was developed by the Constitutional Court in past cases that dealt with socio-economic rights. These measures are examined to assess whether the State is fulfilling its baseline obligations to give effect to children’s right to survival and development. The project has, since the outset, focused on the survival–development continuum and not only on child deaths and survival.

The project did not receive specific funding, but the generous core funding from Atlantic Philanthropies enabled programme staff to work on this project.





The Children Count – Abantwana Babalulekile Project

In a recent publication* on child well-being indicators, it was highlighted that "... South Africa lacks both an integrated child information system and the data collection strategies necessary to supply reasonably accurate and sufficiently disaggregated data on children".

The *Children Count – Abantwana Babalulekile Project* was developed to bridge such information gaps on the status of children in South Africa and to address the need for a central source of data on children. The project uses reliable indicators of socio-economic rights to advocate for improvements of children's conditions. Indicators are monitored in several policy domains such as health and HIV/AIDS, social security, and basic services, among others. Household survey data and administrative data from government departments are used to develop a core set of child indicators that could be monitored and communicated to various stakeholders in appropriate formats.

Over the past year, the *Children Count – Abantwana Babalulekile Project* concentrated on making the project website more interactive for users. Assisted by external consultants, the project team conceptualised a user-friendly website with easy access to graphic presentations on over 30 indicators that are supplemented with short commentaries that contextualise and interpret the data from a rights perspective.

The revamped website (www.childrencount.ci.org.za) was launched in January 2007 and to date the Institute has received most positive feedback about its value from users.

The project also contributed to the *South African Child Gauge 2006*, the Children's Institute's annual flagship publication that has a dedicated indicator section. A small selection of the *Children Count – Abantwana Babalulekile* indicators is presented in this publication, with commentary and trend analyses where possible.

A fourth fact sheet in the project series was published in the latter part of 2006 with the aim of providing a synopsis of UNICEF's *State of the World's Children 2006* report. The project team is currently writing working papers to provide in-depth analyses of children's status: one paper focuses on child social grants, and a second paper provides a statistical picture of conditions for infants living in South Africa.

A definite highlight has been representing the project at the First International Society of Child Indicators Conference in Chicago in June 2007. A presentation on the conceptual framework of the project stirred much interest and stimulating discussions. The project is increasingly receiving attention from international bodies and important development agencies, such as UNICEF South Africa, who is interested in possible future collaborations. Stronger links with data providers are also being forged to gain improved access to quality data.

The Children's Institute is grateful to Save the Children Sweden for their financial support to this project over the 2004 to 2006 period. The generous core funding from Atlantic Philanthropies enabled programme staff to continue work on this project.

*Bray R & Dawes A (2007) Monitoring the well-being of children: historical and conceptual foundations. In: Dawes A, Bray R & Van der Merwe A (eds) (2007) *Monitoring child well-being. A South African rights-based approach*. Cape Town: Human Sciences Research Council.



The Children's Bill Project

Legislation has a crucial role to play in clarifying the State's obligations to children and in creating entitlements for children to certain services and benefits. The Children's Bill is a draft law with the potential to take South Africa forward towards realising children's rights, in particular the rights to social services, family care or alternative care, and protection from abuse and neglect.

Hence the *Children's Bill Project* promotes the incorporation and expansion of children's constitutional rights in the new law; characterises the major challenges facing children and proposes provisions for the new law to help address these challenges; promotes the participation of the children's sector in the law-making process; and promotes the use of evidence in decision-making processes.

In 2003, a national working group of representatives of all the key child sector umbrella organisations was established to drive the project. The working group secretariat is made up of the Children's Institute, Childline, the South African Society for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect, and the National Association of Child and Youth Care Workers.

The methods used to achieve the project objectives vary according to the issues that are addressed, and continually need to be adapted as debates shift. Central to all project activities are:

- continued communication between working group members, their constituencies and government decision-makers (executive officials and members of Parliament) to debate the necessary reforms;

- characterising and contextualising the major challenges facing children and communicating this "picture" to the media, public, and decision-makers; and
- providing innovative and indigenous recommendations for a legislative framework that can facilitate real solutions for children.

The project focus since mid-2006 has shifted from the first Children's Bill, which is now known as the Children's Act, to the Children's Amendment Bill [B19 of 2006]. The Children's Amendment Bill provides for a range of social services for children including early childhood development, prevention and early intervention and protection services, foster care, and child and youth care centres. The working group has been concentrating on maximising the participation of civil society in parliamentary deliberations on this Bill. Public hearings were held in all nine provinces and approximately 70 submissions were made by the working group as a collective.

Following the hearings, the National Council of Provinces made substantial changes to the Bill and the new version is now known as the Children's Amendment Bill [B19B of 2006]. It incorporates many of the changes recommended by the working group. The Bill has now been referred to the National Assembly for debate and approval, with the final version expected to be passed by the end of 2007.

The project is funded by the Open Society Foundation of South Africa.





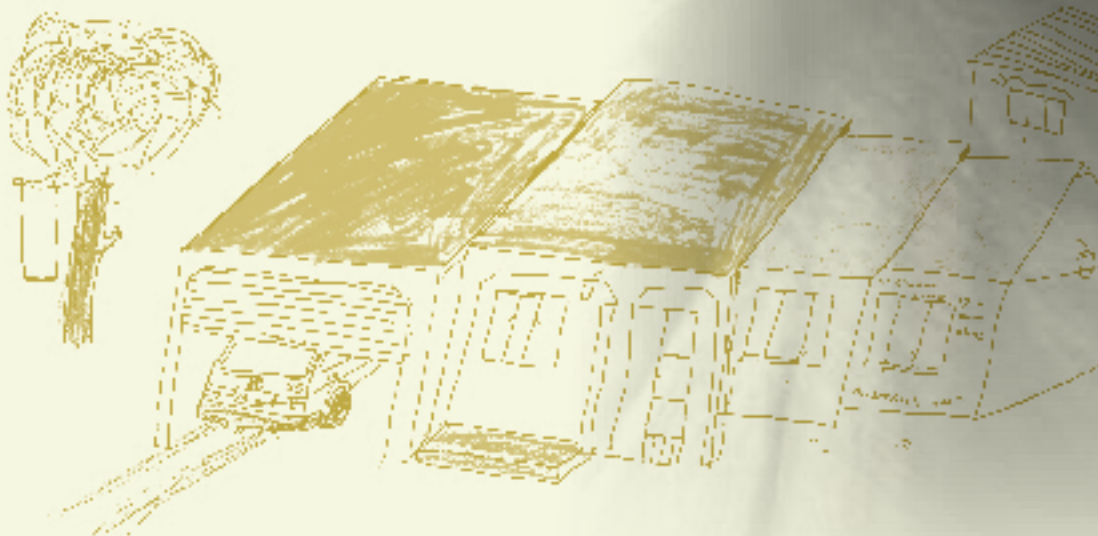
The Dikwankwetla - Children in Action Project

Since 2003, this project has facilitated children's participation in the ongoing deliberations on the Children's Bill. The project is led by the Children's Institute, with the assistance of adult caregivers from The Samaritan Centre in Limpopo province; Zisize Educational Trust in KwaZulu-Natal and Naledi Lifeskills in the North West province. The caregivers live in the same communities as the children and are able to provide immediate support to the children's activities, such as accompanying them to the public hearings on the Children's Amendment Bill.

During the past year, the group of children who were involved since the start of the project made oral and written submissions at the public hearings on the Children's Amendment Bill. The children have a relatively good understanding of the sections of this draft legislation that concern them and, in their submissions, they spoke about challenges facing children in their communities. These include substance use, child abuse and neglect, and the shortage of social workers. They also provided recommendations on how provisions in the Children's Amendment Bill could address these issues.

Increasingly, the children and the caregivers who assist them are being recognised as champions for children's rights and are regularly called upon to give presentations at various forums. As some of the children are now 18 years and older, they have introduced younger children from their communities to the activities of the project. Together these children have expanded their children's rights advocacy activities beyond what was anticipated at the start of the project.

The project was expected to end in December 2006; however, the Children's Amendment Bill is still under deliberation. Thus the project has received additional funding from IBIS to complete its activities.



The Evaluation Project

The Evaluation Project aims to record the story of the Institute's involvement in policy or law reform processes and to analyse the strengths and weaknesses of the advocacy methodology employed in each process. The lessons learnt from each evaluation inform the methodologies for new, similar projects and are captured in a series of case studies and in occasional papers, and shared with relevant target audiences in seminars and training workshops.

During the period under review, the project published a health policy case study (see p.32) that reflects on the contribution of the Children's Institute to the development of three child health policies over a period of seven years. The policies are the National School Health Policy and Implementation Guidelines; the Policy Framework for Non-Communicable Chronic Conditions in Children; and the

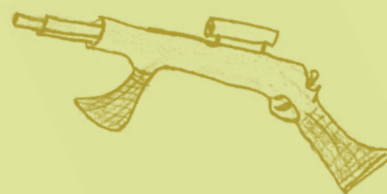
Western Cape Provincial Policy on Screening for Developmental Disabilities in Pre-School Children. In addition, more copies were printed of the first case study in the series, which focuses on the Institute's role in the Firearms Control Bill process.

The project is in the process of conducting research towards a case study on the *Children's Bill Project*. The collected data will be used in an evaluation of the Children's Bill process in 2008 once the Second Children's Amendment Bill has been passed.

In addition, project staff wrote a chapter on the Firearms Control Bill case study for inclusion in an Oxford University Press publication on the dissemination of child policy research, to be released later in 2007.

The project is funded by the Open Society Foundation of South Africa.

The Firearms Project



The Children's Institute is connected to a long history of research and advocacy on firearm injuries and fatalities among children and was involved in the law reform process that resulted in the Firearms Control Act of 2000. At that time the predecessor organisation to the Children's Institute, the Child Health Policy Institute (CHPI), played a significant role in producing evidence on the extent and characteristics of firearm-related injuries to children. In 1998, the CHPI released a report on research that was conducted over a five-year period (1992 – 1996), and which described firearm injuries and fatalities to children in the Cape Metropole.

In 2006, concern about the continued high rate of firearm injuries and fatalities to children was raised at a roundtable hosted by the *Child Survival Project* (see p.19). It was agreed that one way of ensuring that children are placed on Parliament's agenda would be to participate in the public hearings on the Firearms

Control Amendment Bill that took place in August 2006. Presenting evidence on the impact of firearm violence on the lives of children at the hearings raised awareness about such child injuries and fatalities. During the Institute's participation in this law reform process, the need for updated research evidence on firearm injuries and fatalities among children emerged.

Through the collection of health service and mortuary data the research will determine the epidemiological profile of firearm-related injuries and deaths among children between January 2001 and December 2006. Currently, data is being collected from three tertiary hospitals and one secondary hospital in the metropole. This study will also explore the Firearms Control Act and its regulations to determine the extent to which children are being protected from guns.

The project did not receive specific funding, but the generous core funding from Atlantic Philanthropies enabled programme staff to work on this project.



PROJECTS

Growing up in a time of AIDS:

Abaqophi basOkhayeni Abaqinile Children's Radio Project

Now in its third year, this child participatory radio project is designed to contribute to developing public awareness and appropriate responses to children in the context of poverty and the HIV/AIDS pandemic. By providing children with the opportunity to depict their lives, insights and concerns through the production of radio programmes, the project aims both to provide children with life skills as well as to enable their stories and interests to reach a large audience. The project is a collaboration between the Children's Institute, Zisize Educational Trust and the Okhayeni Primary School in rural northern KwaZulu-Natal.

Children aged between 9 and 14 are facilitated in ongoing child participatory processes that result in the production of personal radio-diary programmes, as well as programmes which document and explore local issues of their choice. Programmes are aired by broadcast-partner Maputaland Community Radio, as well as by other interested stations. In addition, the programmes are available for downloading from the Institute's website at www.ci.org.za.

A selection of the radio-diary programmes have been translated into English and produced in audio-visual format on CD-ROM to enable broader use beyond radio broadcast and by audiences that are not only Zulu-speaking. The audio-visual programmes provide a powerful mechanism for introducing authentic children's voices and experiences into spaces in which they would not easily be heard otherwise. For example, programmes were presented as part of submissions on the Children's Bill in 2006 in the KwaZulu-Natal provincial parliamentary hearings. They have also been presented at various international conferences.

The CD-ROM has been widely distributed and a broad range of individuals have requested copies for use in their work. This includes distribution for use in the training of journalists and nurses, use of the programmes during workshops of non-governmental and other civil society organisations and in university and other educational settings with local and foreign students and visitors.

The project is funded by the Open Society Foundation of South Africa and the Media Development and Diversity Agency in 2007.



The Means to Live Project

Since 1994, the South African government has introduced a range of policies and programmes aimed at addressing poverty and inequality. However, many of these were conceptualised and implemented in isolation, with little attention to ways in which they articulate with one another. Acknowledging the need for greater coherence in the anti-poverty strategy, the government is currently investigating a more comprehensive approach to social protection, and is developing a national framework for integrated poverty alleviation.

This is an opportune time to evaluate the existing “basket of goods” for children, and draw on evidence to inform targeted strategies that are inclusive and better able to realise children’s rights. Ultimately, the aim is to support the development of a more comprehensive, integrated package of programmes for children living in poverty, and the households in which they live.

The *Means to Live* is a three-year project that investigates the targeting aspect of a range of programmes relevant to children’s socio-economic rights. It focuses on a package of government targeted services, grants and other benefits for poor children.

These are:

- the Child Support Grant;
- the School Fee Exemption and No-fee policies;
- the National School Nutrition Programme;
- free primary health care, and fee waivers for secondary and tertiary health care;
- the Housing Subsidy Scheme; and
- the Free Basic Water policy.

Project activities have included policy reviews and primary research. With research analysis completed, the emphasis in 2007 has been on dissemination, advocacy, and litigation support. Preliminary findings were presented in the *South African Child Gauge 2006*, which was widely distributed. A number of presentations have been made in forums that bring government and civil society together.

The *Means to Live Project* is planning a workshop later in 2007 with government and civil society to present the research findings and begin a discussion about integrated poverty alleviation for children. The research report will be available towards the end of 2007.

The *Means to Live Project* is funded by Save the Children Sweden, with additional financial support from Save the Children UK and the Rockefeller Brothers Fund.





Project 28

Project 28 promotes discussion, understanding and the implementation of the constitutional and international law obligations to prioritise the delivery of a basic package of socio-economic benefits and services to children.

This is done through legal research that interprets the full scope and content of children's constitutional rights; by providing training on children's rights; by offering technical support and rights analyses to other research projects at the Institute; and by providing expert evidence for public interest litigation that has the potential to advance children's rights.

During the year under review, the project focused on promoting an understanding of and discussions on children's constitutional right to social services. Based on legal research conducted during 2005 and early 2006, a working paper that provides a provisional interpretation of the meaning of the full scope and content of the right was published. This legal interpretation was presented and discussed at a workshop of child care and protection practitioners and policy makers to measure its relevance and accuracy in the current South African context.

A shortened version of the working paper was published as a colloquial "rights brief" aimed specifically at members of Parliament, executive officials and service providers to promote their understanding of the existence and meaning of the right. The products were disseminated to decision-makers at appropriate times during the Children's Bill law reform process with the aim of providing them with information on the constitutional obligations which the Children's Bill is meant to give effect to.

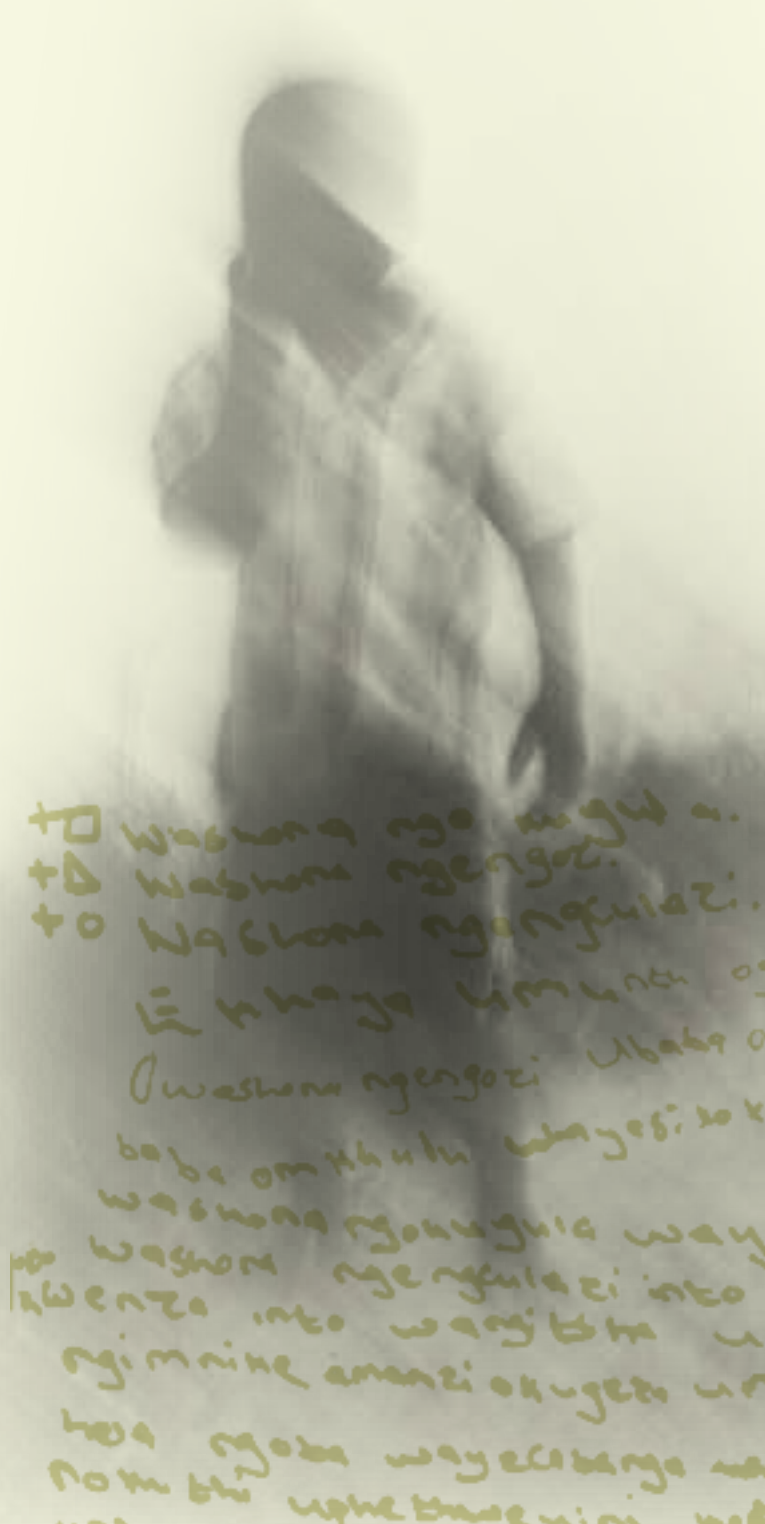
The project conducted child rights training for all Children's Institute staff, for MPhil in Child Health students at the University of Cape Town, and for Masters in Law (LLM) students at the University of Pretoria.

Project staff provided socio-legal evidence in the form of expert affidavits for two High Court cases on the Child Support Grant, and legal research assistance for a Constitutional Court case on the principle of the best interests of the child.

Project staff also co-authored the opening chapter of a Juta publication (commentary on the Children's Act No 38 of 2005); which will be released later in 2007. The book includes an overview of how the new Act aims to promote the realisation of children's rights to social services, family or alternative care and protection from abuse and neglect.

In addition, technical support and rights analyses were provided to the *Child Survival Project* (see p.19), the *Firearms Project* (see p.23) and the *Means to Live Project* (see p.25).

Core funding from Atlantic Philanthropies and The Elma Foundation made work on *Project 28* possible.



Following an examination of local and international policy regarding residential care, research was conducted in four sites across South Africa. The analysis revealed a complexity and

The project is funded by the Rockefeller Brothers Fund.





Operations Support Services

The operations support services at the Children's Institute ensure that programmes and projects are effectively supported on an operational level. Support areas include finances and grants administration; general administration; human resources administration; and communication and knowledge management.

Finances and grants administration

The finances and grants administration provides vital support to the Children's Institute to ensure financial accountability to a wide range of donors. Due to the increasing demands for this service, a Senior Finance Officer will be seconded from the Faculty of Health Sciences in August 2007. In addition, a database tool was developed by an IT consultant to facilitate the capturing of important information related to grants and donations received.

The team comprises of a Finance Officer, a Purchasing Officer, who is based at the School of Child and Adolescent Health, and the Senior Finance Officer.

General administration

The administration team grew during the past year in line with the increased administration needs of the Institute and its various projects. Under the guidance of the Executive Administrator, the team at the beginning of 2007 was introduced to the concept of "Striving Towards Excellence", aimed at building a cohesive administration pool. To this extent the administrators attended a teambuilding workshop customised towards specific learning in June. The outcomes of the workshop included a compelling vision and mission statement, the formulation of agreed guidelines congruent with the Institute's objectives and the acknowledgement that effective team performance leads to higher productivity levels.

With the increasing demands from the projects for technical, interpersonal and conceptual skills from the administrators, the ultimate aim of the development drive is to create a highly competent, multi-skilled and motivated administration pool providing efficient and effective support while achieving high levels of job satisfaction.

Human resources administration

The human resources administrator co-ordinates all staff appointments and reappointments, and keeps staff up to date about changes in human resources policies and procedures as

directed by the University. On an administrative level, the Institute's human resource needs are ably supported by human resources staff in the Faculty of Health Sciences.

During the period under review, the Institute has embarked on a process of moving its research staff from Professional and Administrative Support Staff conditions of service to Academic conditions of service, thus aligning staff appointments with university standards for research institutes.

Communication and Knowledge Management (CKM)

The CKM unit comprises of an information officer, webmaster, IT officer, materials developer, assistant editor and communication and knowledge manager. The team strives to enhance knowledge management, information dissemination and communication on the Institute's work. The activities of the unit are informed by a two-pronged mission to:

- guide Institute staff on the use of appropriate communication and knowledge management strategies, tools and systems; and
- ensure effective internal communication between staff members and maximising the use of knowledge management tools such as databases and an intranet.

The CKM team in particular provides integral support to projects in the development, production, dissemination and marketing of communication outputs such as research and working papers.

South African Child Gauge 2006

The CKM team played a key role in the production and marketing of the second edition of the *South African Child Gauge*. This publication was launched in February 2007 with the support of Save the Children Sweden and received considerable attention in the news media and positive feedback from readers and users.

To facilitate readers' reflections on the value of this annual review of the situation of South Africa's children, the Institute commissioned an assessment of readers' perceptions of the accessibility, usability and credibility of the *South African Child Gauge 2006* in early 2007. The readers' evaluation was made possible with the financial support of The Elma Foundation and Save the Children Sweden, while The Elma Foundation and Atlantic Philanthropies are acknowledged for their support towards the production of the publication.

CKM systems and tools

The team supports the following communication and information systems and tools:

- an intranet to facilitate internal communication and knowledge management;
- a knowledge centre and related database containing a large collection of resources used by research staff;
- the production of the Institute's bi-annual newsletter, *Child Rights in Focus*, as well as the annual report – these are produced in conjunction with all staff;
- the Children's Institute website (www.ci.org.za) and several project websites such as the *Children Count – Abantwana Babalulekile* website of socio-economic indicators (see p.20), and the *Abaqophi basOkhayeni Abaqinile Children's Radio Project* site (see p.24);
- a communication database for product distribution to relevant target audiences;
- a distribution strategy for Children's Institute publications through electronic marketing and hard copy dissemination;
- daily media monitoring alerts on breaking public debates related to children's rights, or news coverage referring to the Institute;
- a quarterly CKM Forum to discuss communication and knowledge management initiatives, systems, policies and procedures with Institute staff;
- electronic and hard copy updates of the Institute's protocols manual; and
- information technology support.

Grants and Finances

In 2001 Atlantic Philanthropies generously awarded approximately R18 million (2.3 million Euros) towards the creation of an inter-disciplinary Children's Institute at the University of Cape Town. The purpose of the grant was to conduct a range of policy-related activities, which contribute to improving the situation of South Africa's children and adolescents, particularly those "at risk".

This initial grant award was fully spent as at the end of June 2007. A further closing grant of R13 million was awarded to the Institute by Atlantic Philanthropies. This concludes their funding commitment to the Institute as the funder for core activities. The first amount of R4.3 million has been received during the period under review.

In 2006 The Elma Foundation awarded the Institute a three-year grant. The first tranche of R1.3 million was received in June 2006, and the second tranche of R850,000.00 is pending for 2007/2008.

PROJECT NAME	GRANT AMOUNT IN RANDS	GRANT PERIOD	FUNDER
Children's Institute – Core Business	4,300,000.00	1 June 2006 – 31 July 2007	Atlantic Philanthropies
Means to Live	300,000.00	1 January 2007 – 31 December 2007	Save the Children Sweden
Gauge Launch and Evaluation	53,000.00	1 December 2006 – 1 February 2007	Save the Children Sweden
Upscaling Programmes on HIV/AIDS	466,750.00	1 July 2006 – 30 June 2007	Humanist Institute for Co-operating with Developing Countries (HIVOS)
Children's Bill	750,000.00	1 October 2006 – 31 October 2007	Open Society Foundation of South Africa
Caring Schools	489,570.00	1 July 2006 – 30 June 2007	Rockefeller Brothers Fund
TOTAL	6,359,320.00		

Staff

AS OF END JUNE 2007

Kashifa Abrahams	Senior Researcher: Child Health Services	Nobonke Ntlokwana	Secretary and Administrator: Child Poverty and CKM*
Nazmeera Allie	Webmaster: CKM*	Prof Shirley Pendlebury	Director
Anthea Arendse	Information Officer: CKM*	Paula Proudlock	Acting Deputy Director/ Manager: Child Rights
Lizette Berry	Researcher: Child Poverty	Norma Rudolph	Senior Researcher: HIV/AIDS
Denise Brown	Human Resources Administrator	Nobubele Tandwa	Library Assistant: CKM*
Isabbel Cooper	Grants Administrator	Nombulelo (Glenda) Vena	Administrative Assistant
Wendy Dien	Administrator: Child Rights and Child Health Services	Zelda Warrin	Executive Administrator
Dr Beverly Draper	Manager: Child Health Services	Bronwen Williams	Senior Administrator: Child Rights and Child Health Services
Mira Dutschke	Researcher: Child Rights		
Kevin Ernstzen	Acting Deputy Director: Operations/IT Manager		
Katharine Hall	Senior Researcher: Child Poverty		
Lucy Jamieson	Senior Advocacy Co-ordinator: Child Rights		
Dr Johannes John-Langba	Manager: Child Poverty		
Nafeesah Majal	Administrator: HIV/AIDS		
Double-Hugh Marera	Quantitative Researcher: Child Poverty		
Celestine (Dino) Maslamoney	Information Technology Officer: CKM*		
Tasneem Matthews	Researcher: Child Health Services		
Helen Meintjes	Senior Researcher: HIV/AIDS		
Jo Monson	Materials Development Specialist: CKM*		
Sue Moses	Researcher: HIV/AIDS		
Dr Wanjirū Mũkoma	Manager: HIV/AIDS		

* Communication and Knowledge Management

Consultants

Debbie Budlender; Sonja Giese; Nonceba Meyiwa; Sue Philpott

Dr Gabriel Ugoiti

Staff who left during 2006/2007

Annie Leatt	Manager: Child Poverty
Nobuzwe Ngqwemla	Administrator: Child Rights
Prinslean Mahery	Legal Researcher: Child Rights
Dr Maylene Shung-King	Acting Director/Manager: Child Health Services
Solange Rosa	Senior Researcher: Child Poverty

Recognition of Our Supporters

The Children's Institute gratefully acknowledges the support of:

- our donors, without whose generosity our work would not have been possible;
- the executive of the University of Cape Town;
- the Faculty of Health Sciences and its administrative and support staff; and
- the Child Health Unit in the School of Child and Adolescent Health for providing accommodation.

Our international Board of Advisors has guided us greatly and remains committed to advise on our progress and mobilise external support for our work.

The Institute would not have been viable without the collaborative relationships we share with our many networking partners in the policy field, in the government, and in civil society organisations and alliances. We acknowledge in particular the children whose voices and circumstances have informed our work, and who give us the inspiration to continue.

We also thank our own children, our families, partners and friends for their uncompromising understanding and support for us and for the work that we do.

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July 2006 – June 2007

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Help for poor children ends too early, says review

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Signs of hope for our children in today's Budget

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