



annual report

2005/2006



children's
institute
child rights in focus
Research • Advocacy • Education



UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN

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Acknowledgements

Annual report contributions were compiled by the directorate and staff from the various programmes, and staff from the administration and communication and knowledge management divisions. Editing, design and print liaison by Charmaine Smith. Typesetting and design by Jenny Young.

Thank you to Anthea Arendse for assistance with the listing of communication products and for distribution liaison with the assistance of Nobubele Tandwa and Glenda Vena.

Images used in this report were produced by participants in the "Growing up in a time of AIDS":
A Children's Radio documentary Project.

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my shining moment



ABOUT THE CHILDREN'S

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 five 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 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. It is a privilege to be part of this commitment to children.



* University of Cape Town (2005) *Portraits of Practice. Social responsiveness in teaching and research.* UCT Social Responsiveness report for 2005.

MISSION

To contribute to policies, laws and interventions that promote equity 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 respect 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 high 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
- promoting the participation of children in government decision-making processes

The main research programmes in the Institute have been carefully selected, based on priorities 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. 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 and two deputy directors lead its activities. The Institute is guided by a Board of Advisors.

The members of the board are:

Mrs. Graça Simbine Machel, Chairperson

Mrs. Machel serves as 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 Centre 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 Education, 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 is the Dean of Education at the University of Pretoria and the Vice-President of the Academy of Science of South Africa. His latest (co-edited) book is on comparative education policy

and law in South Africa and the USA. He recently received an Honorary Doctorate in Education from the University of Edinburgh and has been awarded several national awards for research and research capacity building.

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. He has a special interest in the application of research to policy and was seconded to the Irish government to help develop the Irish National Children's Strategy. He spent a five-month sabbatical with the Children's Institute in early 2006.

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 was formerly the head of the research and documentation department of the South African Human Rights Commission (SAHRC). Over the last 15 years he has had extensive work experience in human rights, democracy and good governance. He was appointed as the Chief Executive Officer of the SAHRC in May 2006.



Sister is Reading



brother is Playing



Sister Signisive of water ring a garden.



baby is Playing



father

ubaba uyafundisa unqubhisa



mother

my mother is cooking a food for us

THE CHILDREN'S INSTITUTE CLOSE UP — REFLECTIONS FROM A SABBATICAL

John Pinkerton, Children's Institute board member and Professor of Child and Family Social Work, Queen's University, Belfast, Northern Ireland

Children and young people live their lives in context and increasingly it is the processes and pace of globalisation that provide the context.

That is what makes it so important that there is a shared global agenda for children in the form of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. If that agenda is to be addressed effectively, there needs to be international exchange and shared learning so that the varied national experiences can all become part of a shared global resource for children and their families. An invitation to spend five months of my sabbatical leave at the Children's Institute as a visiting researcher provided me with an invaluable opportunity to be part of just such international exchange and mutual learning.

As a board member I was well acquainted with the structure of the Institute and its research programmes. My intention was to learn more through day-to-day involvement in both its management and the research being undertaken. It was agreed that I would contribute to the work of the Children's Institute management team, with a particular focus on research methodologies, and to be involved with the early stages of a new project that was being established in the HIV/AIDS Programme to explore the contribution of residential care to the needs of vulnerable children in the context of HIV/AIDS.

I also planned to use the opportunity of being in Cape Town and having access to the Institute's networks to establish contact with young people and care staff grappling with the challenge of moving on from 'out of home' care – my special area of interest. In addition I wanted to use the Institute's location within the University of Cape Town as an opportunity to discuss with social work academics possible lessons that the South African experience might have for us in Northern Ireland as we struggle to move on from our own divisive and violent political past.

Thanks to the openness and support of the Children's Institute staff and many others, I was able to achieve all I had planned, and more. I worked closely with the management team in its operational and strategic planning. In working with staff from the HIV/AIDS Programme, I contributed to detailed design work on

the *Residential Care Project*, helped tease out the action-research methodology informing the *Caring Schools Project* and, in an unexpected highlight, joined the *Growing up in a time of AIDS: Children's Radio-documentary Project* at its on-site workshop for adults and one for children. I was also able to meet and interview staff from the Don Bosco Hostel in Cape Town, who are involved in supporting young people who have lived on the street as they move on into adulthood. Discussions on social work in South Africa resulted in the development of a detailed proposal for a two-part (one in Cape Town, one in Belfast) colloquium and plans for a special South African edition of the United Kingdom-based social work journal *Practice*.

The Children's Institute proved itself to be a rich site for me as an outsider to explore the South African child welfare scene and to do this from my own professional perspective as a social worker. This was possible both because of the work being done by its own multi-disciplinary staff, and because of its many and varied connections to child welfare networks. That combination should come as no surprise to anyone who knows the work of the Children's Institute. As was demonstrated to me time and again, the heart of the Institute's mission is its commitment to connecting research in a very direct way to those working for positive change in the lives of children, young people and their families. This is no easy task. It was clear to me that, from their various positions (administration, communication, knowledge management, research, advocacy) staff are constantly having to manage difficult, often conflicting, sets of demands – for example the tensions between smooth internal administration and flexibility in project management; between the paced executing of a research design over a number of years and the unpredictable, often very tight, timetables of policy-making and advocacy; between writing that wins the approval of academic peers and the timely and to-the-point dissemination of information into the policy and practice community.

In my own university the clustering of researchers and their activities is being promoted as a way to ensure critical mass and creative synergies. Having seen the Children's Institute operate close up it seems to me that what the Institute achieves is a form of clustering from which there is a great deal to learn. Activities are not welded together in a 'well-oiled machine' driven by tight central management, but are skillfully, and with constant challenges and negotiation, interwoven within a small 'community of practice' – a practice in which research and advocacy are in constant, creative tension. The Children's Institute community also recognises that crucial to what keeps it together is what it gives and takes from the wider communities of which it is part. It is sustained by both the academic institution that is its home and the wider networks of research, policy and practice of which it is a part. The Institute also never loses sight of, and respect for, the local communities in which children, young people and their families live out their lives, their triumphs and their tragedies.

My experience of the Children's Institute close up underlined for me the importance of the quality of the interactions that lie behind the public face – the research report, the article, the in-house publication, the conference or the roundtable. That is why, when asked about my time at the Institute, I find myself not being so concerned to list what was achieved. Rather I try to give a flavour of what it was like to be there, to be part of the Institute – the rich, complicated, confusing, satisfying, de-skilling, affirming, multi-layered similarities and differences that I experienced. I talk of listening to the rich, smooth tones of a young participant in the *Radio-documentary Project* whilst sitting on the floor of a garage surrounded by the expansive physical beauty of a landscape in which deep rural poverty is compounded by HIV/AIDS. I talk of my respect for CI staff in their active engagement with not only the intellectual challenge of their research projects and advocacy campaigns but also the emotional demands of engaging with the circumstances they research to advocate for change on behalf of children and families. I also talk of my plans to stay connected with the Institute and express the hope that others too will find a way to share in what the Institute has to offer child welfare outside of South Africa – through spending time there, linking with its on-going research or even just by regularly visiting the web site.

It has been suggested that there are three useful ways to approach international exchange – to identify and analyse the global processes that shape child welfare needs and services; to compare and learn from different national experiences in shared areas of concern; to be open to the varied and often unexpected ways that striving to understand another country's experience can provide insight into your own. My period on sabbatical at the Children's Institute showed me the importance of all three, but perhaps especially the last – the enrichment that flows from international exchange based on mutual respect... and a little bit of wonder, that quality of childhood we adults too often have lost.



THE YEAR IN REVIEW

The Children's Institute celebrated its fifth "birthday" at the end of June 2006. Having been launched on the back of its predecessor, the Child Health Policy Institute that existed for five years, the Institute has built a proud track-record of contributing to the development of key policy, legislative and programme interventions for children for just over a decade.

The release at the end of 2005 of the first *South African Child Gauge*, the flagship publication of the Children's Institute, was undoubtedly one of the highlights of its first five years of existence. The *South African Child Gauge* is intended to reflect annually on the extent to which the situation of South Africa's children has changed, and more specifically on the extent to which their socio-economic rights have been met. The 2005 edition, which focuses on the theme of HIV/AIDS, highlights a number of advances made in policies, laws and services for children, whilst at the same time reminding us that a number of challenges remain. The 2006 review will aptly focus on children and poverty, and the 2007 review will have a focus on children's socio-economic rights.

The mission and research and advocacy agenda of the Children's Institute remain focused on addressing some of the key challenges for children and their families. Given the applied nature of its activities, the Institute's work contributes to the ongoing development and evaluation of key governmental policies, laws, services and other interventions for children and their families.

The most ground-breaking event in the policy and law-reform arena during the year under review was the passing of the Children's Bill – now called the Children's Act after it was signed by the President. The role of civil society in this process has been highly commended by government officials, and the Children's Institute takes pride in the active facilitation role that it undertook in the establishment and co-ordination of the Children's Bill Working Group.

The next phase in this process involves input into the second part of the Bill, called the Children's Amendment Bill. The Institute remains keenly involved in facilitating the participation of civil society organisations from all the provinces in commenting on the Amendment Bill. The input of the *Dikwankwella* – a group of young people that have worked with the Institute to add their voices to the making of this very important law for children – will also be co-ordinated by the Institute during the next phase.

Our mission and activities

The Children's Institute in the past year continued to make important contributions to the development of child policy and reform through research, education, technical support to child-oriented agencies and institutions, and advocacy. By keeping the focus on a few specific areas – child rights and laws governing their lives, children's health services, children affected by HIV/AIDS and child poverty – the Institute undertakes primary research, collates and analyses evidence, convenes child policy roundtable discussions and advocates for the realisation of children's rights through various communication outputs.

A number of the Institute's key projects reached the end of their policy/legislative review and data collection phases and will be applying their findings to a range of interventions in the hope that the empirical evidence from the research will make a positive contribution to the development or improvement of policies, laws, programmes and services for children.

One such a project is the *Means to Live Project*, which examined six targeted poverty alleviation strategies across four different government departments. The findings on how and whether these interventions are achieving their intended aims for children and families will be released in the next few months.

By using an action-research methodology, the *Caring Schools Project* had tested processes and developed materials to inform capacity building in schools and school communities to identify and care for vulnerable children.

The *Residential Care Project* is exploring the various forms that residential care for children is currently taking in the face of the AIDS pandemic in South Africa. It is envisaged that the research results will greatly contribute to important current debates regarding care options for children in the context of HIV/AIDS.

The *Child Survival Project* has reviewed available data on child deaths over a 10-year period and, in consultation with more than 40 stakeholders from around the country, identified key strategies

that are required to improve the survival of children. One recommended strategy is an annual inquiry at a population level into child survival with the intention to highlight the role of a number of government departments and civil society organisations in developing interventions to improve children's chances of survival.

A key philosophy of the Children's Institute is to work with children. One of the most exciting and successful projects in this regard, aside from the *Dikwankwella – Children in Action Project* discussed in detail in this section last year, is the *Radio-documentary Project* that works with children to express their questions, feelings, experiences and concerns whilst "growing up in the time of AIDS". The radio programmes produced by the children are accessible on the Institute's web site and well-worth listening to.

In supporting the Institute's programmes and projects, the communications and knowledge management division continues to do excellent work and the quality of the Institute's publications is testimony to this.

For more details on the Institute's projects and support services, please refer to the relevant sections in this annual report.

Staffing and governance

The number of staff increased slightly in the past year and in July 2006 stood at 27. In the period under review, six staff members joined the Institute, while three moved on to other interests. The most significant staff change for the Institute has been the appointment of its director, Marian Jacobs, to the position of Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences at the University of Cape Town. Marian has been the director of the Institute since its inception and her contributions to its growth and development can not be overstated. The process of filling this exciting and challenging leadership post in the Institute is currently underway – while Maylene Shung-King has been doing an excellent job as acting director since the beginning of 2006.

The Institute was very fortunate to have Prof. John Pinkerton from Queen's University in Belfast joining the team for a sabbatical of five months in the first half of 2006. As a colleague, collaborator on some of the Institute's projects and also a member of the Board of Advisors, his time with the Institute was invaluable and is reported on in more detail elsewhere in this report.

The support of the Board of Advisors remains as strong and committed as always, with the next board meeting scheduled for March 2007. The contributions of the Board to the Institute's strategic and operational challenges have been greatly appreciated. A special thank you goes to Nazeema Ahmed, the previous

managing director of the Paraffin Safety Association of South Africa, who resigned from the Board in early 2006.

Collaboration and networking

Efforts to mainstream the Institute's academic profile and activities within the University continued and, in many instances, have been strengthened over the past year. Major collaborators at the University are the Departments of Anthropology, Child and Adolescent Health, Economics, Education, Public Law and Public Health, as well as the Centres for Socio-Legal Studies and Social Sciences Research.

The Children's Institute has enjoyed good support from the Institutional Planning and Quality Assurance division of the University. The Institute has been identified as a model of social responsiveness within the University. The configuration and activities of the Institute should help to inform ways for the University to give greater recognition to the work done by institutes such as the Children's Institute.

The Institute has continued building and maintaining its excellent links and relationships with government structures, civil society, academic and research institute partners, and the children participating in various projects. Many of these relationships were consolidated and strengthened during the lengthy Children's Bill process.

Finances and future plans

The Institute's numerous projects and activities reflect its continued growth and development during 2005/2006. The Institute has yet again had a successful year of fund-raising with most of the existing funders renewing another funding cycle with projects they have been supporting.

A promising new relationship with The Elma Foundation has commenced and their generous contribution to the Institute to date is greatly appreciated. The Institute is looking forward to strengthen its relationship with them as they start their work in South Africa and more broadly in Africa.

In entering its next five-year phase the Children's Institute has consolidated its operational plan and is looking forward to exploring new areas of research and advocacy. In this regard the Institute will strengthen its activities in addressing challenges for children infected with HIV/AIDS, as well as by investigating the role of local government in addressing children's socio-economic rights.

CHILD HEALTH SERVICES PROGRAMME

Realising children's right to health remains one of the key obligations of the South African government.

In the past few years the government has endorsed and adopted almost every global treaty and programme towards the improvement of maternal and child health. The Millennium Development Goals is one of the most recently adopted treaties, consisting of eight goals to be achieved in less than 10 years' time by 2015. The majority of these goals relate to improving maternal and child health.

The year 2005 saw the Department of Health embrace another global initiative called "Making every mother and child count". This meant ensuring that health interventions for mothers and children were prioritised through renewed efforts to reduce premature deaths in women and children and to improve the quality of care that they receive – ultimately improving their health and overall well-being.

Given that child mortality indicators are key measures of a country's progress and development, such indicators also reflect efforts made towards improving the health of children. The most recent, reliable mortality indicators, and the prospects of achieving Millennium Development Goal 4 (reduce child mortality) are reflected in the table below.

Striving towards the Millennium Development Goal survival targets

Indicator	1998 SA Demographic and Health Survey	2000 Medical Research Council Burden of Disease study	2015 Expected rates using 1998 as baseline
Infant mortality rate	45/1,000	60/1,000	15/1,000
Under-5 mortality rate	59/1,000	95/1,000	20/1,000

Source: Abrahams K & Berry L (2006) *Facts about child deaths in South Africa (2006)*. Children Count – Abantwana Babalulekile Fact Sheet No. 1, Cape Town: Children's Institute.

The figures in the table reflect an unacceptably high infant and under-5 mortality; they show a rising trend in both the indicators; and show that, unless drastic measures are put in place, the prospects of reducing infant and under-5 mortality by two-thirds by 2015 are minimal. Whilst the table focuses on deaths in younger children, an equally concerning picture emerges with regards to deaths due to trauma and violence in children between five and 18 years.

In this context the Child Health Services Programme remains committed to conduct research and related activities that contribute to the improvement of child health and child health services. The programme's activities over the past year have been concentrated in the *Child Survival Project* (previously known as the Child Death Review Project) in an attempt to bring together as many role-players across the country as possible to look at developing an integrated programme for enhancing child survival in South Africa. In addition, the project embarked on complementary activities in collaboration with the Child Rights Programme to improve understanding of the overall

policy and legislative context of child health, and to develop an approach towards defining the constitutional provisions related to child health.

The Children's Institute believes that a comprehensive, holistic plan to address the needs of HIV-infected children is required, and that this should go well beyond only providing anti-retrovirals. The Child Health Services Programme's role in and contributions towards such a plan will be debated at the Institute's next strategic planning session in October 2006.

Staffing

The programme appointed two new staff members: Tasneem Matthews, a researcher who is working on the *Child Survival Project* primarily, and an administrator, Wendy Dien, who is shared with the Child Rights Programme. In addition, the Institute is in the process of appointing a new programme manager, Bev Draper, who will co-ordinate the project activities with the assistance of the senior researcher.

KEY PROJECTS FOR 2005/2006

The Child Survival Project

This is currently the major project in the Child Health Services Programme.

The project started out as a ten-year review of child deaths based on the available literature. A working paper that presents the outcome of this review is available to order. During the past year the project was renamed the "Child Survival Project" after it became evident from interaction with stakeholders in the field of child deaths that the project could contribute greatly to research and advocacy on child survival and not only deaths. The project is a joint collaboration with the Child Rights Programme.

The mission of the project is to develop an integrated plan with targeted interventions that would decrease the large amounts of avoidable child deaths in South Africa in the era of HIV/AIDS. An important premise of the project is the application of a child rights framework to notions of child survival. *Children* refer to all persons under the age of 18 years as defined by the South African Constitution and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

The *Child Survival Project* has expanded significantly in the last year and has amassed a formidable advocacy agenda aimed at yielding an integrated plan to enhance child survival. Such a plan will affirm at the highest level possible the State's commitment to children as was stipulated in the National Programme of Action for Children, which was drafted shortly after South Africa ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1996.

One of the first steps towards putting this plan together was the hosting of a national roundtable discussion on child survival with representatives from the government and civil society in May 2006. The discussion was informed by the working paper based on the ten-year review of child deaths in South Africa, which was jointly produced with the *Children Count – Abantwana Babalulekile Project* (see Child Poverty Programme discussion). The roundtable was attended by over 40 representatives from various levels of government, academic and research institutions, non-governmental organisations, Parliament, and from structures such as the Office on the Rights of the Child in the Presidency.

The roundtable yielded a very necessary advocacy strategy aimed at devising an integrated plan to address child survival and spanning many different levels of governance and across various sectors. One key suggestion that emanated from the roundtable was an annual review of child survival progress at parliamentary level to accord this basic human right the highest possible level of attention.

The first step towards such an annual review happened shortly after the roundtable, when the Children's Institute was invited to make a presentation on the issue of child survival to the Joint Monitoring Committee on Children, Youth and the Disabled in Parliament. Further dialogue with the committee is in progress.

This project is funded by the Cultural Workshop and Conference Initiative (CWCI) of the European Union.

Review of South African child health laws, policies, programmes and service evaluations

This project involves a comprehensive review of all child health laws, policies, programmes and service evaluations (where these exist). This document has been completed and, together with a legislative analysis, will form the base document for the discussion on



the constitutional interpretation of what basic health care services for children should constitute. The review forms part of the Child Rights Programme's *Project 28*, which is aimed at promoting the realisation of children's socio-economic rights as defined by section 28 of the Constitution. Activities aimed at generating a national discussion on the realisation of these rights are planned for the second half of 2006.

This project is funded by the Open Society Foundation via *Project 28*.

Policy for children with long-term (chronic) health conditions

The Children's Institute has been involved in the development of a policy, and an accompanying set of implementation guidelines, on children with long-term (or chronic) health conditions. The implementation guidelines have been developed by two paediatricians who both spent a sabbatical period with the Institute – one from the Red Cross Children's Hospital and the other from Limpopo province.

The completion of the guidelines is currently in progress.

This project did not receive specific funding, but the generous core funding from Atlantic Philanthropies enabled staff participation in this process.

Free health care in *Means to Live*

The Child Health Services Programme was commissioned by the Child Poverty Programme to write a discussion paper on the government's free health care policy for children. The paper formed part of a series of papers commissioned and produced by the *Means to Live Project*. For more details, see the *Child Poverty Programme* section.

This project has been funded by Save the Children Sweden.

Chapter in *South African Health Review*

The 2006 *South African Health Review* is focusing on maternal and child health. The Child Health Services Programme was commissioned to write the chapter on the international and national context of maternal and child health. The *SA Health Review 2006* will be published later in the year.

This work was funded through the commission from the Health Systems Trust.

Chapter in report on the *South African Demographic and Health Survey 2003*

The South African Medical Research Council commissioned the Children's Institute to write the chapter on maternal and child health for the report on the *South African Demographic and Health Survey 2003*. The interim report is available on the department's web site and the final the report will be published in due course.

This work was funded through the commission from the Medical Research Council.

OTHER ACTIVITIES AND COLLABORATIONS

Case studies

Programme staff continued their involvement in the development of a series of case studies to describe the involvement of the Children's Institute in key policy and legislative processes. A case study examining the role of the Institute in informing three child health policies is currently in progress and will be completed in the second half of 2006.

Training

The programme continued its involvement in teaching and training courses. The most substantial contribution has been to the distance-based MPhil in Maternal and Child Health, offered by the Child Health Unit at the University of Cape Town. In addition the programme continues to provide input in selected courses at the Department of Rehabilitation Sciences, also based at the University.

Networking and collaboration

The programme's main collaborators during the year under review involved the work of the *Child Survival Project*. They include a range of research, academic and service provider institutions such as the Child Accident Prevention Foundation of Southern Africa; the Department of Public Health, University of Cape Town; the Hlabisa Project; the Institute of Infectious Diseases and Molecular Medicine and the School of Child and Adolescent Health, both at the University of Cape Town; the Perinatal Problem Identification Programme; the South African Medical Research Council; and Statistics South Africa, amongst others.

CHILD POVERTY PROGRAMME

Child poverty in South Africa has its roots in the unjust apartheid policy of racial discrimination and under-development.

The years after the arrival of democracy have seen great progress in the realisation of civil and political rights, as well as efforts towards the provision of minimum living standards for citizens and residents. At the same time, the South African economy has been exposed to global market competition and, as a consequence, the already high unemployment rates of the 1990s have continued to increase. This has resulted in continued high rates of child poverty.

As of September 2005, 26.7% of the economically active population was unemployed. These included people who are looking for work. In addition, there were 3.3 million discouraged work seekers at this time (Statistics South Africa 2005).

Given the apartheid legacy of racial discrimination, employment levels are highly differentiated by race. Black South Africans have a 31.3% unemployment rate, whereas white counterparts experience only 5.4% unemployment (Statistics South Africa 2004).

South Africa is home to many children living in absolute poverty. Using a R1, 200 per household per month poverty line, a recently commissioned analysis of the 2005 *General Household Survey* by Debbie Budlender* shows that two thirds (66%) of South African children are living with income poverty. The lack of material resources is closely related to poor health and educational outcomes, unsafe living environments and constrained life opportunities. These circumstances are being exacerbated by an unchecked HIV/AIDS pandemic that affects poor communities disproportionately and, in turn, deepens poverty.

There are a number of key allies towards the eradication of poverty in South Africa. The first is the country's constitutional framework, which provides for individual right to relief from poverty. The second is a range of poverty alleviation programmes directed to the populace at large as well as targeted specifically to children.

The Child Poverty Programme aims to address and mitigate the impact of the high levels of poverty, in all its dimensions, on children in South Africa. This is done by:

- monitoring the government's poverty alleviation programmes, including social security, for children;

- conducting research to characterise the extent of child poverty, and the situation of children in poverty; and
- advocating for appropriate legislative, policy and programme development and implementation.

The programme's research projects are conducted within a framework of children's rights set out in the South African Constitution as well as in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Staffing

The programme is staffed by a programme manager, two senior researchers and a researcher. Research and advocacy projects involve collaborations with other Children's Institute programmes and research units in the University, as well as research and advocacy organisations elsewhere.

KEY PROJECTS FOR 2005/2006

The Means to Live Project

This research project investigates the effectiveness of the targeting of poverty alleviation programmes for children. The first phase of the project reviewed laws, policies and budgeting allocations to poverty alleviation for children. The government programmes that were reviewed pertained to children's rights to social assistance, housing, health care, water, nutrition and education. They are the:

- Child Support Grant;
- Free Basic Water policy;
- National Housing Subsidy Scheme;
- Free primary health care (and fee waivers in secondary and tertiary care);
- School Fee Exemption policy; and
- National School Nutrition Scheme (school feeding).

* Centre for Actuarial Research, University of Cape Town

The policy review phase also included a review of current research evidence to help evaluate these poverty alleviation programmes and their implementation to date. In December 2005, the reviews were published as discussion papers on a CD-ROM with an accompanying summary paper in hard copy. These papers were widely distributed and are listed in the *Communication products* section on page 30 onwards.

The second part of this project has involved a substantial piece of primary research. The general method was to evaluate the targeting of each of the above-mentioned government programmes in two sites – one rural (Eastern Cape) and one urban (Western Cape). The research involved a household survey covering a little over 1,100 children at the two sites.

Interviews were also conducted with implementing officials for all six programmes, such as provincial housing officials and learner and parent representatives of school governing bodies. In addition, in-depth interviews were conducted with selected caregivers about access to the programmes and the consequences of access or a lack of access to them.

The provision of poverty alleviation programmes is very dependent on local issues of geography, leadership and community; and for this reason separate focus groups with caregivers and high school children were conducted to get a sense of what it is like bringing up children or growing up in those communities.

The research was designed to get as comprehensive a picture as possible of the eligibility, access and implementation of these key government programmes. The results of this research will be published in book format towards the end of 2006. While data analysis and writing is still taking place, the usefulness of the data has become quite clear and advocacy activities towards improving the reviewed government programmes and their co-ordination are already underway. This project is a joint collaboration with the Child Rights Programme.

The project has been generously supported by Save the Children Sweden since its inception, with additional support received from Save the Children United Kingdom and the Institute's core sponsor, Atlantic Philanthropies.

The Children Count – Abantwana Babalulekile Project

Basic child-centred data is essential for the monitoring of trends in children's material conditions, which will inform advocacy activities towards policy and legislative interventions to improve these conditions. For these reasons the *Children Count – Abantwana Babalulekile Project* collates and analyses data from the health

and education sectors and generates a wide range of child-centred indicators related to care arrangements, social security, basic services, housing, nutrition and HIV/AIDS. The indicators are derived from national household surveys and government administrative databases.

The project relies on the expertise and input from all research staff at the Children's Institute because the data covers a wide range of content areas. It has established its own web site (www.childrencount.ci.org.za) and has commissioned the development of software to enable interactive functions on the site. In addition to presenting basic data in a searchable format on the web site, the project produces a series of fact sheets and quantitative analyses that provide interpretations of and comments on the indicators that are tracked.

During the period under review, three fact sheets were printed and widely distributed with the Children's Institute newsletter. The fact sheets are easy to understand and were designed to be used by a wide range of government officials and civil society organisations. The three fact sheets produced so far focus on:

- the eligibility and take-up of the Child Support Grant as at January 2006;
- the housing situation of children in South Africa with respect to rural and urban location, overcrowding, and formal and informal housing; and
- child deaths in South Africa, which was produced in conjunction with the Child Health Services Programme at the Institute.

Two, more substantial, working papers were also produced under the auspices of the *Children Count – Abantwana Babalulekile Project* during the reporting period. The first paper reviewed South African non-contributory grants to children using the administrative database of the Department of Social Development. The second, which was jointly produced with the *Child Survival Project* (see *Child Health Services Programme* section) was a comprehensive review of literature on child deaths and related data gaps, and points to further research and advocacy on the issues of child survival in South Africa.

References to all these publications are to be found in the *Communication products* listing at the end of this report.

The *Children Count – Abantwana Babalulekile Project* is now an ongoing, fully-fledged cross-cutting project of the Children's Institute. As we collect more data in the years to come, the trends over time will point to areas of work that the Children's Institute will need to focus on in future. These activities will be strengthened by the creation of a new post for a quantitative researcher, who

is due to start in August 2006. This person will bring considerable skills to this project, and will expand the options for demographic and other types of quantitative analysis.

This project has also been generously supported by Save the Children Sweden, with additional funding from the Annie E. Casey Foundation.

OTHER ACTIVITIES AND COLLABORATIONS

Analyses and communication

In addition to its bigger projects, the Child Poverty Programme remains involved in a range of ongoing analyses and communication initiatives that seek to raise public interest and knowledge about the situation of children living in poverty and the government's responses to child poverty. Overall, the outputs are aimed at contributing to debates and advocacy on issues of child poverty and child rights in academic and non-governmental forums.

Some of the activities in the last year included publishing opinion-editorials about child poverty in the *Business Day*, *The Mercury*, *Pretoria News* and *Cape Times*, as well as participating in media interviews on related topics. The programme continues to provide ongoing monitoring and analysis of children's take-up of social security, such as the Child Support Grant, to other organisations working in this area.

In addition, staff have provided an analysis of data on the social security take-up for public interest litigation, and participated in training on child rights and government poverty alleviation programmes for fifth-year medical school students at the University of Cape Town. Programme staff, along with other legal researchers in the area of child rights, also made submissions on the Regulations to the new Social Assistance Act of 2004 to the department.

Commissions

The programme also received a commission from the national Department of Social Development to review the arguments for the further extension of the Child Support Grant to children up to the age of 18 years.

Networking and collaboration

The programme staff have represented the Institute on forums such as the Basic Income Grant research sub-committee, and worked with the Centre for the Analysis of South African Social Policy at Oxford University, early childhood development network organisations, and the Human Sciences Research Council.



CHILD RIGHTS PROGRAMME

State programmes aimed at the realisation of socio-economic rights traditionally tend to be relegated to the realm of policy rather than legislation. Civil and political rights were the first generation of rights and therefore have greater acceptance and jurisprudence behind them.

Legislating for the realisation of civil and political rights is common and there is not much debate as to whether these entitlements should be created in a law. However, eligibility for socio-economic benefits such as social grants, education, social services, housing, water, health care and nutrition are often determined in policy documents or in sub-ordinate legislation such as regulations. This makes decision-making in relation to these benefits non-participatory and also makes the benefits more susceptible to being diluted or removed without public consultation. It also contributes to a lack of legal certainty for children and their caregivers wanting to access socio-economic benefits.

Legislation has a crucial role to play in clarifying the State's obligation to provide socio-economic benefits and services to children and in creating a clear governance framework for the delivery of these services by all three spheres of government. The Child Rights Programme therefore focuses its research and advocacy on new laws that have the potential to create the necessary legislative framework for the realisation of children's socio-economic rights. In particular, the programme aims to promote law-reform debate and decision-making that is informed by:

- analyses of the main challenges facing children in South Africa;
- child rights;
- evidence;
- consultation with the children's sector; and
- innovation.

The laws that the programme has been focusing on over the past four years are the National Health Act of 2003, the Social Assistance Act of 2004, the Children's Act 38 of 2005 and the Children's Amendment Bill of 2006. These laws respectively set out the

State's obligation to children with regards to health care services, social grants, social (welfare) services, family care or appropriate alternative care, and protection from abuse and neglect.

At the same time, the programme aims to promote discussion, understanding and implementation of the constitutional obligation to prioritise the delivery of a basic package of socio-economic benefits and services to children. *Project 28* contributes to this aim with a focus on child rights research, child rights training and public interest litigation.

And lastly, the programme promotes the analysis of law-reform advocacy methodologies to ensure continued self-evaluation, and to enable the sharing of successful methodologies and lessons learned. This work is concentrated in an *Evaluation Project* that is aimed at assessing the methodologies and outcomes of various policy and law-reform projects in the Institute.

There is much work to be done to realise these objectives and the Children's Institute works closely with large civil society networks and the government to advance the struggle for equality and social justice for the millions of children living in poverty in South Africa.

Staffing

Two new staff members joined the programme during the period under review – Prinslean Mahery as a researcher and Wendy Dien as an administrator. Lucy Jamieson, who worked part-time during 2005, was appointed full time as a senior advocacy officer at the beginning of 2006. In addition, the programme staff are made up of a programme manager, another researcher and ad hoc administrators.

KEY PROJECTS FOR 2005/2006

The Law Reform Research and Advocacy Project

CHILDREN'S BILL

The Children's Institute is integral to the co-ordination of the Children's Bill Working Group, which during the second half of 2005 monitored and responded to the parliamentary deliberations on the first Children's Bill. This Bill was finally passed by Parliament in December 2005 and in June 2006 it was signed by the President as the Children's Act 38 of 2005.

This marked a major milestone for the Children's Bill Working Group (a network of civil society stakeholders interested in participating in the making of the Children's Bill) and the start of the second phase of the project – the Children's Amendment Bill campaign. The Amendment Bill provides for and regulates partial care facilities such as crèches and nursery schools, early childhood development programmes, prevention and early intervention services, child protection services, foster care, child and youth care centres, and shelters and drop-in centres.

The working group started planning for the Amendment Bill campaign during the second half of 2005. This involved restructuring the group and recruiting more participating stakeholders. Activities during the first part of 2006 involved workshops and other communication initiatives to consult on draft submissions on the Amendment Bill. These processes culminated in the participation in five consultative workshops hosted by the Department of Social Development, and finally making written submissions to the Department in July. Throughout this period Children's Institute staff provided legal and advocacy advice and technical support to all the sub-sectors, with a particular focus on child and youth care centres, children on the street, and prevention services.


Public hearings on the Children's Amendment Bill in all the provincial parliaments are expected to commence in October 2006 and the working group has mobilised a range of organisations per province to make submissions at these hearings. In addition, submissions will also be made at the national parliamentary hearings following the provincial consultations.

The Open Society Foundation of South Africa continued to fund this project during 2005/2006.

ADDITIONAL SUPPORT TO THE STREET CHILDREN SECTOR

In early 2006, the Child Rights Programme initiated a project aimed at promoting the participation of the street children sector in the Children's Amendment Bill process. The first stage of the project involved strategic planning meetings with members of the National Alliance for Street Children (NASC) and the establishment of a national sub-group to raise awareness of and champion issues affecting children of the street.





The sub-group has been very active in participating in the Children's Amendment Bill processes and is well prepared for the upcoming provincial hearings.

This work has been made possible by funding from the Foundation for Human Rights.

DIKWANKWETLA – CHILDREN IN ACTION

Child Rights Programme staff have been providing advocacy support to a group of children that have been participating in the Children's Bill process since 2004. The children's stories, insights, realities and opinions have played a major role in informing recommendations for reform of the Children's Bill. Please see the *HIV/AIDS Programme* section on page 20 for more details on this project. Programme staff's participation in this project was made possible by Children's Bill funding received from the Open Society Foundation of South Africa.

Project 28

This project is aimed at promoting debate on and understanding of the meaning of children's socio-economic rights. Since its establishment in 2004, an extensive library of national and international literature on children's socio-economic rights has been built up to enable the production of quality legal papers and to support Institute staff to adopt a rights-based approach in their research and advocacy. The project has also developed a child rights training manual and provided child rights training to the majority of staff. The training modules are now being fine-tuned for training initiatives aimed at external audiences.

In addition, a training module on child rights was developed for health practitioners participating in the University of Cape Town's long-distance MPhil in Maternal and Child Health. The project has also assisted European Parliamentarians for Africa (AWEPA) and the United Nations Children's Fund with training parliamentarians from seven Southern African countries on children's rights and the role of parliaments in realising children's rights.

Two working papers were produced by project staff during the period under review. The first paper explores the pivotal role of the South African Courts in giving content and meaning to children's rights through the considered use of international law. The second paper elaborates on the meaning of children's constitutional right to social services – a right that is currently neglected in policy and law.

Project 28 staff have been providing legal child rights expertise to the Institute's *Children Count – Abantwana Babalulekile Project* (see *Child Poverty Programme*) and the *Child Survival Project* (see *Child Health Services Programme*), and also contributed to *Children's Bill Project* activities.

In addition, project staff have provided legal expertise to the Human Sciences Research Council's Child, Youth and Family Unit by reviewing its twelve commissioned papers on the development of child rights indicators.

Project 28 has been made possible by funding from the Open Society Foundation of South Africa and the Institute's core funder, Atlantic Philanthropies.

The Evaluation Project

This project is aimed at evaluating and recording the methodologies and stories of the Institute's policy and law reform projects. The first case study (of the Institute's participation in the reform of the Firearms Control Act) was published as a paper in 2005 and, more recently, appeared in the *Africa Security Review* published by the Institute for Security Studies. In addition, the case study has also been accepted for inclusion in an international publication and was presented at several national and international conferences.

The project is in the process of finalising three more case studies for publication by the end of 2006. These studies focus respectively on the Institute's involvement in the development of three child health policies; in the Children's Bill law-reform process generally; and in the Children's Bill law-reform process with a focus on children with disabilities. Lessons from the latter two case studies are being drawn upon by the Children's Bill Working Group to inform its strategy on the Children's Amendment Bill campaign.

The Open Society Foundation of South Africa and the Centre for Civil Society at the University of KwaZulu-Natal have provided funding for this project.

OTHER ACTIVITIES AND COLLABORATIONS

Networking

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

The programme's 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 and the *Child Survival Project*.



HIV/AIDS PROGRAMME

Children in South Africa make up approximately 39% of the population. While only a small proportion of these children are infected with HIV, the impact of HIV/AIDS is so severe that it has devastated the lives of many children.

HIV-related morbidity and mortality in the adult population have dire consequences for children. The loss of parents and caregivers, decline in school enrolment, teacher absenteeism, and exposure to illness and death within families and communities are some of the impacts of HIV/AIDS on children.

As a result, many children have been denied a healthy childhood, the consequences of which continue into adulthood through diminished choices and opportunities for survival. Therefore, interventions in the adult population are vital to mitigate the effects of HIV/AIDS on children. In addition, specific interventions, programmes and policies directed at children are crucial to preserve childhood and protect children from infection and the effects of HIV/AIDS.

The HIV/AIDS Programme aims to promote and facilitate an appropriate policy, programme and funding response to children in the context of HIV/AIDS in South Africa. Through research, advocacy and the provision of technical support to key target groups, the programme aims to:

- strengthen and consolidate the evidence base for an appropriate response to the needs of children in the context of HIV/AIDS;
- promote recognition – nationally and internationally – of the broad impact of HIV/AIDS on children;
- inform appropriate services and support for children and their caregivers in the context of HIV/AIDS; and
- promote a response to the needs of children that is appropriately informed by children themselves.

In 2005/2006, the programme continued to strengthen its focus on mitigating the social impact of HIV/AIDS on children. Ongoing projects remained focused on mobilising and strengthening school communities, policy-makers and other duty-bearers to recognise and respond appropriately to the needs of vulnerable children. The projects traverse various sectors, including the education system, policy and legislative processes, and community-based organisations that are provided with technical assistance.

By creating opportunities for dialogue with children from different communities, the programme has also continued its commitment to ensure that children are active participants in its work and ultimately in research, policy, legislation and interventions that affect them. Research projects have been focused particularly on under-resourced communities that, due to a myriad of interlinked factors such as poverty, unemployment and a shortage of essential services, are disproportionately affected by HIV/AIDS.

Staffing

During 2005/2006, three new staff members joined the HIV/AIDS programme: Wanjirū Mūkoma as the programme manager, Sue Moses as a researcher and Zelda Warrin as programme administrator. The rest of the programme staff comprise three senior researchers and a materials development specialist. They are a multi-disciplinary team with a broad range of skills and expertise.

KEY PROJECTS FOR 2005/2006

The Caring Schools Project

“What I value about the Caring Schools Project is being part of something that will, in the long term, be helpful to the community I represent.” Member of provincial action-research team

The *Caring Schools Project* is a partnership with the South African Democratic Teachers Union (SADTU). It involves developing a capacity-building programme aimed at expanding the roles of schools and school communities as nodes of care and support for vulnerable children. The capacity-building programme is presented in the form of a *“Champion’s Handbook”*, which has strong potential as a tool for the provision of care and support to vulnerable children. The action-research process was used to form

two provincial teams of “child rights champions” comprising of educators, district Department of Education and SADTU officials, and community-based facilitators.

The teams initiated change processes in response to the needs of vulnerable children within four school communities. These processes will continue beyond the life of the project. Appreciative inquiry and a rights-based approach have mobilised participation of a wide range of local stakeholders, including different spheres and sectors of government, as well as key non-governmental role-players that impact on the lives of children.

Each school community is documenting its own story in this process in the form of a case study that will illustrate the capacity-building programme. The cases can also be used by the school community for other purposes, such as raising funds to implement their chosen strategies to help vulnerable children. The research will be documented in a project report and other publications.

As the HIV/AIDS pandemic undermines the well-being of more and more children, the challenge lies in identifying children who need help, and ensuring they get the help they need. This project is playing a key role in building a community of practice that can meet these challenges in the most effective ways.

The project is funded by IBIS, the Rockefeller Brothers Fund and SADTU.

Dikwankwetla – Children in Action

This project started in 2003 to facilitate children's input in the debates and decision-making processes that informed the final provisions of the Children's Bill (now the Children's Act). The project placed particular emphasis on the vulnerability that many children are experiencing as a result of HIV/AIDS. The project participants, now aged 15 – 19 years, come from four different provinces. They are supported by three adult caregivers.

In December 2005, the *Dikwankwetla* children participated in a workshop aimed at reflecting on the project activities and planning for future activities. The teams continued to be involved in a variety of advocacy activities within their provinces during 2006, such as community and school-based awareness campaigns on children's rights and the formation of school support groups for children made vulnerable by circumstances such as poverty and HIV/AIDS. The project will come to an end in December 2006. Staff from the Child Rights and Child Poverty Programmes provided advocacy and other support to this project.

The project has received support from the Regional Psychosocial Support Initiative for Children Affected by HIV/AIDS (REPSSI), while funding has been received from IBIS.



Reviewing the role of residential care in the context of HIV/AIDS

Institutional care is widely referred to as the “last resort” in response to the care needs of children for a number of reasons, including the negative impact of long-term institutionalisation on children and the costs of raising a child in an institution. Nevertheless, residential care facilities for children – and in particular for so-called “AIDS orphans” – continue to mushroom in South Africa. Many facilities are unregistered and, as a result, their services are not monitored or supported by the Department of Social Development.

This project in collaboration with the Centre for the Study of AIDS at the University of Pretoria is exploring the forms that residential care is taking in the face of the HIV/AIDS pandemic, and examining these forms in relation to South African policy and legislation. A particular focus of the research is on the emergence of residential care facilities out of, and in response to the needs of, community-based initiatives. The research is being conducted in four sites across South Africa, including Khayelitsha in the Western Cape province; inner-city Johannesburg; Blood River and Mmotong in Limpopo province; and in Ingwavuma in northern KwaZulu-Natal.

The project is sponsored by the Rockefeller Brothers Fund.

‘Growing up in a time of AIDS’: A Children’s Radio-documentary Project

This project is in collaboration with the Zisize Educational Trust; Okhayeni Primary School; and Maputaland Community Radio, all based in the KwaZulu-Natal province. It involves 9 – 12-year-old children living in the northern part of the province in processes of writing and illustrating autobiographical stories and producing Zulu and English radio programmes about their lives as children growing up in a time of AIDS. The project is designed to contribute to developing public awareness of – and appropriate responses to – children’s experiences in the context of the HIV/AIDS pandemic in South Africa by involving children themselves in depicting their lives for a broader audience.

The children call themselves *‘Abaqophi basOkhayeni Abaqinile’* – ‘the Strong Recorders from Okhayeni’. In early 2006, the second phase of the project began with more advanced radio training for children who participated in the first phase. The children are now producing regular programmes for broadcast on Maputaland Community Radio station. In addition, a new group of children

have participated in the foundation component of the project, and have recorded a set of radio-diary programmes focusing on important experiences in their lives.

A primary focus for the Children’s Institute team in 2006 has been to strengthen partner organisations’ skills in child participatory media methodologies.

The programmes produced by the children were broadcast on national and community radio stations, and are available online and on a CD-ROM that can be used in a variety of contexts.

This project is funded by the Open Society Foundation and the Stop AIDS Now! initiative.

Critiquing media representations of children affected by HIV/AIDS

Messages conveyed both explicitly and implicitly in the media play an important role in the shaping of public understanding of issues, as well as associated policy, programme and popular responses to these issues. This collaborative project with the Centre for Social Science Research, University of Cape Town, analysed English-medium South African press reporting on children and HIV/AIDS in an effort to consider the messages to the public about the impact of AIDS on children. The research examined what is emphasised and what omitted with respect to the effect of HIV/AIDS on children’s lives, and explored some of the implications of patterns found in the reporting.

The analysis revealed layer upon layer of moral messaging present in reporting, the cumulative effect of which is the communication of a series of moral judgements about who is and who is not performing appropriate roles in relation to children. Children – and particularly “AIDS orphans” – are shown to be presented as either the quintessential innocent victims of the HIV/AIDS pandemic, or as potential delinquents. While journalists’ intentions when representing children in these ways are likely to be positive, it is argued that this approach is employed at a cost, both in the public’s knowledge of and attitudes towards the impact of AIDS, and more importantly, in the lives of children affected by the pandemic.

In an attempt to address some of the issues raised by the analysis, a resource to assist journalists in sensitive and accurate reporting about children affected by HIV/AIDS was developed in collaboration with the Media Monitoring Project and the HIV/AIDS and the Media Project of the School of Journalism at the University of Witwatersrand, Johannesburg.

This project was funded by the Bernard van Leer Foundation.

OTHER ACTIVITIES AND COLLABORATIONS

Education and training

HIV/AIDS Programme staff have been involved in writing the module on schools as nodes of care and support for "A Capacity Building Course for Africa", which is part of the development of a blended learning capacity-building course on teacher education and the AIDS pandemic, aimed at teacher educators. The development of this course is an initiative of Capacity Building International, Germany, and the University of the Western Cape. Programme staff have also been involved in teaching an HIV/AIDS and ethnography course at the University of KwaZulu-Natal.

Conferences

The programme was represented at the 2005 Children in Distress (CINDI) conference. Programme staff also played a key role in organising the national Health Promoting Schools conference, hosted by the University of the Western Cape (UWC).

Networking and collaboration

The HIV/AIDS Programme is actively involved in the Children's Sector Network of the South African National AIDS Council and staff members serve on the reference team of this network. Collaborations and partnerships have been forged with various academic units, research organisations, networks, government departments, community-based organisations and non-governmental organisations in the past year.

These include the Catholic Institute for Education; Caring Schools Network (CASNET) initiated by Save the Children UK; Centre for the Study of AIDS, University of Pretoria; Children's HIV/AIDS Network, a project within the Western Cape Networking AIDS Community of South Africa; Free State and Western Cape Departments of Education; Health Promoting Schools Network; Mpontshini Primary School; Naledi Life-skills; OIL Reach Out; Okhayeni Primary School; NMF Rural Schools Project; Samaritans Family Centre; Soul City; Stop AIDS Now! (SAN!) partnership; Transforming Institutional Practice, UWC; and the Zisize Educational Trust.

The programme is also playing a leading role in facilitating input on the Children's Amendment Bill from the HIV/AIDS children's sector, which includes networks of community-based and other organisations.



OPERATIONS SUPPORT SERVICES

These services are the backbones of the Children's Institute as they ensure that programmes and projects function effectively on an operational level. The operations support services covers the areas of finances and grants administration; general administration; human resources administration; and communication and knowledge management.

Finances and grants administration

The Children's Institute has developed a specific financial management system to standardise the management of its core fund as well as the various project funds. This system draws on the current policies and procedures of both the University's central finance department and the finances unit in the Faculty of Health Sciences. The team comprises a grants administrator, a purchasing officer (based in the Faculty's School of Child and Adolescent Health unit) and a faculty-based finances officer.

General administration

Two programme administrators and the secretary are responsible for executing the daily administration functions that contribute to the smooth operation of the Institute and its various projects. With the expansion of the Children's Institute projects over the past few years came an added responsibility and increased workload for the administrators, and a great amount of team work and support to each other is required to deal with these.

Human resources administration

The Children's Institute staff complement has more than doubled since its launch five years ago. The human resources administration therefore offers much valued co-ordination of all staff appointments and reappointments, while keeping the staff up to date about any changes in human resources policies and procedures as directed by the University. The team is comprised of a human resources administrator, backed up by the other general administrators in the Institute.

Communication and Knowledge Management

The Communication and Knowledge Management (CKM) division provides essential support services to the Institute and its programmes. The activities of this team are informed by a two-pronged mission to:

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

Consisting of a team of five full-time and one part-time staff members, the team aims to develop appropriate CKM systems by using technology to enhance information management, information communication and information dissemination. These activities are ultimately aimed at developing the Institute's image and market its work through communication products and the mainstream media.

The CKM division provides integral support to projects in the development and production of communication outputs such as research and working papers, fact sheets, workshop reports, and CD-ROMs. Such support involves literature searches, writing and editing assistance, design, print and distribution liaison.

During the period under review the CKM team played a key role in the production of the first annual review of the situation of South Africa's children, the *South African Child Gauge 2005*. This publication was launched in December 2005 and received considerable attention in the news media as well as very positive feedback from readers and users.

Other key activities in the period under review involved the complete overhaul of the Children's Institute web site, and the launch of the *Children Count – Abantwana Babalulekile* web site of child-centred data (see *Child Poverty Programme* section).

Below follows a brief discussion on the main CKM systems and tools developed and maintained by the team.

CKM FORUM

The aim of CKM Forum is to discuss communication and knowledge management initiatives, systems, policies and procedures with Children's Institute staff members. It takes place on a quarterly basis and in the last year focused on:

- knowledge management in higher education;
- utilising information and communication technologies for civil society;
- guidelines on outsourcing editing and materials development; and
- evaluation of the *South African Child Gauge 2005*.

COMMUNICATION DATABASE

The communication database is a collection of contact details of individuals with an interest in the Institute's work and its related communication outputs. The database enables the easy identification and targeting of such persons according to specific sectors, or according to fields of interest. The biggest challenge is to keep the database updated, and to source the details of new groupings of individuals deemed appropriate target audiences.

INTRANET

Since its introduction three years ago, the intranet has become an indispensable tool to facilitate internal communication and knowledge management, and is extensively used by staff members for various purposes and applications. It has become an integrated workspace that provides an electronic forum where information is disseminated, accessed and managed. The intranet is often the first point of entry for new staff members to learn about the workings of the Institute. It also enables staff to access in-house databases, external online search tools and administrative and human resources forms and templates.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

The information technology team aims to provide innovative solutions and supporting technologies to optimise staff members' use of technology. These services are in addition supported by the Information and Communication Technology Services of



the University (ICTS) which – through its *supaTsela Project* – has entered the final stage of implementing its new ICTS strategy.

KNOWLEDGE CENTRE AND KNOWLEDGE CENTRE DATABASE

The knowledge centre houses a collection of resource materials used by staff members, ranging from publications such as books, conference and workshop proceedings to policy and law submissions and research reviews. As researchers require immediate access to their own resource collections, some materials are kept in their workspace, while others are housed in a centralised knowledge centre. These locations are reflected in the knowledge centre database, which contains a collection of close to 6,000 entries of resources.

PRODUCT DISTRIBUTION

One of the key functions of the CKM team is to ensure that communication products are distributed to appropriate audiences. For this purpose a centralised product distribution system that assists programmes in the prompt packaging and distribution of communication products is used. This involves drawing on the communication database for the identification of appropriate individuals for the distribution of a specific publication. Apart from distributing hard copies of products, an electronic alert with links to new online publications are distributed via e-mail.

PROTOCOLS MANUAL

The protocols manual is a valuable resource of information on policies and procedures related to communication, knowledge management, general and financial administration, human resources and research practices. The rather bulky manual is currently being packaged in a more user-friendly version linked on the intranet.

MEDIA MONITORING

While restricted to a small number of regional and national newspapers, as well as online news media, the daily media monitoring is instrumental in informing staff members of breaking public debates related to children's rights. It also provides the Institute with the opportunity to respond to such breaking debates by issuing media releases, place opinion-editorials in newspapers, participate in radio or television interviews, or write a letter to the editor. Results of news coverage that refers to the Institute also serve as records of media coverage received, particularly during media advocacy campaigns.

NEWSLETTER

The Children's Institute bi-annual newsletter, *Child Rights in Focus*, turned three years old during the year under review. It aims to report on completed research projects outcomes, new projects, upcoming events and new publications. It is produced in English and is distributed for free to a broad audience – other academic institutions, national and provincial government decision-makers and service providers, civil society and partner organisations, and donors. It is also made available in web format on the Institute's web site.

THE WEB SITE (www.ci.org.za)

The Children's Institute web site was given a new face during the first part of 2006, and now boasts with more user-friendly navigation functions. The web site is an invaluable tool to make available information on the Institute's research foci, related publications or multi-media products. It also serves as a great resource for organisations participating in advocacy campaigns led or promoted by the Institute. The web site is linked to the *Children Count – Abantwana Babalulekile* web site of socio-economic indicators (see *Child Poverty Programme* for more details).



GRANTS AND FINANCES

At the inception of the Children's Institute, Atlantic Philanthropies awarded a grant of 2.3 million Euros for the establishment and operations of the Children's Institute over a five-year period (2001 – 2005). During the year under review the amount of R4,336,456.80 was received as the final payment against this award. In addition, a grant amount of R1,300,000.00 was received from The Elma Foundation towards core expenses.

	GRANT AMOUNT IN RANDS	GRANT PERIOD	FUNDER
Children's Institute – Core Business	4,336,456.80	1 July 2005 – 30 June 2006	Atlantic Philanthropies (Pty) Ltd
Children's Institute	1,300,000.00	1 June 2006 – 31 May 2007	The Elma Foundation
Means to Live	550,000.00	1 January – 31 Dec 2006	Save the Children Sweden
Children Count	250,000.00	1 January – 31 Dec 2006	Save the Children Sweden
An Enquiry into Child Deaths	570,150.00	1 January – 31 May 2006	Conference Workshop Cultural Initiative Fund: An European Union–South African Partnership Programme
Up-scaling programmes on HIV and AIDS	754,385.00	1 Dec 2005 – 30 June 2006	Humanist Institute for Co-operation with Developing Countries, The Netherlands
Children's Bill (Law Reform Research and Advocacy Project)	562,925.00	1 July 2005 – 30 June 2006	Open Society Foundation of South Africa
Evaluation of Children's Bill (Focus on disability clauses)	51,535.00	1 Feb 2006 – 31 Aug 2006	Centre for Civil Society, University of KwaZulu-Natal
Children's Bill (Advocacy support for street children sector)	497,733.00	1 Feb 2006 – 30 Nov 2006	Foundation for Human Rights
Total amount received	8,873,184.80		

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 have guided us greatly and remain 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.



STAFF

AS OF END JUNE 2006

Kashifa Abrahams	Senior Researcher: Child Health Services Programme
Nazmeera Allie	Media Officer: CKM*
Anthea Arendse	Information Officer: CKM*
Lizette Berry	Researcher: Child Poverty Programme
Denise Brown	Secretary to the Director/ Human Resources Administrator
Isabbel Cooper	Grants Administrator
Wendy Dien	Administrator: Child Rights and Child Health Services Programmes
Mira Dutschke	Researcher: Child Rights Programme
Kevin Ernstzen	Manager: Information Technology, CKM*
Katharine Hall	Senior Researcher: Child Poverty Programme
Lucy Jamieson	Senior Advocacy Officer: Child Rights Programme
Annie Leatt	Manager: Child Poverty Programme
Prinslean Mahery	Researcher: Child Rights Programme
Dino Maslamoney	Information Technology Officer: CKM*
Tasneem Matthews	Researcher: Child Health Services Programme
Helen Meintjes	Senior Researcher: HIV/AIDS Programme
Jo Monson	Materials development specialist: HIV/AIDS Programme
Sue Moses	Researcher: HIV/AIDS Programme
Wanjirū Mūkoma	Manager: HIV/AIDS Programme
Nobonke Ntlokwana	Secretary
Paula Proudlock	Manager: Child Rights Programme
Solange Rosa	Senior Researcher: Child Poverty Programme
Norma Rudolph	Senior Researcher: HIV/AIDS Programme
Maylene Shung-King	Acting Director & Manager: Child Health Services Programme
Charmaine Smith	Manager: Communication, CKM*
Nobubele Tandwa	Part-time Library Assistant: CKM*
Zelda Warrin	Administrator: HIV/AIDS Programme

VISITING/AD HOC STAFF

Prof. John Pinkerton	Queen's University, Belfast, Northern Ireland
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STAFF WHO LEFT DURING 2005/2006

Thozama Bici	Part-time Library Assistant: CKM*
Babalwa Cwane	Part-time Library Assistant: CKM*
Sonja Giese	Manager: HIV/AIDS Programme
Marian Jacobs	Director
Lauren Smith	Administrator: HIV/AIDS Programme

* Communication and Knowledge Management division

COMMUNICATION PRODUCTS

2005/2006

CASE STUDIES

From fieldwork to facts to firearms control. Research and advocacy towards firearm control legislation in South Africa: A case study
Shung-King M, Proudlock P & Michelson L
August 2005

CHAPTERS IN BOOKS

Child health: The general context
Abrahams K, Berry L & Hendricks M 2005
In: Jacobs M, Shung-King M & Smith C (eds)
South African Child Gauge 2005.

Child health: HIV/AIDS
Shung-King M, Abrahams K & Berry L 2005
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Children and antiretroviral roll-out: Towards a comprehensive approach
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Hall K 2005
In: Leatt A & Rosa S (eds) *Towards a Means to Live: Targeting poverty alleviation to make children's rights real*. [CD-ROM]

Does the means justify the end? Targeting the Child Support Grant
Rosa S, Leatt A & Hall K 2005
In: Leatt A & Rosa S (eds) *Towards a Means to Live: Targeting poverty alleviation to make children's rights real*. [CD-ROM]

Food for thought: A review of the National School Nutrition Programme
Kallmann K 2005
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Veriava F 2005
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Facts about the up-take of the Child Support Grant (January 2006)
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Press statement: Child survival roundtable, 24 May 2006
Smith C, Abrahams A & Jamieson L 2006

State of the nation's children
Abrahams K, Jamieson L & Smith C 2006
Issued on launch of UNICEF's *State of the World's Children Report*, 7 February 2006.

Children's Bill passed with amendments
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Children with disabilities dealt a major blow by Select Committee on Social Services and Department of Justice
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Smith C 2005
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Child survival warrants urgent attention

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Poverty threat to childhood survival

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We can stop many children dying

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'But where are our moral heroes?' An analysis of South African press reporting on children affected by HIV/AIDS

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Children 'in need of care' or in need of cash? Social security in the time of AIDS

Meintjes H, Budlender D, Giese S & Johnson L 2005
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Children's Institute submission on the Children's Amendment Bill

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National Alliance for Street Children submission on the Children's Amendment Bill

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Children's right to social services

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Do they get what was promised?

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Advocacy strategies for the Children's Bill

Jamieson L 2006
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Children's Bill and the Children's Amendment Bill: Implications for child and youth care workers and centres

Proudlock P 2006
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Rights analysis for child survival

Dutschke M 2006
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Jamieson L 2006
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What you need to know about socio-economic rights and programmes

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Draft submission on the Children's Bill by the National Alliance for Street Children

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At all costs? Applying the means test for the Child Support Grant

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Growing up in a time of AIDS:

A children's radio-documentary project

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Towards a Means to Live: Targeting poverty alleviation to make children's rights real

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Bird W, Bray R, Harries G, Meintjes H, Monson J & Ridgard N 2005

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TRAINING MATERIAL

Teaching guide and learning material for Unit 1

Dutschke M 2006

Prepared for the MPhil in Maternal and Child Health course, offered by the Child Health Unit at the University of Cape Town.

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Grants for children: A brief look at the eligibility and take-up of the Child Support Grant and other cash grants

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Child rights at the core: A commentary on the use of international law in South African court cases on children's socio-economic rights

Rosa S & Dutschke M 2006

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'But where are our moral heroes?' An analysis of South African press reporting on children affected by HIV/AIDS

Meintjes H & Bray R 2005

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Child survival roundtable report

Abrahams K May 2006 [CD-ROM]

Children's Bill Working Group workshop report

Jamieson L, Proudlock P & Dien W March 2006



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