

ICDI



International Child Development Initiatives

ICDI Annual Report 2012

Actions speak louder than numbers



Introduction

In the past years there has been a growing call for (financial) transparency of developmental aid organizations. The general public, or maybe better put: the popular media, are demanding information on cost efficiency and impact of projects. Development aid needs to prove its worth, that's what it basically boils down to. Of course there is nothing wrong with that demand. But sadly the only real, tangible effect so far has been ever in volume size increasing annual reports by the different organizations working in the sector. Each organization is trying to outdo the other in pouring out numbers and more numbers. None of this has of course lead to better or more effective projects, only to more paperwork and probably even less confidence amongst the public. For our 2012 annual report ICDI has decided to break this trend. We keep our annual report to an absolute minimum. If you desire more info you can always go to our website. Or you can just email us, or give us a call. We will be happy to tell you about what we do, and are not afraid to share what goes well and what not. But foremost we will want to tell you this: we are proud of our work for vulnerable children around the world, and we believe that what we do makes a difference. Our actions speak for themselves, loudly. We don't need to put a number on that.

Mathijs Euwema, Director

Child Protection

Nicaragua, Sierra Leone, Liberia Ethiopia, Bangladesh, Nepal & Pakistan: **Girl Power!** A programme to promote equal rights and opportunities for adolescent girls



What kind of joint actions can be undertaken by organizations and communities to eliminate gender-based violence and promote women's and children's rights? ICDI is trying to answer this and other questions through the Girl Power programme. ICDI and its local partners are focusing on the reduction of

gender-based violence, the strengthening of child protection services, socio-economic empowerment and the access to quality education of girls and young women in Sierra Leone, Bangladesh, Liberia, Ethiopia, Nepal, Pakistan and Nicaragua. The Girl Power programme will run until 2016, by which time we jointly will have made a significant impact on the lives of adolescent girls and young women and we will have strengthened the capacity of local civil society organizations in delivering quality services, changing social norms, values, and influencing policies that promote girls' rights. Click [here](#) for more info.

*Ukraine: **Get Your Chance!** Towards a better future for institutionalized children and graduates of state boarding schools in Ukraine by improving social services and strengthening life skills*



On the 3rd and 4th of September the project 'Get Your Chance' was successfully concluded with a final conference in Kiev. In the past three years this project has introduced innovative and high impact practices benefiting young people that have to grow up in institutions. These practices are now being disseminated throughout Ukraine. An English subtitled video about activities and results of the project, with interviews with young people and experts who were involved, can be watched by clicking the following link: www.lhsi.org.ua/media

*Belarus: **All Children Included.** A project to promote the well being and future prospects of children growing up in institutions*





2012 was a year of training, with over 120 professionals trained in pedagogical methodologies that support (potential) foster families and staff working in social services. In 2013 the trained professionals will design their own mini-projects, which aim to improve living conditions and future prospects of Belarusian children without parental care. The best mini-projects will be awarded with a grant of € 4000 each. Click [here](#) for more info.

Bulgaria, Germany, United Kingdom and The Netherlands: Combining forces to enhance the prevention of maltreatment and neglect of children in four European Union member states
2012 was the year when the efforts of the consortium running this two year Daphne project were materialized in a number of outputs, both tangible (such as booklets in Bulgarian, Dutch, English languages, and a website) and intangible. The latter included activities like introducing methods and training to various professionals working with children to recognize child abuse and neglect, by improving their capacity to listen to and to take into account the voice of the children. click [here](#) for more info.

Early Childhood Education and Care

*Palestine: **Begin with the Beginning**. Community based Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) in Palestine*



As of 1st of September ICDI and its Palestinian partner organization ECFD Trust, have started a new two year EU funded project: 'Begin with the Beginning'. The main objective of this project is the development of good quality community based Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) services for young children and their families in 8 villages north of Jerusalem and in the Shu'fat refugee camp in East Jerusalem. Click on the following link for more info www.icdi.nl/projects/palestinian

*Ethiopia: **Begin with the Beginning**; Early Childhood Care & Education (ECCE) in Ethiopia*



All planned objectives for the year were met, such as a situational analysis, setting up the local ECEC committees, community based interventions in four locations, and a 3 day ICDI training for ECEC professionals. But the true highlight was that the project team decided and managed to broaden the scope of the project into a new geographical area – the Southern Nation, Nationalities and People's Regional State. The preparation for the expanded intervention is already underway and as a result we expect to reach a much higher number of beneficiaries (children aged 4-6 and their families) than originally planned. Click [here](#) for more info.

Newly Emerging Issues for Children and Youth

*Ireland, Italy, Slovenia, Spain, Poland, Portugal & The Netherlands: **Together Old and Young (TOY)**. Young children and senior citizens learning and developing in intergenerational community spaces.*



The purpose of the TOY project is to create new possibilities for senior citizens and young children to learn and have fun together. This 2-year project is funded by the European Commission as part of the Grundtvig Life Long Learning Programme. All nine organizations from seven European countries participated in TOY's kick-off meeting in Dublin, December 2012. The project has its own website with more information about TOY's partners, activities and publications. www.toyproject.net

Several European countries: Grundtvig Workshop on 'Positive Deviance'.



From 25 to 31 March, we organized an international workshop on how to organize non-formal leisure time activities as a means for social integration of disadvantaged children and youth, based on the so-called 'Positive Deviance' approach (for more info see www.positivedeviance.org). 16 people from eight different European countries participated in this one-week event, which offered them the opportunity to explore the innovative methodology proposed by the Positive Deviance approach and to visit exceptional practices in the Netherlands. Click [here](#) for more information.

Other ICDI Activities

The Netherlands: Training in Child and Youth Development

On 20 December ICDI provided a one day introduction training on Child and Youth Development to eight staff members of Stichting Kinderpostzegels, one of the Netherlands' biggest charity funds for children. Topics of the training included brain development, attachment, disorders of childhood, resilience in children, peer relations, and child abuse. The participants were very enthusiastic and had both a fun as well as an informative learning experience

Bosnia and Herzegovina: Prevention that Works. Evaluation of an after school programme for children from multi-problem families
ICDI's Jordan Iossifov lead this short term project aimed at evaluating an after-school programme, the so called Nest Centers, for children from multi-problem families in six locations in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The assignment focused on the centers' efficiency, impact, sustainability, and the potential for dissemination of the model to other countries. The final report also provided suggestions for the future of the centers and the model, and the donor's role in these.

The Netherlands: 'Parental Involvement in Early Learning: A Review of Research, Policy and Good Practice.'

This report was written and then presented by ICDI's Margaret Kernan at the European Conference on Parenting Support: Think Parents!, The Hague 10-12 October 2012. Click [here](#) for more information.

The Netherlands & the world: Aflatot: the Early Childhood Development programme of Aflatoun



Aflatoun Child Savings International provides social and financial education to children worldwide through the Aflatoun Programme. In 2012 ICDI provided consultancy services to Aflatoun to advise on the development and content of an Aflatoun Programme for the early childhood years called: Aflatot. The Aflatot Programme is currently being piloted in a number of countries. Click [here](#) for more information.

The Netherlands & European countries: ICDI host of Eurochild Early Childhood Care and Education (ECEC) Policy Round Table



On 27 and 28 November, ICDI hosted the Eurochild Thematic Working Group Policy Round Table, Towards a European Quality Framework on ECEC. 45 researchers, policy makers, and NGO representatives from around Europe participated in the two day meeting, which was co-funded by Bernard van Leer Foundation. ICDI's Margaret Kernan presented the ECD-QUAT as an example of an easily accessible quality assessment tool.

Portugal & European countries:

The annual European Early Childhood Education Research Association (EECERA) conference, which this year took place in Porto, Portugal was attended by Margaret Kernan along with 600 other delegates! Margaret presented two papers – one on the ECD-QUAT and another titled: Opportunities and Affordances in Outdoor Play. Click [here](#) for more information.

Russia:

In May, ICDI's Rona and Nico van Oudenhoven participated in a review session in Moscow organised by the World Bank on its activities of promoting Early Childhood Development (ECD) in the country. On 6 December, Nico delivered a key note address at the second international conference on ECD, organized by the Moscow Pedagogical Academy of Preschool Education,



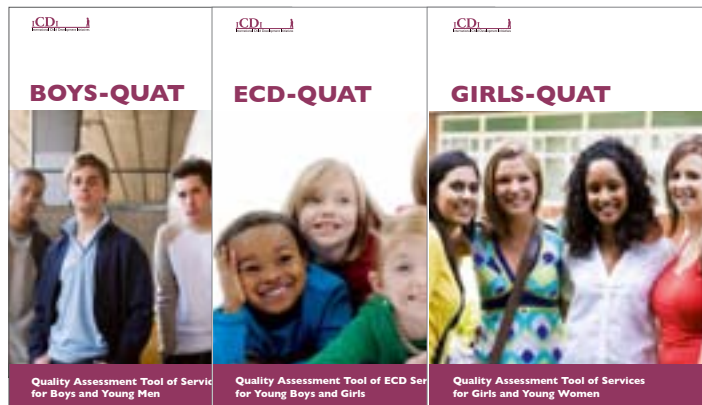
L.S.Vygotsky Institute of Psychology, Russian State University for the Humanities. The topic was on the importance of Culture in the lives of young children. Click [here](#) for more information.

The Netherlands & the world

In 2012 ICDI, together with its university partner the Institute for Social Studies (ISS), once again organized the 10 week diploma course in Child and Youth Development. Ten child and youth care workers from countries around the world took part in sessions covering a wide range of relevant child and youth development topics. Their stay also included a study trip to the neighboring country of Belgium and a visit to a member of the European Parliament. Click [here](#) for more information.

ICDI publications 2012

Universal Psychosocial Indicator for Five Year old Boys and Girls (UPSI-5) & Early Childhood Quality Assessment Tool (ECD-Quat), Girls Quat and Boys Quat



With support from Liberty Foundation we have published the UPSI-5 book and manual, as well as smaller manuals for the three Quats. All are also now available digitally via our website. Click [here](#) for more information.

New Horizons. A Fresh look at Early Childhood Education in Turkey. Jeroen Aarssen and Nico van Oudenhoven (eds.). With contributions from ICDI's Nico van Oudenhoven and Iordan Iossifov. Ankara: NIHA Vakfi (this book can be ordered for free at icdi@icdi.nl)

Parental Involvement in Early Learning: A Review of Research, Policy and Good Practice.

A review of international and national research, policy and practice on parental involvement in early learning was undertaken by Margaret Kernan. The outcome was an online publication and summary leaflet, which is available for download from: <http://bernardvanleer.org>

Home alone... but who cares? Children of labor migrants who stay behind.

Iossifov, I. (Evde Tak Başına... Ama Kimin Umurunda? Göçmen İşçilerin Geride Kalan Çocukları.) Çoluk Çocuk dergisi, 96, pp.50-51. Ankara (published in Turkish)

Can Preschools Reach Out to the Children Who Need Them Most?

Iossifov, I. (Anasınıfları Onlara En Çok Gereksinimi Olan Çocuklara Yardım Elini Uzatabilir mi?) Çoluk Çocuk dergisi, 95, pp.22-23. Ankara (published in Turkish)

Financial Statement

In 2012 ICDI's total income from project subsidies and other donations was € 1 397 187. Of this 85% was spent on ICDI's objectives 'Child Protection', 'Early Childhood Education and Care', 'Newly Emerging Issues of Children and Youth' and 'Child and Youth Participation'. Just 13% was spent on overhead and fundraising costs. This latter figure falls well below the maximum of 25% for such costs as set by Dutch standards for NGOs. ICDI also adheres to the so called 'Code Wijffels'. For the full independent auditor's report please go to www.icdi.nl/publications/year_reports

Board and Staff

Staff:

Mathijs Euwema, Director
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Iordan Iossifov, Senior Programme manager
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Asia Koerten, HR & Finance Manager
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Rekha Wazir, Senior Associate

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