

annual report

2004/2005



children's
institute

child rights in focus
Research • Advocacy • Education



UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN

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ABOUT THE CHILDREN'S INSTITUTE

**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 founded on the recognition that:

- Children, who form almost half of the South African population, are the most vulnerable sector of South African society.
- In acknowledging the rights and needs of children, South Africa has made a number of commitments to address children's vulnerability and promote their well-being through a range of laws, policies and programmes.
- The development of effective child-friendly and culturally appropriate policies is a major challenge to Government and civil society.
- Interventions for children are not always based on evidence generated from research.
- As a civil society duty-bearer, the University has an important role to play in generating evidence for action, given its established track record in the field of child-related academic endeavours in different faculties and departments.
- The harnessing and co-ordination of such endeavours could result in a larger academic critical mass, with a potential larger impact on the promotion of child well-being.

The mission of the Children's Institute is therefore 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 Institute pays special attention to children rendered vulnerable by a range of difficult circumstances.

The objectives of the Institute are to:

- characterise the major challenges confronting 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 the 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**

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

The main research programmes in the Institute have been carefully selected, based on priorities areas for children.

Current programmes focus on:

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

The research projects in the Children's Institute are located both within programmes and across 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 deputy director lead its activities, which are supported by a university-wide management team directly accountable to the Vice-Chancellor.

The Institute is guided and advised by a Board of Advisors:

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.

Dr. J. Lawrence Aber

Dr. 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, University of New York.

Ms. Nazeema Ahmed

Ms. Ahmed was formerly the research manager of the South African Parliamentary Research Unit and is now the Managing Director of the Paraffin Safety Association of South Africa. She has a special interest in children and families, social safety nets and poverty alleviation, energy and underdevelopment, reproductive health rights and gender justice.

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 Jansen

Prof. Jansen has been the Dean of Education at the University of Pretoria since 2000. He is both editor and editorial board member for numerous accredited journals published locally and internationally. His research interests concern mergers and institutional cultures in higher education, racial integration in former white schools, international targets and benchmarking in developing countries, and education policy reform in Southern Africa with a specific focus on the school curriculum.

Dr. John R. Pinkerton

Dr. 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.

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 Mr. James P. Grant. He 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). He is now responsible for all programmes and provincial offices of the Commission in his capacity as the Deputy Chief Executive Officer (Operations) of the SAHRC.

INGA BEUYATHANDA
YKUNGAZI?





THE YEAR IN REVIEW

The numerous advances for children's rights in South Africa reported on last year continued on an encouraging note during this year under review.

The coverage of social welfare support for children, in the form of a Child Support Grant, was extended to children under 14 years from April 2005 as the final phase of the progressive roll-out that was announced in 2003. The ultimate goal is to see this grant extended to all children up the age of 18.

Another positive development was that the roll-out of anti-retroviral therapy for children had increased at several sites across the country, albeit that full coverage is still a far way off.

The Children's Institute and many other organisations are also doing substantial work towards developing and supporting schools to become points of care and support to children in need, in particular those affected by poverty and the HIV pandemic.

The most groundbreaking event during this year was without a doubt Parliament's passage of Section 75 of the Children's Bill. Following almost 10 years of intense work by the children's sector and the government, the Bill has finally come to fruition. Civil society's role in this process has been highly commended and the Children's Institute takes pride in the active facilitation role that it undertook during this process. Perhaps the proudest moment

for the Children's Institute was the parliamentary submission on the Bill by several young people involved with the *Dikwankweta – Children in Action Project* of the HIV/AIDS Programme.

Yet, the release of the country's first official report on deaths in South Africa by Statistics South Africa revealed a concerning picture. Overall deaths due to HIV/AIDS are on the rise; for older children deaths due to suicide are on the increase and young children still die primarily of preventable conditions. The official statistics on child deaths still reflect a significant under-reporting of this vital indicator of child well-being.

The many media reports of child abductions and murders, as well as ongoing firearm injuries to children – despite the recent enactment of the July 2004 Firearms Control Act – cast a gloomy shadow over the many advances that have been made in recent years. Therefore, we constantly have to examine our progress with respect to fulfilling our obligations towards children. Ongoing monitoring and evaluation of children's well-being is of utmost importance in tracking how we are faring in realising children's rights.

Our mission and activities

The Children's Institute in the past year continued to make important contributions to child policy development and reform through research, education, technical support to child-oriented agencies and institutions, and advocacy. By keeping our 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 child rights through various communication outputs.

A number of exciting projects started during the course of this year. The Institute commenced the compilation of the first edition of a *South African Child Gauge*, a publication that will reflect the situation of children in the country each year. This product will serve as a useful monitor of the situation of the country's children for the government, civil society and the media.

Closely linked to this is a project that tracks key indicators of child well-being for a number of socio-economic rights. The project is aptly named *Children Count – Abantwana Babalulekile*. In addition to the actual numbers, the project will produce a range of products that will provide commentary on the indicators. More about this project is discussed in the Child Poverty Programme report.

The Children's Bill Working Group's activities are described in the Child Rights Programme section of this report and the *Dikwankwetla – Children in Action* activities are described in greater detail in the HIV/AIDS Programme section.

Work in this area of law reform will continue to be an important focus for the Institute in the coming year. Furthermore, our concern regarding children's political rights extends beyond advocacy for child participation into defining and acknowledging their right to be appropriately represented – and heard – in the media.

Two large primary research projects, the *Means to Live Project* and the *Caring Schools' Project* had been consolidated in the year under review. Primary research undertaken at a number of sites across the country is expected to yield very useful information that will inform the further development of recommendations on social development, education and health services for children.

The *Means to Live Project* will inform a number of national policy and service areas on the targeting of key poverty alleviation interventions for children. The *Caring Schools' Project* focuses particularly on developing schools as nodes of care and support to children that are made vulnerable by various circumstances, but in particular by poverty and HIV/AIDS.

Much of the preparation for the review of child deaths in the country has been consolidated and further work towards putting child deaths on the agenda of key decision-making structures will commence in 2006. More details on this project are provided in the Child Health Services Programme section of the report. At the same time, a comprehensive review of all policies, laws, programmes and services for children commenced at the end of 2004 and is expected to yield a very useful resource that will inform overall health service planning and provisioning for children. Another important contribution to knowledge about the many challenges facing children in the context of HIV/AIDS has been the review of children's location in the government's plans for the comprehensive care, treatment and management of HIV/AIDS. The review has helped to inform a set of guidelines on the management of the HIV-infected child.

The Children's Institute also played a leading role in facilitating networking between civil society and academic institutions on important issues such as parental responsibilities where adult parents or caregivers are absent, as is increasingly the situation in the context of the HIV/AIDS pandemic.

Staffing and governance

The number of staff in the Institute has been very stable in the past year and in July 2005 stood at 19 full-time and four part-time staff members. In the period under review, which is July 2004 to June 2005, four staff members completed their contracts or moved on to other interests, while five new staff members were appointed in the same period.

The on-going organisational development process resulted in decisions to increase the cadre of senior staff within the Institute, and two exciting positions – one for a Deputy Director that will be responsible for overseeing academic activities, and one for a manager for the Child Health Services Programme – will be recruited for towards the end of 2005.

The support of the Board of Advisors remains as strong and committed as always, with six board members having visited the Institute during March 2005. The contributions of the board to the Institute's strategic and operational challenges have been greatly appreciated.

A very welcome announcement has been the decision of one of the board members from Queen's University in Belfast, Northern Ireland, to spend a sabbatical of six months at the Institute – a period that is likely to result in significant academic and organisational support and development for the Institute and its staff.

Collaboration and networking

Our efforts to mainstream the Institute's academic profile and activities within the University of Cape Town have continued, and in many instances have been strengthened over the past year. In this regard our major University collaborators 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 Science Research.

We have enjoyed good support from the Institutional Planning and Quality Assurance division of the University. The Children's Institute has been identified as a model of social responsiveness within the University and 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 also contributed to innovative human resource initiatives in collaboration with the Faculty of Health Sciences and the University's Human Resources Department. These initiatives have the potential to inform practices throughout the University.

A particular challenge for the Institute has been to conform to newly established criteria for institutes developed and adopted by the University during this year. These criteria are aimed at greater peer-review and conformity with University structures and, by adhering to the criteria, the position and recognition of the Institute will be strengthened within the wider University community.

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

Finances and future plans

The Children's Institute's numerous projects and activities reflect its continued growth and development during 2004/2005.

In response to the challenges of such growth, an organisational development process was commenced. The process is intended to ensure that the Institute's vision, mission, strategic agenda and organisational structure are aligned, and that the organisation will be able to respond adequately to the many internal and external demands. We look forward to reporting on progress made in this regard.

In keeping with the challenges of further growth and sustainability comes the task of raising appropriate and sufficient funds to match the needs of the Institute. The grants and finances report reflects the success of the Institute in attracting consistent funding for its projects and activities. The major goal for the Institute in the next two years is to attract sufficient additional core funding to ensure the stability of its core staff and activities.





CHILD HEALTH SERVICES PROGRAMME

South Africa is beyond its first decade of democracy and the Presidency is now placing great emphasis on the need to implement policies and programmes effectively, and to ensure the delivery of quality services.

There has never been a greater need for accessible, effective, good-quality child health services. South Africa is trapped in a situation of lingering diseases of poverty that are still resulting in thousands of avoidable deaths of children in the neo-natal period or in their first year of life.

Furthermore, a rampant HIV pandemic is now the number one cause of death in young children in the absence of effective prevention and treatment. Trauma rates and violence against children continue to be unacceptably high, with trauma being the number one cause of death in children over the age of five. Thus, while only 10 years away from the delivery date of the Millennium Development Goals (MGDs), we are still very far from achieving the related goals for child health and nutrition.

Child health and mortality indicators are key measures of a country's progress and development. Given that child health and mortality are articulated in the MDGs, the rising South African child mortality rates clearly indicate an urgency to improve economic and social conditions for children and their families, and to improve services for them in all sectors.

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 geared towards further developing and completing projects and activities that are ultimately aimed at improving child health and child health services.

The results of completed projects will now be taken to the next phase of advocating for their use in informing decisions on appropriate policies and programmes, and the implementation of services that have an impact on children. A key part of our agenda for the next year is to form partnerships within the University and the broader academic sphere and with relevant civil society organisations to develop a clear agenda for translating research into action towards realising children's right to basic health care services.

The programme is currently comprised of two staff members, with several *ad hoc* staff and students having worked on a number of projects over the past year. However, the aim is to

increase the full-time staff complement in the coming year to tackle the vast amount of work required in the field of child health policy and service delivery.

KEY PROJECTS FOR 2004/2005

Reviewing child deaths

The purpose of this project is to make up-to-date information on child deaths available to key decision-makers to:

- place children's health issues more explicitly on the national agenda by advocating for an annual child death inquiry, and
- advocate for an integrated approach across sectors to reduce child deaths at national, provincial and local levels.

The project entails a comprehensive review of child deaths in South Africa. An extensive review of all relevant literature (published and unpublished, primarily over a 10-year period) was undertaken. The review examines the extent and causes of, and information sources on, child deaths. It will form the base document for a discussion with government departments and Parliament on the need to develop monitoring mechanisms on child deaths. These mechanisms preferably should be in the form of an annual child death inquiry, an integrated plan at national level to address the increasing child deaths, as well as a proposal to local government on how to integrate child health indices when considering their Integrated Development Plans.

The review is close to completion and will thereafter be turned into a number of products for different audiences. Numerous dialogues with policy-makers, health planners and managers will commence in 2006.

"The work being done on childhood mortality is crucial for this country, and more broadly. It is disappointing to hear how difficult it is to find funders willing to fund research arising out of this endeavour."

Hassan Mahomed, Institute of Infectious Disease and Molecular Medicine, University of Cape Town

Part of the review entails a series of case studies to augment national and provincial numerical data with more detailed

experiences and reflections on child deaths within more local contexts. The first case study, on child deaths over a five-year period at the Red Cross Children's Hospital, has been completed in collaboration with the School of Child and Adolescent Health at the University of Cape Town. The report provides an analysis of all child deaths at the hospital for that period and reflects on the primary and underlying causes of deaths. It also highlights the potential of drawing on routine hospital information systems to generate very useful and pertinent information that can assist with better managing patients and hospital services.

This work was made possible by funds from the Institute's core funder, Atlantic Philanthropies.

"Thank you for being so concerned about the infants and children of South Africa. The National Department of Health takes note of the content of the report."

Feedback from the national Department of Health on the Red Cross Child Deaths report.

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

This project involves a comprehensive review of all child health laws, polices, programmes and service evaluations (where these exist). This document will, together with a rights analysis, form the base document for a discussion on what basic health care services for children should constitute of, as defined in the Constitution. This review forms part of *Project 28*, which is aimed at promoting the realisation of children's socio-economic rights as defined by Section 28 of the Bill of Rights in the Constitution. The project is discussed in greater detail under the Child Rights Programme section in this report.

This project is funded by the Open Society Foundation as part of *Project 28*.

Child health indicators

Over the last year, the Child Health Services Programme derived a set of core child health indicators in collaboration with the Child, Youth and Family division of the Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC). The extensive review of all indicators, ascribed to by the national Department of Health in relation to children, formed the base document that informed the selection of child health indicators for the Institute's *Children Count – Abantwana*

Babalulekile Project (see the detailed discussion under the Child Poverty Programme section).

This work was made possible by funds from the Institute's core funder, Atlantic Philanthropies.

An analysis of antiretroviral (ARV) treatment for children in South Africa

The Child Health Services Programme in early 2005 completed and released a discussion paper titled, *What about the children? Antiretroviral roll-out in South Africa: Where do children feature?* The paper, commissioned by Save the Children Sweden, highlights the crucial need to prevent HIV in children and urges the government to consider the health needs of children infected with HIV in a comprehensive manner and not just by focusing on ARV provision. Since the release of the paper the programme has participated in a number of forums that relate to antiretroviral provision for children, and has been requested to serve on two task teams aimed at improving service delivery for children infected with HIV.

Given the urgency of addressing the health needs of children infected with HIV, expanding the programme's work in this field – which started with the first steps of producing the discussion paper – requires more strategic decisions.

This project was funded by Save the Children Sweden.

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

The Children's Institute has been involved in developing a policy, together with a 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 Red Cross Children's Hospital and the other from Limpopo province.

This process, owned by the Department of Health, is continuing with renewed vigour after the Children's Institute hosted a very successful meeting with all parties involved. The completion of the guidelines for the pilot service implementation forms part of the next phase of activities for this project.

This work was made possible by funds from the Institute's core funder, Atlantic Philanthropies.

OTHER ACTIVITIES AND COLLABORATIONS

Case studies

Programme staff continued their involvement with developing a series of case studies to describe the process, lessons learnt and perceived impact of the Institute's involvement in key policy and law-reform processes. The first case study was published in August in collaboration with the Child Rights Programme and captures the Institute's role in and contribution to the firearm control legislation drive that resulted in the Firearms Control Act. This case study will be included in a book earmarked for release in 2006/2007 as part of the Institute's continued collaboration with a group of international child policy research centres.

Training

The programme continues to train students on its module on child health policy in the M.Phil in Maternal and Child Health, which is offered by the Child Health Unit at the University of Cape Town. In addition, continued input is provided at selected courses at the summer and winter schools of the School of Public Health, University of the Western Cape.

International conferences

Programme staff have also made several presentations at key human and child rights conferences during the last year, in particular the *Fourth World Congress on Family Law and Children's Rights* in Cape Town and the *Childhoods 2005* conference in Oslo, Norway.

Networking and collaboration

The programme continues its collaboration with many groups and individuals during the period under review. Some of our collaborators include the Child, Youth and Family division of the HSRC; the national Department of Health: Directorate Child Health; the School of Child and Adolescent Health, University of Cape Town; and the Medical Research Council's Burden of Disease and National Injury Mortality and Morbidity Survey divisions.

The programme's reference group, made up of individuals from the national and Western Cape Departments of Health and from the School of Child and Adolescent Health, has also been providing most useful guidance and input over the last year.



CHILD POVERTY PROGRAMME

Child poverty in South Africa has its roots in the unjust apartheid policies of racial discrimination and underdevelopment. The first decade of democracy has seen great progress in the realisation of civil and political rights, as well as efforts towards the provision of minimum living standards for all.

At the same time, the South African economy has been exposed to global competition and low levels of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and national policy has reduced tariffs and trade barriers. As a consequence, the high unemployment rates already experienced in the 1990s have continued to increase.

According to Statistics South Africa, 26.2% of the economically active population was unemployed as of September 2004. 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. An expanded definition of unemployment includes those who would like to find work but are discouraged, therefore not actively seeking wage labour in the previous two weeks. By this expanded definition, unemployment levels are, according to the *Labour Force Survey 2004*, at a

staggering 41%. Analysis of the *2004 General Household Survey* by Debbie Budlender indicates that 7.3 million children (41% of all children) live in households where no adults are employed. Unemployment is the biggest post-apartheid driver of income poverty amongst children.

South Africa is home to many children living in absolute poverty. Using a R1,200 per household per month poverty line, a recent Children's Institute-commissioned analysis of the *2004 General Household Survey* shows that two-thirds of South African children are living in income poverty. This lack of material resources is closely related to poor health and educational outcomes, unsafe living environments and constrained life opportunities. The analysis also showed that some 4.5 million children were reported as "sometimes", "often" or "always" going to bed hungry because there was not enough food in the house

in mid-2004. Poverty is 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 some targeted specifically at 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; and
- conducting research and engaging in advocacy that informs appropriate legislative, policy and programme development and implementation.

Research is conducted within a framework of children's rights set out in the South African Constitution as well as the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

The programme is currently staffed by a programme manager, senior researcher and researcher. In addition, it works collaboratively within the Institute and the University, and with a number of external partners.

"[The government should provide] access to free education if the child has a grant because, if the child can get the grant, that means the child is poor; so why do they demand school fees from a child living with the Child Support Grant? They are not fair, because that means that child does not eat on that month."

[Urban, Western Cape]

"We need houses, not shacks. Life in a shack is difficult. It is very cold in winter and it is not an appropriate accommodation for a baby."

[Urban, Western Cape]

"[When I was a child] money was not in demand the way it is now. People survived without money, but today you can't even live a day without money."

[Rural, Eastern Cape]

Participants in *Means to Live Project* survey

KEY PROJECTS FOR 2004/2005

The Child Poverty Programme has been involved in two main projects over the last year, as well as in a range of ongoing activities.

Children Count – Abantwana Babalulekile

The availability of basic child-centred data to monitor trends in the material conditions of children is of the utmost importance in informing advocacy towards policy and legislative interventions to improve these conditions. This data-based advocacy project thus collects, analyses and presents data on the socio-economic rights of children in South Africa. '*Abantwana babalulekile*' means '*children are important*' in isiXhosa.

The project collates data from the health and education sectors and generates a wide range of child-centred indicators on care arrangements, social security, basic services, housing, nutrition and HIV/AIDS from national household surveys conducted by Statistics South Africa. An interactive web site where users can access the indicators and related analyses will be launched in February 2006 at: www.childrencount.ci.org.za

The data covers a wide range of content areas and socio-economic rights, and the project has relied on the hard work and expertise of staff across the Children's Institute to set these up. The initial software for the database and web portal was designed in conjunction with a group of post-graduate informatics students from the University of Cape Town. In addition to presenting the basic data in searchable formats on the web site, the project feeds into the annual *South African Child Gauge*, and will also produce a series of fact sheets and quantitative analyses. The project will be an ongoing activity at the Children's Institute, which will allow for us to track trends in the situation of children over time. These trends will point to areas of work that the Institute will need to focus on in future.

This project is supported by Save the Children Sweden and the Annie E. Casey Foundation.

The Means to Live Project

This multi-disciplinary research project is a collaboration between the Child Poverty (social sciences) and the Child Rights (legal) Programmes. Its objective is to evaluate the targeting of poverty alleviation policies and programmes that affect children by investigating whether children are taken into consideration in the conceptualisation and implementation of these policies and programmes. The research is aimed at answering the following questions: Are those most in need identified for programme

delivery? Do the means of identifying and reaching the poor create obstacles or have unintended consequences? Are the opportunity costs of accessing poverty alleviation measures too high? How can the costs to targeted beneficiaries be minimised? Do the poor encounter barriers to assistance and opportunities within the scope of poverty alleviation intended for their benefit?

The research component of the project takes place over two years (2003 – 2005) and this will be followed by a comprehensive advocacy programme in 2006. The first research phase, completed during the period under review, was a policy review of six government poverty alleviation programmes.

The second, primary research, phase includes a household survey, qualitative interviews with caregivers and parents and interviews with implementing institutions across these programmes. The six programmes are principle poverty alleviation measures aimed at realising children's socio-economic rights. They are:

- the School Fee Exemption policy of the Department of Education,
- the Child Support Grant of the Department of Social Development,
- the Housing Subsidy Scheme of the Department of Housing,
- free primary health care and free health care to pregnant women and children under the age of six,
- the Free Basic Water policy implemented by local governments, and
- the National School Nutrition Programme of the Department of Education.

The *Means to Live* research team will also make use of South African Constitutional Court jurisprudence and particularly draw on the elements of the 'reasonableness test' from the *Grootboom* judgment that deal with targeting. Elements of this test are generalised and developed to assist in evaluating the efficacy of the State in realising socio-economic rights in a context of poverty.

The *Means to Live Project* is supported by the Sweden and United Kingdom chapters of Save the Children and the Rockefeller Brothers Fund.

OTHER ACTIVITIES AND COLLABORATIONS

Media advocacy

In addition to these bigger projects, the Child Poverty Programme is also involved in a range of ongoing analysis and communication initiatives. These seek to raise public interest and knowledge about the situation of children living in poverty and the government's responses to it, as well as to contribute to debates and advocacy in academic and non-governmental forums. Some of the activities in the last year have included publishing an opinion-editorial in the *Business Day* about child poverty and participating in media interviews on related topics.

Local and international conferences

Staff have presented papers on social security, housing, unemployment, development and policy research to a wide range of South African and international audiences. These include a Naledi conference on improving the impact of poverty alleviation, a United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) conference on child poverty and globalisation, a Childwatch International symposium on Southern Africa and the *Fourth World Congress on Family Law and Children's Rights*.

Training, networking and collaboration

The programme furthermore provided ongoing monitoring of social security up-take to children's rights and other organisations. In addition, staff have provided analysis of the social security data for public interest litigation, and participated in the training of fifth-year medical students of the University by delivering a module on child rights and government poverty alleviation programmes. Other activities included participating in forums such as the Basic Income Grant research sub-committee and collaborative work with Early Childhood Development network organisations, the Centre for the Analysis of South African Social Policy at Oxford University, and the Human Sciences Research Council.

The programme's involvement in these ongoing activities is made possible by the support of Atlantic Philanthropies.



CHILD RIGHTS PROGRAMME

The Bill of Rights obliges the State to protect, promote, respect and fulfil a range of rights for children. To realise these rights, policy and law has to be reformed, and programmes have to be designed and reasonably implemented. This programme of reform began in 1994 and, in many instances, is now starting to bear fruit.

However, there is still much to be done in relation to children's rights, particularly in relation to socio-economic rights and the right to protection from violence, abuse and neglect. The Child Rights Programme contributes to this reform agenda through legal research and advocacy. During the year under review, the programme contributed to the reform of laws aimed at giving effect to children's rights to social services, social security and protection from abuse and neglect.

KEY PROJECTS FOR 2004/2005

Law Reform and Advocacy Project

Legislation has a crucial role to play in ensuring that children's rights are realised. Laws should clearly spell out children's entitlements to socio-economic services and place clear duties

on the State to provide these services. This should be complemented by ensuring that the necessary budget is allocated for the delivery of the services.

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. There is great opportunity for groundbreaking work in this area and the 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. Key partners this year were the large umbrella networks within civil society, the national Department of Social Development, and Parliament.

The programme recruited two more staff members during the last year. Its work is made possible by funding from the Open Society Foundation of South Africa and the Institute's core funder, Atlantic Philanthropies.

Children's Bill Project

The Children's Bill Working Group (WG) continued to facilitate the participation of the children's sector in the Children's Bill reform process. The WG was established in 2003 by the Children's Institute, the South African Society for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (SASPCAN) and Childline. It consists of 40 representatives from most of the children's sector umbrella bodies, child rights academic institutions and individual non-governmental and community-based organisations from across the country. The WG has since its inception been running an advocacy campaign to: characterise and publicise the major challenges facing children; promote the participation of the children's sector and the use of evidence in the law-making process; and promote the incorporation and expansion of children's rights in the new law.

From August 2004 until mid-2005, the Portfolio Committee on Social Development held intense debates on the Children's Bill before finally passing the first part of the Bill.

One of the key debates centred on how to make the law relevant and accessible to many children living in rural areas in dire need of services.

During the year under review, a variety of communication and advocacy methodologies have been used to achieve the project objectives and respond to the changing political environment. These mechanisms enabled members of civil society to come to Parliament for the public hearings on the Children's Bill and to continue to engage with the decision-makers during the parliamentary debates on the Bill.

The emphasis has been on supporting marginalised groups to engage with the law-reform process and on promoting the participation of rural and community-based organisations. This involved mobilising and supporting all sub-sectors of the children's sector to make written and oral submissions to Parliament.

I think those sort of submissions are very, very important because they are presented by people who are directly affected by the policies and the legislations that we make. I know the group worked very hard to ensure that there is representivity and that they prepared people to present by themselves... They did very well as far as that is concerned – to get people to come and make their own submissions."

Chief Director: Children and Families, Department of Social Development

The submissions made a noticeable impression on the parliamentarians and executive officials, especially in reflecting on the realities of services to children. The result was that a number of civil society recommendations were put back on the negotiating table.

The range of problems highlighted by the hearings prompted Parliament to call all the affected national departments to report on what they were doing to address these gaps. The pressure from Parliament also prompted the other departments to prioritise the Children's Bill more than before.

The WG collaborated with Parliament on a parliamentary policy workshop in April 2005 to discuss policy areas still requiring negotiation. Continuous liaison with Parliament and regular feedback to WG members ensured that priority issues were flagged and immediately taken up with the parliamentarians.

"What was also amazing was, without fail, every NGO spoke about the national policy framework, which I thought was quite clever – that, you know, you guys had organised yourselves. It was good."

Member of Parliament

The passing of the first part of the Bill by the National Assembly on 22 June 2005 was a major milestone for the project. It is clear from the provisions in the Bill that the advocacy campaign was successful in many ways, in particular the areas of children's rights, disability, trafficking, harmful social and cultural practices, inter-sectoral co-ordination, adoption and obligations to ensure sufficient budgetary allocation to the implementation of the Bill. The current evaluation of the project will provide more information on its successes.

Social Assistance Act regulations

The joint submission of the Children's Institute and the Alliance for Children's Entitlement to Social Security (ACCESS) on the regulations to the Social Assistance Act 2004 recommended changes to improve access to grants for children made vulnerable by poverty and HIV/AIDS. The programme's attention this year remained on advocating for the extension of the Child Support Grant (CSG) to all children under 18 years and for the removal of the means test.

This mainly involved providing assistance and advice on strategic advocacy to the major social movements (ACCESS, the Treatment Action Campaign and the Basic Income Grant Coalition) that have the necessary political status to influence the government to make a decision in favour of an extension.

Project 28

Advocating for the legislation of children's socio-economic rights often proves difficult due to the lack of clarity on the meaning of these rights. This project is therefore aimed at seeking clarity on the meaning of children's socio-economic rights, particularly with regards to the nature and extent of the government's obligations to children. Work on the project began in earnest in April 2004 with the recruitment of a new researcher. Since then, an extensive library and database of international and national legal writing on children's socio-economic rights have been set up. This library enables the programme to produce quality child rights legal research and opinion pieces for other Children's Institute projects as well as for external collaborators.

The programme maximised the opportunity to contribute to the *Fourth World Congress on Family Law and Children's Rights*, held in Cape Town in March 2005, by encouraging and supporting other Institute staff in preparing papers that analysed policy and service delivery to children from a rights perspective. The Institute presented eight papers at the Congress and contributed to the Congress taking a hard look at socio-economic rights. The papers by Child Rights Programme staff focused on Section 28 of the Bill of Rights, the right to social services, and the use of international children's rights law by the country's courts. The programme also presented the international law paper at the *Childhoods 2005* conference in Oslo, Norway.

Policy reviews on the right to nutrition and health are currently underway. The health policy review provides a comprehensive overview and critique of the State's plan and programmes for the realisation of the right to health. The final product will be used in various projects in the Institute, and also provides a valuable base for litigation on children's right to health care services – a relatively unexplored area in South African case law.

In August 2004 the Institute also initiated litigation that is aimed at improving the administrative efficiency of the roll-out of the extended CSG.

OTHER ACTIVITIES AND COLLABORATIONS

Means to Live Project

This multi-disciplinary research project is a collaborative effort between the Child Rights (legal) and Child Poverty (social sciences) Programmes. Its objective is to evaluate the targeting of poverty alleviation policies and programmes that affect children by investigating whether children are taken into consideration in the conceptualisation and implementation of these policies and programmes. See the Child Poverty Programme section for a comprehensive description of the project.

Evaluation Project

The Institute's involvement in national policy and law drafting processes has, since the days of its predecessor organisation – the Child Health Policy Institute (CHPI) – ranged from actual drafting of policy to lobbying the Legislature (Parliament) and the Executive (Cabinet and other executive structures). The Evaluation Project is aimed at recording the story of the Institute's involvement in policy or law reform processes and analysing the strengths and weaknesses of our methodologies.

The knowledge gained from each evaluation or case study is fed back internally into new project planning and is also shared with national and international audiences in the form of case study papers and other communication outputs. The first case study, completed in July 2005, focused on the CHPI's involvement in the firearms control law reform process that resulted in the Firearms Control Act.

In November 2004, the Child Rights Programme, in collaboration with the communication division, started the first phase of an evaluation of the Children's Bill Project. This involved devising an appropriate evaluation framework and methodology and setting up an external reference team and an internal committee of programme representatives. In early 2005, interviews were conducted with 31 members of the Executive, Legislature and the Children's Bill Working Group. The evaluation report is expected early in 2006 and will yield fascinating information on the strengths and weaknesses of the project's various methodologies. The findings will be used for training on policy and law-reform advocacy methodologies and best practices.

Children's participation in the Children's Bill process

The Child Rights Programme has been working with the HIV/AIDS Programme on the *Dikwankwetla – Children in Action Project* aimed at facilitating the empowered participation of 12 children from four provinces in the Children's Bill process. Child Rights Programme staff facilitated the law reform and popular advocacy components of the project. For more details, see the HIV/AIDS Programme section.

Training

The Child Rights Programme in mid-2005 assisted with training on legislative and oversight tools for the realisation of children's rights in the context of HIV/AIDS, which was conducted for members of Parliament of Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries. The training was a joint initiative by AWEPA (European Parliamentarians for Africa) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). The programme has been asked to repeat the training with the next group of SADC countries in Malawi in September 2005.

Two seminars focusing on children's socio-economic rights and international law were presented to University of Cape Town law students at a Masters level.

Networking and collaboration

Key partners include all the organisations on the Children's Bill Working Group, especially Childline, SASPCAN, Resources Aimed at the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect, Johannesburg Child Welfare and the Disabled Children's Action Group.

In our social security projects, our partners include ACCESS, Black Sash, the Congress of South African Trade Unions, the South African Council of Churches, South African Catholic Bishops' Conference and the BIG Coalition.

In the area of developing children's rights jurisprudence, key partners are the Legal Resources Centre, Lawyers for Human Rights, the Child Litigation Project at the University of Pretoria, the Centre for Applied Legal Studies at the University of the Witwatersrand and the International Commission of Jurists.





HIV/AIDS PROGRAMME

Appropriate responses to children in the face of the HIV/AIDS pandemic are critical. South Africa currently has the highest number of HIV-positive residents of any country in Africa, with an estimated five million people living with HIV or AIDS in 2004.

Of these, roughly 245,000 are likely to be children under the age of 15.* High levels of adult morbidity and mortality do – and will continue to for many years – affect the country's large child population, even with widespread antiretroviral treatment intervention.

Over the past year, the HIV/AIDS Programme has continued to focus on issues related to the mitigation of the social impact of HIV/AIDS on children. The programme plays a role nationally and internationally in informing child-related policy and practice and in challenging some of the stereotypes that hamper an appropriate service response to the needs of children. Given the profound impact of HIV/AIDS on children, and recognising the invaluable contribution of children to survival in AIDS-affected households and communities, the programme remains committed to ensuring appropriate child participation in all relevant activities.

Informed by earlier work, the programme over the past year has developed a strong emphasis on strengthening support and service access for children through schools. Programme activities within school communities include action research to inform service delivery and policy implementation, thus keeping the programme actively engaged in the full policy cycle.

The HIV/AIDS Programme team has grown substantially over the past year with the appointment of a programme administrator, a materials development specialist and an education specialist. The programme is also in the process of appointing a new programme manager to replace Sonja Giese, who after six years with the Children's Institute took up a post with an international, child-focused non-governmental organisation.

* Dorrington R, Bradshaw D, Johnson L & Budlender D (2004) *The Demographic Impact of HIV/AIDS in South Africa: National Indicators for 2004*. Cape Town: Centre for Actuarial Research and Medical Research Council of South Africa.

KEY PROJECTS 2004/2005

The 'Caring Schools' Project

"Individual educators can and do make a difference!"

Educator, 'Caring Schools' Project

A key recommendation from earlier programme research is the need to think 'out-of-the-box' in terms of service provision to maximise opportunities within existing services to provide care and support to vulnerable children and their families. The Children's Institute identified the education system in particular as having an important role to play in this regard. In many respects, schools are ideally placed to function as nodes of care and support to provide school-based services (where possible), and to assist children to access support outside of the school.

Using an appreciative and rights-based approach, this action research project in collaboration with the South African Democratic Teachers' Union (SADTU) is developing and piloting a capacity-building programme targeting school communities, including staff, learners, management and other key government and non-government role-players. The approach acknowledges that, in communities hardest hit by the HIV/AIDS pandemic, schools themselves are vulnerable. It therefore seeks to mobilise support for schools as sites for service provision rather than expecting more from already over-burdened educators. The programme is designed to assist school communities to support, within their capacity, the well-being of children and not only learners in the schools. The project also aims to strengthen and supplement existing government initiatives towards an expanded role for schools in the support of vulnerable learners.

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

'Growing up in a time of AIDS': A Children's Radio-Documentary Project

According to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, participation entails the act of encouraging and enabling children to make their views known on matters that affect them. This project is thus 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.

"Namhlanje ngiyaqala ukuba yintatheli, sengiyezwa ukuthi kumnandi ukuba yintatheli. Ngiyajabula". ["Today is my first day of being a reporter, and I can feel that it is nice to be a reporter. I'm happy!"]

Sine, 12 years old, participant in the 'Growing up in a time of AIDS' Project, on recording her first radio programme.

This project, in collaboration with Zisize Educational Trust and Okhayeni Primary School, has facilitated a group of 9 – 12-year-old children living in northern KwaZulu-Natal in a participatory process of writing and illustrating autobiographical stories and producing Zulu and English radio programmes about their lives as children growing up in the time of AIDS. The children named themselves 'Abaqophi basOkhayeni Abaqinile' – 'the Strong Recorders from Okhayeni'. The programmes that they have produced will be broadcast on public and community radio stations, and made available on CD-ROM.

This project has been funded by the Open Society Foundation, IBIS and the United Nations Association for the United States of America HERO Project.

Critiquing media representations of children affected by HIV/AIDS

There is a danger that the dominant rhetoric regarding the impact of HIV/AIDS on children (and of the experiences of the popularly labelled 'AIDS orphans' in particular) not only fuels groundless assertions that label these children inappropriately, but also stands to misinform responses from support agencies. The uncritical reproduction of these discourses can increase children's vulnerability further through marginalisation and a poor understanding of children's lives and needs.

This collaborative project with the Centre for Social Science Research, University of Cape Town, analyses 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 examines what is emphasised and what omitted with respect to the effect of HIV/AIDS on children's lives, and explores some of the implications of patterns found in the reporting.

In addition, a resource to assist journalists in sensitive and accurate reporting about children affected by HIV/AIDS has been 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 has been funded by the Bernard van Leer Foundation.

The Children's Bill: Meeting the needs of children in the context of HIV/AIDS

Dikwankwetla – Children in Action

"I believe we are free because we have rights – good rights!"

Nkosi, 13 years old, member of *Dikwankwetla*

The last year saw a flurry of civil society activity aimed at giving input on the Children's Bill, a key piece of child legislation that has been in the pipeline for many years, and which was finally tabled in Parliament in 2004.

In line with its founding principle to promote children's participation in matters that affect them, the Children's Institute established a working group of children to participate in the debates and deliberations informing the finalisation of the Act. This process runs parallel to that of a civil society working group of child rights organisations.

'Dikwankwetla – Children in Action', as the children call themselves, is a group of 12 children between 12 – 18 years from four provinces. The Institute has facilitated a series of participatory workshops aimed at informing the group about the provisions in the Children's Bill, and soliciting their opinions about these provisions. The children have also been facilitated in designing their own advocacy strategies, which they implemented in their provinces.

In August 2004, the *Dikwankwetla* participated in the parliamentary hearings on the first part of the Children's Bill, where they shared some of their personal experiences and highlighted gaps in the proposed Bill. The group made recommendations to the members of Parliament on how the Bill could be improved, focusing in particular on the chapters dealing with child rights, child protection and parental responsibilities. They will also give input on the second part of the Bill in 2006.

The project is funded by IBIS and is jointly facilitated by the HIV/AIDS and Child Rights Programmes, with support from the Regional Psychosocial Support Initiative for Children Affected by HIV/AIDS (REPSSI).

HIV/AIDS sector working group

The HIV/AIDS Programme has to date been responsible for the co-ordination of the HIV/AIDS sector's participation in deliberations on the Children's Bill, ensuring that the views of the sector are represented through oral and written submissions to Government, including at the public hearings in August 2004.

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

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

This new project in collaboration with the Centre for the Study of AIDS at the University of Pretoria will explore the forms that residential care is taking in the face of the HIV/AIDS pandemic, and will consider these forms in relation to South African policy and legislation. A particular focus of this research will be on the emergence of child and youth care centres out of, and in response to the needs of, community-based initiatives.

This project is sponsored by the Rockefeller Brothers Fund.

Promoting recommendations for health and social services to meet the needs of children in the context of HIV/AIDS in South Africa

In 2001, the HIV/AIDS Programme was commissioned by the national Department of Health to develop a set of recommendations to inform appropriate health and social services (including education) for children in the context of HIV/AIDS in South Africa. In order to popularise some of the research findings and recommendations, the programme has produced three short booklets. Two of the booklets are aimed at sharing relevant research findings with a range of service providers, while one is aimed at a broad audience of organisations, companies and individuals who are looking for guidance on how to help children in their areas.

This work has been possible with support from the Rockefeller Brothers Fund.

OTHER ACTIVITIES AND COLLABORATIONS

Education and training

The HIV/AIDS Programme has been involved in teaching on the M. Phil in HIV/AIDS course of the University of Cape Town, and at the University of the Western Cape (UWC) winter school seminar on child welfare policy and maternal and child health. In addition, the programme has contributed to the planning of a distance-learning course for practitioners interested in working with children affected by HIV/AIDS, which is a collaborative between the University of South Africa, the REPSSI and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

International conferences

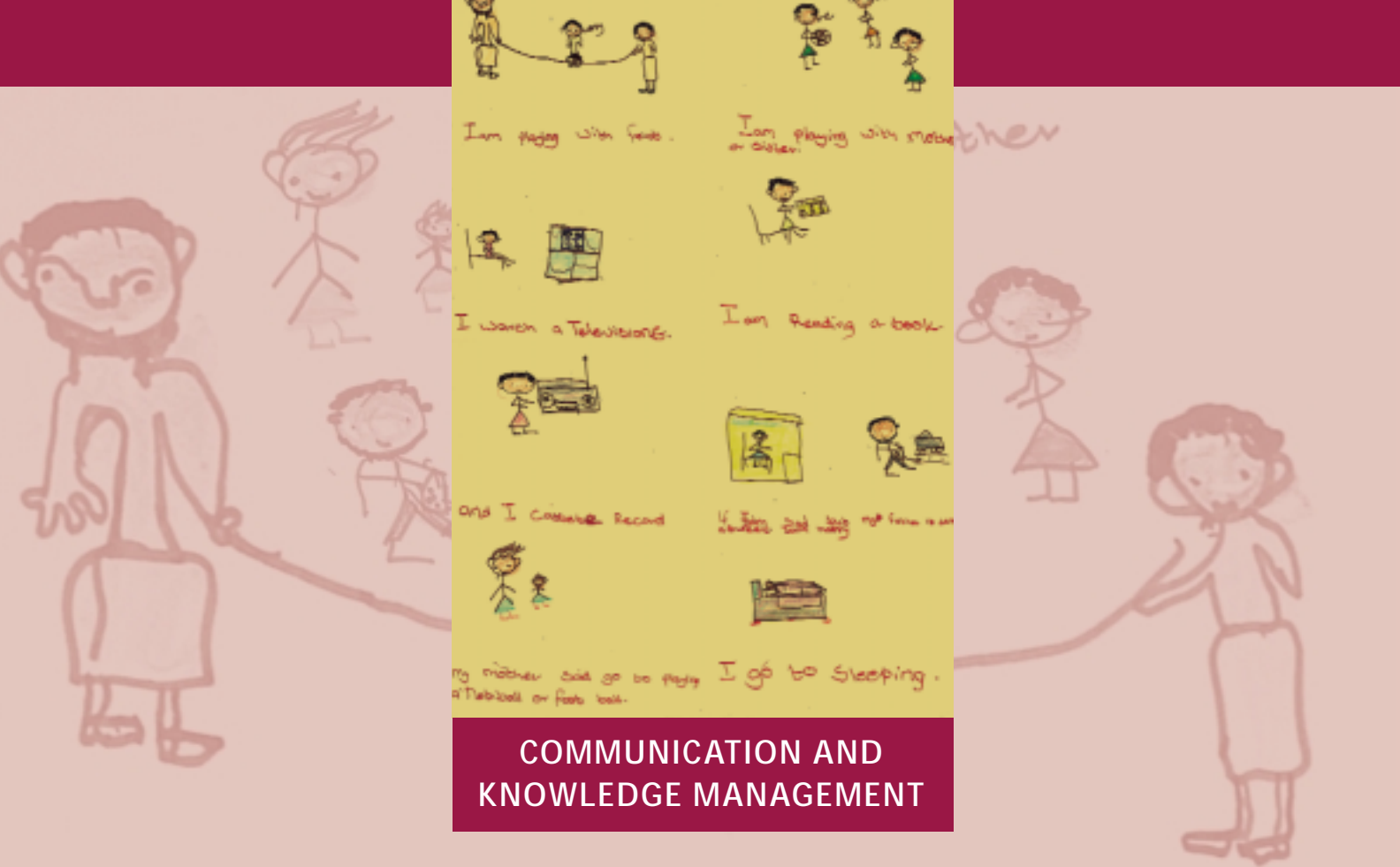
Programme staff have also made several presentations at academic and child rights conferences during the last year, in particular the *Fourth World Congress on Family Law and Children's Rights* in Cape Town and the *Childhoods 2005* conference in Oslo, Norway.

Networking and collaboration

A variety of collaborations with academic units and departments, research organisations, non-governmental organisations, community-based organisations, networks and government departments have been critical to the success of the projects of this programme. Primary collaborators over the past year have been the Caring Schools Network (CaSNET); the Catholic Institute for Education; the Centre for Social Science Research, University of Cape Town; the Centre for the Study of AIDS; the Free State and Western Cape Departments of Education; the Media in Education Trust; the Media Monitoring Project; Naledi Lifeskills; the Nelson Mandela Foundation; the Okhayeni Primary School; the SADTU; the Samaritan Centre; Save the Children UK; Soul City; the Transforming Institutional Practice Unit at UWC; and the Zisize Educational Trust.

The programme is still actively involved in the Children's HIV/AIDS Network in the Western Cape and in the South African National AIDS Council Children's Sector Network. The programme is also part of several international networks, including the Better Care Network in support of information exchange and collaboration on child care policy and practice.





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.
- Ensure effective internal communication between programmes and maximise the use of knowledge management tools, such as databases and an intranet.

Consisting of a team of four full-time and two 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 is work through communication products and the mainstream media.

It is almost three years since the CKM division was set up at the Institute, with the necessary systems and tools and their related policies now well in place. The CKM team is thus planning an evaluation of these systems, tools and communication outputs in the coming year.

In addition, some CKM staff attended a knowledge management workshop in Bali in mid-2005 to help inform the growth and development of knowledge management at the Children's Institute beyond its information systems focus. The workshop introduced the team to the concept of Strategic Information and Knowledge Management Inquiry (SIKMI). The team will examine how it can use this conceptual model as a means of evaluation for CKM activities and other possible communities of practice at the Institute.

SYSTEMS AND TOOLS

CKM Forum

This forum was established in mid-2003 to discuss and workshop CKM initiatives, systems, policies and procedures with staff members. It takes place on a quarterly basis and in the last year focused respectively on:

- writing for publication in peer-reviewed journals;
- hands-on training on the uses of the knowledge centre and communication databases;
- developing key messages on children's rights; and
- information technology tips and tricks.

Communication database

The communication database is used to collect and maintain contact details of individuals who have or might have an interest in the Institute's work and its related communication outputs. The database enables the easy identification and targeting of contact persons according to specific sectors, or according to fields of interest. The biggest challenge is to keep the database updated, particularly as far as government decision-makers are concerned – a challenge especially after the 2004 general elections.

Intranet

Since its introduction towards the end of 2003, the intranet has become an indispensable tool to facilitate internal communication and knowledge management, and is extensively utilised by staff members for various purposes and applications. It has become an integrated workspace that makes provision for an electronic forum where information is disseminated, accessed and managed. The intranet has grown rapidly during the past year as more knowledge management resources and communication tools have been made available to staff.

A study of the intranet's effectiveness was conducted at the end of 2004 with information gathered through an electronic survey of users. The results were presented to all staff and showed that the intranet was definitely an indispensable tool that staff rely on for their information needs. The further development of the intranet has led to other knowledge management practices being introduced, such as knowledge mapping.

Information technology support

Over the past year, the IT team has strengthened existing systems and developed new information and communication technology (ICT) tools that support the work of projects, programmes and the Institute as a whole. For example, an open source e-mail client software has been customised to enhance the electronic communication internally and externally, while an automated backup system for local and peripheral (memory sticks) data devices has been developed.

The CKM team also supports the University's ICT renewal project (*SupaTsela Project*), which aims to emphasise a shared approach to ICT on campus to further the interests of the campus community. A 'socially responsible' approach to computing by each user and each unit in the University will have long-term benefits for all.

Knowledge centre and knowledge centre database

The knowledge centre houses a collection of resource material 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 over 4,400 entries of resource materials utilised by the Institute, either in hard-copy or in an electronic format.

Product distribution

The centralised product distribution system that assists programmes in the prompt packaging and distribution of communication products is now well in place. The system draws on the communication database for the identification of appropriate individuals to receive a specific publication, and accommodates the production of address labels and distribution records at the click of a button. At the same time, electronic publication alerts are distributed via e-mail to subscribers that prefer electronic copies over hard copies.

The use of these so-called 'e-alerts' has proven very successful, based on feedback from users after receiving Children's Institute-branded e-mails with links to publication downloads. The 'e-alert' concept has also been used very successfully to distribute

notices of vacancies at the Institute and to request other not-for-profit organisations to advertise Children's Institute resources via their own web sites, mailing lists and newsletters.

A media officer has been appointed during the period under review to assist with the rapidly increasing production and distribution of the Institute's products, as well as to assist with database and web site maintenance and support.

Product mainstreaming

A very specific graphic identity has now been established for Children's Institute products. The planned evaluation of communication outputs next year will be aimed at informing how users perceive and experience the Institute's communication products and branding, and how future outputs can be improved.

Protocols manual

From the initial intention to capture CKM policies and procedures to guide staff members, this protocols manual has now grown to a valuable resource that also include information on all matters related to general and financial administration, human resources and research operations. While the rather lengthy document has been made available on the intranet to enable new staff members to familiarise themselves with institutional policies and procedures and to serve as a protocols reference to the Institute in general, work is now underway to make the manual available in more accessible and user-friendly hard copies as well as a web-interfaced format on the intranet.

Media monitoring

The daily monitoring of the news media for reports or other items related to children's rights, as well as news items that refer to the Institute, has been in place for over two years.

While restricted to a small number of regional and national newspapers, as well as online news media, the results are instrumental in informing staff members of breaking public debates related to children's rights. Staff members to this extent have praised the usefulness of the media monitoring during the evaluation of the use of the intranet.

The media monitoring results often provide the Institute with the opportunity to respond to breaking public 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 Children's Institute

also serve as records of media coverage received, particularly during media advocacy campaigns.

Newsletter

The Children's Institute newsletter, *Child Rights in Focus*, is now in its second year and has been very well received by readers. In particular, the third edition (June 2005) generated a lot of positive feedback after focusing almost exclusively on the eight Children's Institute presentations to the *Fourth World Congress on Family Law and Child Rights*. This conference was held in Cape Town in celebration of the fifteenth anniversary of the signing of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Child Rights in Focus aims to reports on a mix of news on completed research projects, new projects, upcoming events and new publications. It is a bi-annual title 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.

Web site (<http://web.uct.ac.za/depts/ci/>)

The Children's Institute web site continues to be a valuable resource to make information available on research projects, new publications and advocacy campaigns. It also enables visitors to subscribe to publications or provide feedback.

The web site is currently being redeveloped in a more user-friendly format and language.



GRANTS AND FINANCES

At the inception of the 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, an amount of R3,474,326.26 was received as part payment against this award.

	GRANT AMOUNT IN RANDS	GRANT PERIOD	FUNDER
Core grant for the Children's Institute	3,474,326.26	01.07.2004 – 30.06.2005	Atlantic Philanthropies (Pty) Ltd
In addition the following new grants were received for specific projects:			
Strengthening schools as nodes of care and support for vulnerable children	1,044,720.00	26.11.2004 – 30.06.2006	IBIS Regional Civil Society Programme
Children's participation in the Children's Bill	754,915.00	26.11.2004 – 30.06.2006	IBIS Regional Civil Society Programme
Growing up in the time of AIDS: A Children's Radio-Documentary Project	50,000.00	30.08.2004 – 01.09.2005	Open Society Foundation for South Africa
Growing up in the time of AIDS: A Children's Radio-Documentary Project	67,324.62	01.03.2005 – 30.11.2005	United Nations Association of the USA
Institutional Care Project	414,710.00	01.11.2004 – 31.12.2005	Rockefeller Brothers Fund
Caring Schools Project	415,200.00	01.04.2004 – 01.04.2005	Rockefeller Brothers Fund
Means to Live Project	230,615.00	30.09.2004 – 30.11.2005	Rockefeller Brothers Fund
Means to Live Project	460,000.00	01.01.2004 – 31.12.2004	Save the Children Sweden
Means to Live Project	460,000.00	01.01.2005 – 31.12.2005	Save the Children Sweden
Means to Live Project	58,002.50	01.03.2005 – 30.04.2006	Save the Children UK
Children Count Project	336,157.05	01.01.2005 – 31.10.2005	Annie E. Casey Foundation
Children Count Project	200,000.00	01.01.2005 – 31.12.2005	Save the Children Sweden
Total amount received:	7,965,970.43		



RECOGNITION OF OUR SUPPORTERS

The Children's Institute gratefully acknowledges the support of:

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

Our international Board of Advisors has guided us greatly and remains committed to advise on our progress and to 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 SEPTEMBER 2005

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Anthea Arendse	Information Officer: CKM*
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Isabbel Cooper	Grants Administrator
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Marian Jacobs	Director
Lucy Jamieson	Senior Advocacy Officer: Child Rights Programme
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Solange Rosa	Senior Researcher: Child Rights Programme
Prinsleen Segeel	Assistant Researcher: Child Rights Programme
Charmaine Smith	Manager: Communication: CKM*
Lauren Smith	Administrator: HIV/AIDS Programme
Norma Rudolph	Senior Researcher: HIV/AIDS Programme
Maylene Shung-King	Deputy Director & Manager: Child Health Services Programme

VISITING/AD HOC STAFF

Lauren Muller	Review of SA child health laws, policies, programmes, service evaluations: Child Health Services and Child Rights Programmes
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STAFF WHO LEFT DURING 2004/2005

Thozama Bici	Part-time Library Assistant: CKM*
Sonja Giese	Manager: HIV/AIDS Programme
Elizabeth Myburgh	Projects Administrator: Child Rights Programme
Robyn van der Poel	Web site and Database Administrator: CKM*

* Communication and Knowledge Management division



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