Annual Report 2011

Contents

Introduction

Towards the end of 2010 The Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad) and The Research Council of Norway decided to stop the funding of research networks. This had serious financial consequences for Childwatch International and three other research networks.

Based on an application to Civil Society Department in Norad, Childwatch was allocated a limited budget for activities in 2011, roughly one third of what the network would need to continue the planned and ongoing activities.

The budget frame in this agreement could only accommodate financial support to the most prioritized areas of work, after cancelling support to some of the regional networks, calling off all new planned activities and reducing the staffing of the secretariat with 50%. (From two to one staff.)

The network has since the beginning in 1993, operated in close cooperation, and with co-funding agreements with The Childwatch Key Institutions, Unicef and other partners. Considerable time had to be invested in efforts to limit the negative effects of the reduced funding and the 50% reduction of the capacity of the secretariat.

The work in 2011 has been organised around the three working areas prioritized by the network and reflected in the working plan that was the basis for the one year funding agreement with The Civil Society Department in Norad:

Promotion of child rights through child research, especially in the South, with a focus on:

- Participation and Governance
- Protective Environments
- Violence against Children

Within all these three working areas Childwatch has addressed challenges related to the following cross cutting objectives:

- Further developing research methodologies that helps to build a knowledge base that is better rooted in the experiences of children. A major challenge in this area is to develop approaches appropriate to the experience of younger children.
- Building Child Research Capacity among aspiring academics
- Placing a special focus on the Child Research Capacity in Sub Saharan Africa
- Promote dialogue and sharing in the Practice – Research – Policy Making triangle.

Childwatch is a network where the participants are staff of independent institutions that collaborate on projects and activities in smaller and larger groups. The pattern of collaboration is changing over time, based on the priorities of the participants and on prioritisations done by the board of the network. In many cases the network have financially supported activities for a limited period of time while the collaboration has continued for a much longer period. The members of the network and others who have taken part in events organised by Childwatch have continued networking without any financial support from the network.

The resources of the network, especially the staff of the secretariat and the website have been used by a large number of people and institutions to get access to information and to establish links with people and institutions working on relevant issues. This is an effect of the network that is difficult to document and present in an annual report.

Most of the activities presented in this report have been supported by Childwatch financially in 2011 or earlier. Some of the activities presented have been developed and implemented in consultation with members of the Board, the Secretariat or other active resource people. All activities in this report have benefitted from a much appreciated networking infrastructure that Childwatch International has provided for those responsible for the initiatives and the projects.

The fact that the www.childwatch.uio.no had more than 170.000 visits in 2011 shows that a large number of activities that benefitted from the infrastructure provided by Childwatch, is not included in this report

Core Activities 2011

Participation and Governance:

Prioritising this theme reflects the profound implications, and enormous challenges, of the UNCRC for achieving the recognition of children as citizens with a full range of civil rights, including the right to receive information, to express their views, to participate in decision-making processes, and to freedom of association.

Building Capacity for Ethical Research with Children & Young People

When children and young people participate in research, they are entitled to special protection. Globalized research creates both new possibilities and new ethical challenges for the engagement of children as competent research participants.

Central issues, include how researchers should prepare for the ethical challenges of field work, whether students should conduct ethically complex child research, and whether researchers and institutions need better guidelines.

Cross-cultural child research: ethical challenges

In March 2011, The National Committee for Research Ethics for the Social Sciences and Humanities (NESH), Childwatch International Research Network, and The Norwegian National Commission for UNESCO organized a meeting on key ethical issues that researchers and students face in conducting cross-cultural research with children.

Academics from the Childwatch Key institutions in Norway presented papers in this workshop, Anne Trine Kjørholt from NOSEB and Elisabeth Backe-Hansen from NOVA.

A publication with all the presentations will be soon be published by The National Committee for Research Ethics for the Social Sciences and Humanities. The publication will be used as a basis for a review of the Norwegian Research Ethical guidelines.

The meeting, the publication and the review of ethical guidelines are all results of a Childwatch *initiative.*

Attachment 1: Programme and link to presentations

Childwatch Study Group on the Ethics of Child Research.

In April 2010, the Childwatch Board approved the establishment of a new Thematic Study Group on The Ethics of Child Research.

Phase 1: To undertake an international scoping project entitled Building Capacity for Ethical Research with Children and Young People. This project aimed to identify the ethical issues and challenges in undertaking research with and for children and young people in different majority and minority world contexts; and to identify and collate existing ethics guidelines and resources. It was anticipated that the findings would extend existing knowledge and provide information and resources that could usefully contribute to promoting the conduct of ethical, respectful research in different cultural and social contexts. To the best of our knowledge it is the first international project of its kind to identify and explore the ethical issues facing researchers, in a range of contexts, when undertaking research with children, particularly in relation to participatory research with children.

The report was published in March 2011.

The report can be downloaded on: www.childwatch.uio.no/projects/thematic-groups/ethical-research/

Phase 2: To review the current literature regarding ethical issues in research with children and young people.

The Report was published in July 2011

The report can be downloaded on: www.childwatch.uio.no/projects/thematic-groups/ethical-research/

Phase 3: An international meeting to discuss initiatives to promote ethical standards in child research.

Participants: Academics related to Childwatch, The Director of Research in UNICEF, Academics working on Research Ethics in United Kingdom, Tanzania, New Zealand, Norway, etc.

The meeting was organized in London in July 2011.

The meeting in London and a Childwatch meeting at the Centre for Children and Young People, Southern Cross University, Lismore NSW, Australia, from 4 to 7 December 2011 led to the development of a Joint Project between the Childwatch International Research Network and the UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre.

Phase 4: Joint Project between the Childwatch International Research Network and the UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre

The **aim** of this project is to improve understandings, knowledge and practice regarding what constitutes 'ethical' research with/for/on children and young people within and between different social, cultural and political contexts internationally. While other literature and guidelines have been developed and remain as key resources, the intention is to provide an integrated overall approach to ethical considerations with an explicit foundation in human rights for researchers of child and youth issues.

The **objectives** of this project are to:

a) *Develop an international ethics **Charter** for research involving children and young people* (also linking to the values embedded in the spirit of the UNCRC);
b) *Develop ethics **Guidelines** that could be applied within and across different international (research, policy, practice) contexts*. These need to 'hold' both universal principles (upon which the international ethics charter would be based) and situated contexts. The process of developing these guidelines needs to ensure 'buy in' from a range of researchers (and others) in different international contexts, as well as reflect a breadth of disciplinary interests;
c) *Identify cost effective, flexible approaches to **training / capacity building** for organisations and disciplines seeking to adopt more ethical child and youth research practice in a range of contexts*. This will include the development of a web portal that provides a repository where relevant information, publications and resources can be accessed, as well as offering a potential forum for discussion, advice and support around ethical issues and dilemmas (universal/situated) encountered by researchers, policy makers, practitioners, ethics governance bodies etc.

Attachment 2: Minutes from the London meeting

Building Child Research Capacity in Sub Saharan Africa

Childwatch has over years promoted networking among Child rights researchers in Africa. At all these engagements the urgency to collaborate more strategically and more effectively around relevant and useful child research in Africa has been emphasized. In addition there is broad recognition that presently there are a number of small scale researches with little impact being made across the continent. While this is good for individual researchers and the host academic institutions – this substantive resource is contributing very scarcely to the bigger need for deepening understandings of and with children living in Africa. The annual capacity building taking place at the CODESRIA child Institute is highly regarded and revered, with potentials for expanding the number of participants.

In September 2011 a three week training for 17 academics from 10 African countries on **Children's Agency and Development in African Societies** was organised by CODESRIA in Dakar with support from Childwatch

Attachment 3: Information about the CODESRIA child research training

The Latin America Young Researchers program

The 2011 Young Researchers course, the second one of its nature, was coordinated by CINDE, The International Center for Education and Human Development in Colombia, had 23 participants from the KI and other associate institutions of the LA CWI network from 5 countries. The academic team included several members of CINDE´s team and senior researchers from the KI. The course has been designed with the intention of promoting and strengthening the research capacities of young researchers focused on children and youth, in the institutions of the network in Latin America and the Caribbean. It is backed by the experience in training and research of the institutions affiliated to the network.

The general objective is to develop a learning research experiences with multiple learning modes including a face to face period, e-learning, self study strategies and doing a research project. The training will be using a theoretical practical approach in the fields of early childhood, childhood and youth, from a Latin American critical perspective. This will strengthen the theoretical and methodological research capacities of the new generation of researchers in Latin America.

And the specific objectives are:

1. Strengthening the research capacity of the LA CWI KI and their associates
2. Identify opportunities for cooperated research projects on the issues identified at the regional conferences and related programs and processes of the KI aimed at the fulfilment and promotion of the rights of the children and youth.
3. Use in a productive and collective way the research capacity of the Latin American KI and the strengths of their "senior" researchers in the preparation of a group of junior researchers.
4. Promote the exchange of knowledge and practices between the institutions belonging to the CWI network, drawing on the lessons learned in the fields of early childhood, childhood, adolescence and youth.
5. Development of a training of trainers programme on children and youth research in order to have a permanent staff of teachers-researchers belonging to the Childwatch network institutions, to ensure the sustainability of the processes of training in research on children and youth in the region

The program is designed in a flexible manner to adapt it to the particular needs of each participant, the resources available and their work context. It is based on collaborative learning in which the activities have a high relational component, where communication and interaction among participants, teachers and tutors, is at the heart of the learning process and knowledge production. The final products are the implementation of a research project and the writing of a scientific article for publication in indexed journals or as a chapter in a book on children and youth.

The research project is done by groups made up of participating and advisory senior of different regions or countries, who share problems of common interest theoretical, methodological and common processes, but the field work will takes place in the particular context of each participant.

The course lasted for a year and all the materials for the face to face experience and the on line learning are ready for use with a wider group in 2012. In addition a book about the experience that includes the conceptual bases, the methodology and several articles written by some of the researchers about their research project, is ready to be online in Spanish.

The impact of the Globalized Crisis on Children in Latin America and the Caribbean Region

A report based on a conference organized in 2010 was published towards the end of 2011

Attachment 4: English summary of the articles in the book: "The effects of the globalized crisis on social exclusion processes of children and youth in Latin America and the Caribbean Region"

Child Research Training Middle East and North Africa - Follow up projects

Childwatch Middle East conducted regional training courses in creative research methodologies with young Arab researches which was attended by participants from Oman, United Arab Emirates, Palestine, Jordan, Syria and Lebanon. Another regional training event was conducted on the ethics of involving children in research with the participation of European experts from within the network of Childwatch researchers as well as representatives of INGOs including UNICEF, SOS and Save the Children. The knowledge from these training courses was utilized extensively and strategically to inform at least three large research projects in Jordan. The first project was on The Status of the Girl Child in Jordan which was largely a quantitative research study but also utilized creative research methodologies including collage work with very young female adolescents and writing exercises with older teenagers. The second project, was a study of the rights of Jordanian women married to non-Jordanian men and specifically looked at the impact of the biased laws on the identity of the children from these marriages. This project used structured mind-mapping methodology to explore the young boys and girls' self identification. Both research projects were also guided by the training on research ethics that was provided by Childwatch experts. A third project, a survey of 3500 households in Jordan's urban areas to study different forms of violence, specifically employed ethical references developed by Childwatch to inform the questionnaire's study of violence against children. As part of the preparation for this project, data-collectors who were trained ahead of field research received training on ethical considerations in preparation for dealing with children affected by violence in their homes, on the street or in schools. Trainers from the Information and Research Center (IRC), a key institution of Childwatch Research Network, have been conducting training sessions among community based organisations and smaller NGOs on methodologies of conducting research within their small communities and especially on the most apt tools to reach out to young research participants while remaining aware of the ethical frameworks that safeguard the welfare of those children

Strengthening children's rights by supporting their capacities to self-organize.

The CRC Article 15 Project is a research and development collaboration established in 2011 between WorldVision, Save the Children, UNICEF and Childwatch International with coordination and facilitation by the Children's Environments Research Group (CERG) of the City University of New York. It focuses on Article 15 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) - children's right to meet with others, and to join or form associations. International child-serving non-government organizations have offered increasing support to children's clubs or "child-led groups" in recent years. This is in part because children's groups seem to offer a more authentic, effective and

sustained means of working with children than the kinds of short-term participatory projects that had typically been relied upon in the past as the major way for NGOs to involve children in the fulfilment of their rights. The new kinds of children's groups that have emerged internationally since the adoption of the CRC are built from recognition of the importance of children knowing their rights, and of participating centrally in the execution of their rights, and as a result, they are more deeply participatory than children's groups have hitherto been. However, there has been little critical self-reflection by these new types of organizations, sparse documentation of how they function, and little guidance material for children or adult facilitators on alternative ways to establish, govern, manage and sustain children's own organizations. The primary goal of the Article 15 Project is to find ways to support children's groups internationally to become as democratic and inclusive as they can be. Our focus is upon all groups involving young people up to eighteen years of age.

While not funded by CW, the Article 15 project has been conceived from the outset as a CW project and was introduced to the CW board in its design stage as a project that is designed to work with increasing numbers of KIs as it moves into a regional process of development after two years of foundation work based in New York. In 2011 WorldVision and Save the Children (Norway) funded the first phase of the project to develop resource materials for use by children's groups. CERG has focused on co-developing a set of resources with child groups that are valuable for any child or youth group in the world to use to reflect self critically upon their current organization and how they might change to function in more democratic and inclusive ways. The project has also enabled sharing between a wide range of children's groups internationally about how they function, what they think works well and what they struggle with. A long-term goal is to also create an archive of different models of child groups to show alternative forms of democratic structure, different ways of working with adult facilitators or allies, alternative systems and methods of monitoring themselves and so on that will enable a comprehensive handbook to be created for reference by children's groups and facilitators.

In order to develop the Article 15 Resource Kit in a participatory way, CERG conducted several key activities in 2011. Interviews with child group experts, field visits to child groups, workshops with children and facilitators of children's groups and the creation of an Article 15 website. Workshops were held in Colombia with the assistance of CINDE, a CW Key Institution, and Save the Children and in Nepal with assistance of WorldVision and UNICEF. The primary outcomes from this phase of the project are a co-developed resource kit of materials for child groups and a beginning website

(www.crc15.org).

The General Comment of the CRC on The Child's Right to Play

In 2010 the CW Board agreed to do all that they could to support the plan of the International Play Association (IPA) to raise international recognition of children's right to play. Staff from CERG took the lead on this by assisting with small group meetings, workshops and funding proposals that also included the participation of CW KIs in Mexico and South Africa. In 2011 a report was produced from a series of international consultations and funding was obtained for the drafting of a General Comment on Article 31 for the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child. The committee will meet to finalize this General Comment in 2012.

Protective environments

While formal child protection processes, where they are available, address issues of serious risk in the child's circumstances, it has also become increasingly clear that for most children, their best hope of sustainable care, nurturing and protection lies in resources in the household, the school, the neighbourhood and the village. Understanding better the dynamics of such protective environments is of considerable importance at many levels.

Child Friendly Communities

This project is collaborative research between UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre, Bernard van Leer Foundation and Childwatch. The Children's Environments Research Group in New York, a Childwatch Key Institution is the leading academic centre. The purpose of the collaboration is to improve the quality of the CFC international initiative through the development of assessment and monitoring tools.

An advisory group made up of representatives from CW KIs and UNICEF staff followed the project through periodic meetings and electronic communication. The goal of the project was to design a process and a set of tools to enable communities and cities to assess their child friendliness and to monitor their progress in improving the environmental conditions for the fulfilment of children's rights. A centrally innovative component of this project was to place children and their caregivers at the centre of the assessment process by making them simultaneously both the researchers and the subject of the research.

The project was initiated with seed funding from Childwatch for a project design meeting at the headquarters of the BvL foundation in The Hague, involving representatives from CW Key institutions in Europe, the Philippines and from UNICEF. Subsequent funding of the project came from UNICEF and the Bernard van Leer Foundation, via Childwatch International, in a series of phases from 2009 to 2011. The pilot phase of refining the assessment process and tools was carried out in Manila with the Institute for Filipino Culture, A CW KI, and in Brazil with a well established research partner organization of UNICEF Brazil. The process and tools were then revised and advisers from CW KIs in The Philippines, Spain, and South Africa attended a meeting in Rome to review the process alongside representatives and researchers from UNICEF offices in eleven countries. UNICEF with local research teams in each of these countries then field-tested the tools under the general coordination of IRC and Childwatch, as represented by the CERG KI. The process and tools were then revised by CERG with feedback from all countries and a facilitators guide and the tools were made universally available on line in April 2011 (http://www.childfriendlycities.org/en/research).

In **Mexico**, The Research Program on Infancy and Childhood, Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana-Xochimilco responded in 2011 to a formal petition from 15 municipal districts which include towns and sections of cities with a high rate of crime and violence to start working with the model of Child Friendly Cities. Early 2012 a workshop on child rights, child participation, the logic of working as a network was organized for local authorities and some representatives of the state's institution dedicated to family and child welfare. Through a virtual platform operated by the university, support is provided, discussion forums, bibliography etc. http://envia.xoc.uam.mx/xcsh/3ec_maz/acceso/

Children in Care

The Central and Eastern Europe regional network has identified the care of children in institutionalized settings as their priority area.

In 2011 the concluding outcomes from the Childwatch regional network's meeting in Prague in September 2010 was published in the Special issue of Social Work Forum (a peer reviewed academic journal published by Charles University, Czech Republic).

A planned workshop could not be organised because of the limited funding.

Violence against Children:

The first step to combating violence in childhood is to understand its nature and dynamics. Childwatch is committed to supporting the implementation of the recommendations of United Nations Study on Violence against Children.

The Asia and Pacific Study on Violence against Children

The UN report on violence against children highlighted that lack of research on the socio-cultural aspects of violence. A team of academics from the Asia and Pacific came together to develop a project with an interdisciplinary approach to this issue. The project should be informed by knowledge from a range of disciplines, e.g. social policy, psychology, sociology and law.

The composition of the team was predominantly that of researchers, but also includes practitioners. The team members shared an interest in engaging in research done in partnership with practitioners and policymakers.

In 2011, Tata Institute of the Social Sciences, a Key Institution of Childwatch, with Childwatch funding, organized a two day workshop on Violence against Children in the Asia Pacific Region during 16-18 February 2011. The workshop had participants from India, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Taiwan, Australia, USA and Norway. The workshop arrived at a study design that can be used for studying Violence against Children by the participating Institutions.

Subsequent to the workshop, the Institutions were to independently seek funding for the country projects and prepare a review of literature.

Current state of the project:
There is a literature review from Australia, focusing on the English speaking literature, and summary reviews of the literature from Indonesia and Taiwan.
The fact that funding for follow up of the 2011 workshop is not available, the members of the core group are discussing different modalities for follow up and future collaboration.

Attachment 5 : Summary report of the Mumbai workshop

Protecting Young Children from Violence, CINDE, COLOMBIA

Description of the Project: This initiative aims at improving the quality of protection against violence and maltreatment to young children. A great deal of attention has been given to survival and

development issues during the first years of life. There is very little research on how a violent society affects child rearing practices.

On the other hand reliable information that may lead to good planning, follow up and evaluation, is very limited when it comes to these issues. Indicators in most cases refer to health and education but very few to violence. In fact reporting is almost nonexistent and mechanisms to capture the multiple ways in which young children are badly treated, are almost never available.

Objective of the project: Support families, communities and authorities, at all levels, so that they can ensure safer living conditions for young children in adequate environments and, therefore, contribute to the full development of their potential.

The project will allow to:

- Empower families and communities with better tools to prevent violence and protect young children from this menace.
- Strengthen government bodies and authorities to respond in a better way to the challenge posed by the prevalence of violence in and out of the families.
- Develop community based indicators, in a participatory manner, to strengthen information systems.
- Contribute to the development of better public policies addressed to young children.

Implementation of the Project: the project implementation begun in July of 2010 in the well know and unfortunately very violent Comuna 13 of Medellin, Colombia. Comuna 13 is the pilot site and it is foreseen that from there, by 2013, will reach 10 other sites in different regions of Colombia. Participatory action plans will be prepared in all communities selected.

Partners: The project was developed by CINDE, the International Institute for Child Rights and Development of the Center for Global Studies of the University of Victoria in British Columbia, Canada and the ICDP from Norway. Plan International, UNICEF, World Vision, Save the Children and IOM are part of the advisory committee to the Project. Some state organizations are contributing to their implementation.

Impact: The project will contribute to the improvement of the preventive and protective mechanisms against the violence that affects young children.

Organizational Management and Support

The Board

The Childwatch Board of ten members oversees the implementation of policies and strategic direction between General Assembly meetings. A Board Meeting hosted by Bernard van Leer foundation was organised in March 2011.

During the Board meeting, it was decided that if resources could be made available the network would initiate studies on:

- The relationship between the global agendas for child rights and child research.

- Models for research capacity building that effectively could build stronger child research institutions in low- and middle income countries.

Website

The new web site of Childwatch www.childwatch.uio.no launched in October 2008 has been very successful in gathering and disseminating information about child research - activities and events. An increasing number of UN agencies, NGOs and research centres are using the website to access information and to publish information about their work, publications and conferences. It is fair to say that the web site is considered to be a key resource for information about international child research with a rights perspective. It has given our network and the network Key Institutions increased visibility and gained interest for the network among the network partners.

Some figures from the activity on the website in 2011:

- **More than 170.000 visits**
- **On average, 470 visits per day**
- **Information about and links to 55 journals presenting child research**
- **43 conferences and workshops announced**

The Secretariat

Because of the limited funding the secretariat had a staff of one person in 2011..

Main Activities:

- Implementation of the annual work plan in accordance with the strategic priorities and within available resources supported.
- Dialogue and discussions among member institutions facilitated.
- Initiation of collaborative projects
- Information about current developments and opportunities in child research disseminated to members of the network and others
- Maintenance and editing of the website

Presentations and representation

Below we have listed some of the networking activities that took place in 2011

1. Mary Racelis, Research Scientist at the Institute of Philippine Culture, Ateneo de Manila University and Board member of Childwatch was invited to give a public lecture at Children's Research Centre, Trinity College Dublin on the following topic:
'Growing Up in Informal Settlements: Options for Urban Poor Children and Youth in Developing Countries' in September 2011

2. Robbie Gilligan, the President of the Board represented Childwatch International in a conference on: Developing the global evidence-base for child protection to improve outcomes, UBS Foundation Geneva, 24th October 2011

3. Robbie Gilligan, the President of the Board was Visiting Professor, Dept of Social Work, Charles University, Prague, October, 2011

4. Robbie Gilligan, the President of the Board visited Dept of Social Work, Vytautas Magnus University, Lithuania with the purpose to exploring potential links with Childwatch.

5. Robbie Gilligan contributed participated in research collaboration with the New Bulgarian University, Sofia, another potential for to strengthen work inpartner for Childwatch on themes of child rights, child poverty and de-institutionalization.

6. NOVA, Norway and Queens University, Belfast, have been collaborating in a series of four explorative workshops on aftercare, together with other Nordic researchers from Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden funded by The Joint Committee for Nordic Research Councils for the Humanities and the Social Sciences. The workshop activities resulted in an application for funding from NordCorp. The aim is to conduct comparative analyses of trajectories and critical turning points for young adults formerly in public care who have succeeded in attaining higher education and getting work afterwards. We will know by November whether we get funding or not.

7. Elisabeth Backe-Hansen, NOVA wrote a paper as a contribution to a Government White Paper on young people's participation, which was released in November, 2011. The theme was theoretical contributions to this theme, in particular how the thinking has developed during later years. Input from other members of Childwatch were of great importance in this work.

8. The Research Program on Infancy and Childhood, Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana-Xochimilco, Mexico, has been included in the Latin American Graduate Courses in Infancy Network http://www.posgradosinfancia.org/index.aspx (part of the Equity in Infancy Project directed by Alberto Minujin) and participated along with CINDE and other Latin American institutions in a Virtual Seminar Graduate Courses on Rights and Public Policies for Infancy: Curricula contents, relevance and impact.

Projects implemented by Key Institutions addressing the core issues of Childwatch

Below we are presenting some projects that are addressing the core issues prioritized by Childwatch. These are examples of projects where the members of Childwatch are drawing on their participation in the network as a resource in their work,and developing models of working in their setting or networks which may have wider relevance.

Children's Participatory Assessment Toolkit for Transitional Learning Spaces in emergency contexts, CERG, City University New York

This project builds directly out of CERG's experience in developing tools for assessing community conditions; it was a natural extension for UNICFE to ask CERG to extend this idea of bringing children into the center of environmental assessment processes and tools. CERG has worked in 2011 with the special situation of assessing 'transitional learning spaces' after natural disasters but we intend to build on this more generally for schools. This work was done in collaboration with The Childwatch Key Institution in Manila - The institutes for Filipino Culture at the Atenoa do Manila University.

Transitional Learning Spaces (TLS) are temporary schools designed to last for a short period of time (about 5---15 years) until more permanent schools can be constructed. TLS are typically of poor

design and quality, and because of the cyclical nature of disasters, as well as the challenges of the reconstruction process, TLS often become *de facto* permanent schools. Therefore, the quality of TLS design and construction in emergency contexts is crucial to both the short--- and long---term education attainment of children. This project fills a significant gap in knowledge on children's own perspectives about the quality of their education in emergency contexts. It is the first assessment process designed for transitional learning spaces that not only asks children their views, but also empowers them to be the facilitators of a school---wide evaluation and improvement planning process, with the support of their teachers and caregivers.

In 2011 CERG developed the assessment tools and then field-tested them with a school in Léogâne, Haiti. Our collaborating KI in the Philippines complete theory field-testing of the tool in March of this year. The revised toolkits will soon be made available via the UNICEF and Childwatch websites.

CERG expect to further develop this work in 2012 with funding from UNICEF for the development of a "Children's Participatory Assessment Toolkit for Child Friendly Schools in Situations of Conflict and Peace building". CINDE, the Childwatch Key Intuition in Colombia, will play a central role in the evaluation and refinement of this toolkit. More Key Institutions will be invited to work on the assessment of child friendly schools over the next three years as work is done to introduce an idea that needs to be developed in a culturally appropriate manner in different regions and nations.

Dislocation following the Christchurch Earthquakes: Children and Young People's Experiences, University of Otago, New Zealand

One outcome of the 2010 and 2011 Christchurch earthquakes has been the temporary and permanent dislocation of children and young people from their homes, many to other places in New Zealand. In March 2011 there were 1115 children in Otago (including 404 in Dunedin) out of the 7581 who had relocated to new schools nationwide (Ministry of Education, March 2011). This study seeks to ascertain children's voices about their experiences of post-earthquake relocation. The perspectives of children who relocated to Dunedin and Central Otago are being compared with those who remained in Christchurch. The experiences of school personnel in accommodating relocated children within their schools are also being investigated. This research will make an important contribution to knowledge about children's post-disaster recovery and to the development of improved post-disaster planning mechanisms.

Research Aim and Research Questions

To give voice to children and young people's post-earthquake relocation experiences with a view to improving post-disaster outcomes for children and young people.

What are children and young people's experiences of being relocated to Otago or remaining in Christchurch after the Christchurch earthquakes?

What information, resources and support do children and schools need to deal with the relocation of children and families post-disaster?

What factors contribute to children's adjustment to dislocation, relocation and return after a natural disaster?

Sample

97 children and young people (37 from Dunedin, 9 from Central Otago and 51 from Christchurch)

18 school personnel from schools that have accommodated children relocating from Christchurch (12 from Dunedin and 6 from Central Otago)

Strengthening Parenting in Southland, University of Otago, New Zealand

Our Way Southland is a collaborative community outcomes initiative between Southland's four Councils – Invercargill City Council, Gore District Council, Southland District Council and the Southland Regional Council. A Southland Leaders' Forum, held on 29 September 2009 as part of a regular community consultation process, recommended that a Regional Parenting Strategy be developed for the whole of Southland to engage parents and to ensure the coordinated delivery of the best parenting services, information and support available. Parenting was identified as the most significant of a short-list of four key regional issues. In 2010 the Strengthening Parenting in Southland Focus Group, comprising representatives from central and local government agencies, NGOs and the volunteer sector, was convened to advance development of a **regional parenting strategy**, a **charter** for parents and children, and a regional on-line **database of parenting support services** available throughout Southland. In 2011 the Centre for Research on Children and Families was contracted by Our Way Southland to assist with the research design to provide an evidence base for these initiatives.

Phase One: The research team developed a **questionnaire** for use in telephone, online and face-to-face formats. In July 2011, this was administered to:

700 parents via telephone (a representative sample of Southland households with children aged 0-24 years);

44 'at risk' parents (accessed through local agencies in October 2011);

10 online survey participants.

Phase Two: The CRCF conducted 20 **focus groups** with children and young people across Southland February/March 2012.

The results from both phases are now informing the Regional Parenting Strategy being developed by Our Way Southland (to be launched in September 2012). The Centre will be involved in the Strategy's implementation and evaluation across Southland during 2012-2014.