

*Childwatch*

international research network

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# Annual Report 2000

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Childwatch is an international network for institutions and individuals involved in research for children with the aim of initiating and coordinating research and information projects on children's living conditions and the implementation of children's rights.

**CHILDWATCH INTERNATIONAL  
RESEARCH NETWORK**

**ANNUAL REPORT 2000**

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## 1 Introduction

Major developments in the Childwatch International Research Network in 2000 include the start of the Partnership Programme – a new form of collaboration among the institutions of the Network; the start of a new interinstitutional research programme on children and media; and an international research symposium on children’s participation in community settings. The Network launched a new and re-developed Web site that presents the member institutions and their joint collaboration under the Childwatch International framework.

## 2 Key Institutions

The core of the Childwatch International Research Network consists of institutions and organisations worldwide involved with interdisciplinary child research and committed to international collaboration – the Childwatch International Key Institutions. They are central actors within child research and represent major forces in their countries, regions or thematic networks. An important task of the Advisory Board and the Secretariat is to work with the Key Institutions to serve their information needs, to define research areas of common interest and to develop relevant activities. (Please see Annex 1 for a complete list as of 31 December 2000.)

The Key Institutions conduct research at different levels, on different topics, with various methods and with a variety of target groups. All Key Institutions are inspired by the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and engaged in discussions and research on global issues that affect children’s lives. Such collaboration within the Childwatch International Research Network enhances the individual institutions’ own capacity and research agenda and provides opportunities for playing leading roles in developing child research.

### 2.1 New Key Institutions

In 2000, two new child research groups joined the Childwatch International Research Network as Key Institutions. One of them is the Children’s Research Centre at Trinity College, Ireland (Director: Robbie Gilligan, Web site: [http://www.tcd.ie/Childrens\\_Centre](http://www.tcd.ie/Childrens_Centre)). The other group is CINDE, the International Center for Education and Human Development, Colombia (Director: Marta Arango Nimnicht, Web site: <http://www.cinde.com>).

The Key Institution meeting in 1999 suggested a region-by-region strategy for identifying new Key Institutions, with the aim of recruiting 10 new members by the next Key Institution meeting in 2002. In addition to a general outlook for potential new members in all regions of the world – especially Africa and Asia – the following focus areas were identified as particularly relevant and realistic:

- |         |   |
|---------|---|
| By 2000 | Find members or potential members in central and eastern Europe and more members from Australia, Latin America and the Middle East and North Africa |
| By 2001 | Find members or potential members from Indonesia, the Philippines and the Baltic region   |
| By 2002 | Find members or potential members from the newly independent states of the former USSR (Belarus, Georgia and Ukraine)                               |

## **2.2 Key Institution profiles**

The *Key Institution profile* is a brief information format that gives a quick overview and describes the main fields of research, the professional disciplines and staff and the network of each Childwatch International Key Institution. These profiles meet the demands for information about the research institutions and serve as an important promotional tool in the Childwatch International Research Network. The Key Institution profiles can be accessed at: [http://www.childwatch.uio.no/key\\_institutions/index.html](http://www.childwatch.uio.no/key_institutions/index.html). Whenever possible, the profile is linked to the home page of the Key Institution and its relevant Web information. The profiles are continually updated.

## **2.3 Partnership Programme**

The Partnership Programme was established in 2000 to facilitate a more systematic exchange of experience between Key Institutions. In the spirit of the mission of Childwatch International, the Programme aims:

- to encourage and support collaborative research activities among Key Institutions; and
- to encourage and support organisational development, including infrastructure and activities to develop skills among Key Institutions.

A committee consisting of four Advisory Board members supported by the Secretariat coordinates the Programme. The costs of the Programme are distributed as follows: Childwatch International supports transport and communication and the host Key Institution supports the lodging and living costs of the visiting team. The participating institution supports personnel costs.

The partnership programmes have a diversity of specific outcomes, including:

- development of stronger Key Institutions with specific reference to the two Programme objectives;
- active international, regional and national child research networks;
- collaborative research projects among Key Institutions;
- articles, books and other publications on child research;
- staff development; and
- affecting the practice, policies and legislation that influence children's quality of life.

The first Childwatch International Partnership grant was used to initiate a collaborative partnership between the Children's Issues Centre (CIC) at the University of Otago, New Zealand and the Childhood and Youth Policy Research Unit (CYPRU) at the University of Western Sydney, Australia. The first step in this partnership was a visit by Anne Smith and Karen Nairn of the Children's Issues Centre to Sydney in August 2000. Meetings between the members of the CIC and members of the CYPRU occurred on the two days of the visit. In these meetings, information was exchanged on the research activities of both centres and discussions were held about possible future directions for collaborative research projects. The exchange of information established a valuable basis for future collaboration. Since the meetings, Anne Smith (CIC) and Jan Mason (CYPRU) have been discussing strategies for collaboration between the two centres around a participation project developed by the CIC. It is hoped that the CYPRU will be able to provide a case study, although the two Centres function in different contexts, which means that the development of such collaborative ventures are not straightforward. Negotiations are continuing towards ensuring a productive outcome. In the meantime, CYPRU members plan to contribute to the CIC's Conference on Children and their Environments in July 2001 and, following the Conference, to have meetings with CIS members to further develop strategies for collaborative ventures.

The Consortium on Children, Families and the Law, through the Institute on Family & Neighborhood Life at Clemson University, has set up a partnership programme with a developing consortium of child research centres in the Czech Republic (a potential Key Institution) that is currently based at the Center for Substitute Family Care in Prague, a nongovernmental organisation that includes research in its mission. The Center for Substitute Family Care is likely to become the ultimate base in a proposed Center for Children's Rights at the University of South Bohemia in Ceské Budejovice. The planned project: Collaborative Research on Political Socialization, Child Participation, and Child Welfare, is intended in part as the next step in the project on the significance of political and economic transformations in the lives of children (see 5.1).

### **3 Advisory Board**

The ten-member Advisory Board met in Oslo on 22–24 June at the University of Oslo campus. In addition to the regular review of ongoing and planned activities, the meeting's main agenda items included the Partnership Programme – status and future plans; new Key Institutions; the role and use of the Childwatch International Senior Fellow post; the new Childwatch International Web site and how Key Institutions use it; orientation about the Business Board; and orientation about the Child and Youth Research Programme of the Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa (CODESRIA) (see 7). The meeting also included an open session with child researchers from institutions in the Oslo area, and it was followed by the research symposium on Children's Participation in Community Settings (see 5.5).

### **4 Business Board**

The tasks of the Business Board are to supervise the administrative and financial matters of Childwatch International and thus to provide important support to the Secretariat. The Business Board has five statutory members; two representing the Advisory Board, two representing the main contributors to Childwatch International core budget or other institutions or individuals supportive of the cause of Childwatch International, and the Executive Director. The members are elected for three years at a time. Please see Annex 3 for information about current membership.

The Business Board met at the University of Oslo on 6 March 2000. At the meeting the current job descriptions for Director and Research Coordinator were reviewed. It was agreed that the Secretariat needs a strong team that can support the Key Institutions in their institutional development and can support the development of collaborative research activities in the network. Thus, it was decided to replace the current Research Coordinator post with a Childwatch Senior Fellow post. The functions of the Senior Fellow would mainly be to assist individual Key Institutions in their institutional capacity-building and in developing research strategies. A Search Committee was appointed with the view of identifying well-qualified candidates for the post. Ideally, the post would be filled from January 2001, with incumbents that are given contracts of one to two years. The time limitation of contracts would ensure a distribution of various types of expertise over the years. The financial situation was discussed and analysed, focused on the accounts for 1998 and 1999 and the budget for 2000.

## **5 Projects of the Childwatch International Research Network**

Childwatch International projects should be based on the comparative advantage of networking and on the common interests in research efforts with a global scope. The following projects were underway or in various stages of completion in 2000:

- the significance of political and economic transformations in the lives of children;
- use of child research in international organisations;
- children and media;
- Growing Up in Cities;
- research on children's participation;
- the rights of the child to health and a safe environment; and
- the International Network on Children's Health, Environment and Safety (INCHES).

### **5.1 The significance of political and economic transformations in the lives of children**

The working group in charge of the project (Gary Melton and Natalie Kaufman of the Consortium on Children, Family and the Law; and Irene Rizzini of the Center for Research on Childhood (CESPI)) is now working on several types of material for publication. This is material that was prepared for or based on the two international workshops held in 1998. A series of articles will be a first step in presenting the debate and work on a research agenda, together with a book with specific contributions from several Childwatch International members.

The following articles have been submitted for a probable special section of *American Psychologist* (Journal of the American Psychological Association): an article by Natalie Kaufman and Virginia Murphy Berman (Skidmore College) on the need for a cross-cultural perspective sensitive to cultural diversity; an article by Gary Melton that reviews the significance of democracy in child development; and a suggested research agenda developed by Ross Thompson (Department of Psychology, University of Nebraska at Lincoln) and Gary Melton.

A volume to be published as a book will elaborate further the study group's contributions from the two workshops mentioned above. Natalie Kaufman and Irene Rizzini will be editing the book. The chapters explore the global context of contemporary international relations and current global trends and how they are affecting the everyday lives of children. The contributors also advance the understanding of how conceptualisation of the world and the research into the domains of globalisation have generally excluded children. The book will offer guidelines to enable researchers, policy-makers and other child advocates to increase their attention to how global change is affecting children and what knowledge and interventions would be useful in understanding and developing policies likely to further the well-being of children.

The working group in charge of the project has been in contact with other Key Institutions and has added chapters for the volume from Colombia and New Zealand.

### **5.2 Use of child research in international organisations**

The purpose of the project is to discover what sources of research on children the staff of international organisations actually know and use in developing policy and programmes. What research and information do they regularly consult and use, and what additional knowledge do they feel would be useful? The findings will help to identify what research should be undertaken to respond to the perceived needs of international organisations and to describe how to get the results of that research considered by staff within international organisations.

The initial objective of the project was to assemble a committee of experts on international organisations to advise the task force on implementing the plan for the project. The first meeting of the advisory group of experts was held in Washington, DC on 16 May 2000 at the offices of the American Psychological Association. The participants identified a diverse group of experienced scholars and practitioners in the Washington, DC area, which facilitated meetings and reduces costs. The participants included three task force members: Gary B. Melton, Natalie Kaufman (both from the Consortium on Children, Families and the Law) and Francisco Pilotti (Instituto Interamericano del Niño). Pilotti provided some important background research he is conducting that would provide a framework for the complex organisational environment in which decisions about information use are made. Other participants were Joan Buchanan, Director of the Office of International Affairs of the American Psychological Association; Eliana Cardoso, Sector Manager on Economic Policy at the World Bank; Judith Torney-Purta, Professor of Human Development at the University of Maryland and International Steering Committee Chair of the International Education Association Civic Education Study; Steven J. Klees, Coordinator of the International Education Policy Program at the University of Maryland; and Clarence Shubert, formerly with UNICEF in Asia and now a consultant on international projects.

The task group has identified general principles of research use from a survey of the literature and is ready to design a set of questions for the first meeting of the policy and programme staff members in international organisations. They are especially interested in staff who play a key role in filtering and synthesising the research and information, which provides the basis for recommendations for policies and programming with the organisation, even if they are not the final decision-makers. They are also developing a set of examples of effective use of research by international organisations. Finally, they are compiling a bibliography of literature that is relevant to the project. The advisory committee members have agreed to help develop a list of people to invite to the next meeting and to consult on the questions to be addressed. A meeting with selected international organisation staff is planned for early 2001, to gain further insights into the information sources that are generally consulted and also what additional research staff see as necessary to their work.

One outcome of the early task force work is that *American Psychologist* has invited Judith Torney-Purta and Natalie Kaufman to develop and co-ordinate a special section on how child research is used in international organisations. This section would appear in the journal's series on International Perspectives in Psychology. The invitation offers an especially important opportunity for the task force work to reach a large number of scholars and practitioners, given the relatively large circulation of the journal.

### **5.3 Children and media**

In 1999, Ferran Casas of the Catalan Network of Child Researchers (X.C.I.I.I.) initiated collaboration with the Child Research Net in Tokyo to develop a framework for international collaboration on a study of the interaction between children and media.

The research project arises from the interest in developing broader understanding about children's conditions of living in the contemporary media environment (the new media ecology). Knowledge is needed about how media positively and negatively affect children's learning and socialisation, children's rights and children's future quality of life. Such knowledge could be applied to eliminate or reduce the negative effects and to increase or support the positive ones.

Most of the co-ordinators of the research teams from Key Institutions involved in the children and media research project met at the Unit for Child and Youth Research, Tata Institute of Social Sciences in Mumbai, India, in December 2000: Usha Nayar (Unit for Child and Youth Research), Irene Rizzini (Center for Research on Childhood), Rose September (Institute for Child and Family Development, University of the Western Cape), Per Egil Mjaavatn (Norwegian University of Science and Technology) and Ferran Casas. The descriptive preliminary results of the research developed by the colleagues from the Child Research Net was also presented at the meeting.

The respective teams are all active in the research project, although in different stages of the process. All the teams have tested a provisional translation of the questionnaires developed for the project. At the meeting they discussed in considerable detail all the items and aspects of data collecting. A referential English version was adopted for teams that cannot translate directly from the original versions in Spanish. Some minor aspects of the two original Spanish questionnaires (one for children and one for parents) were also improved, and two general items were added to the children's questionnaire, as well as some items on the use of mobile telephones. An agenda was prepared for the next meeting, to be held in conjunction with the next Advisory Board meeting in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in September 2001. One important conclusion of the December 2000 meeting was that this project should be closely related to a capacity-building project.

The period 2001–2002 has been designed as the basic period for data collection. The period 2003–2004 has been conceived as a period for developing studies and debates in depth to identify the key aspects of better understanding how to implement quality programmes to effectively support parents and teachers, and also children themselves – and then to make such products a reality, which will be tested and evaluated.

#### **5.4 Growing Up in Cities**

Growing Up in Cities is a revival of a project that was first directed by the urban planner Kevin Lynch as part of UNESCO's "Man and the Biosphere" programme in the 1970s. The project uses participatory action-research methods to involve young people in evaluating and discussing their urban environment and in developing proposals for its improvement. At the same time, it seeks to increase public awareness and to influence municipal decision-making related to children in cities.

The project is supported by the MOST Programme (Management of Social Transformations) in the Social and Human Science Sector of UNESCO, in collaboration with numerous other organisations around the world, including Childwatch International. Louise Chawla, now at Whitney Young College, Kentucky State University, developed plans for reviving the project while she was a Fulbright Scholar in the Children and Environment Programme of the Norwegian Centre for Child Research from 1994 to 1996, working closely with Childwatch International. As International Coordinator, she now coordinates a multidisciplinary network of project directors in various countries around the world.

Phase one of Growing Up in Cities included sites in eight countries: Buenos Aires, Argentina; Melbourne, Australia; Bangalore, India; Warsaw, Poland; Trondheim, Norway; Johannesburg, South Africa; Northampton, United Kingdom; and Oakland, California, USA. In four of these eight sites, children and youth became involved in designing and constructing community improvements or influencing urban policy to better accommodate children's needs. Based on this first phase, UNESCO and Earthscan are co-publishing a manual by David Driskell, *Creating Better Cities with Children and Youth*, and a book of case studies edited by Louise Chawla, *Growing Up in an Urbanizing*



*World*. The books are scheduled for publication in September 2001. UNESCO and the Human Sciences Resource Council of South Africa co-published *Growing Up in Canaanland*, a book on the South African squatter camp site, in 2000. The United Nations Centre for Human Settlements features the project in a directory of best practices for the creation of sustainable settlements.

In the project's second phase, five additional locations have been added in Johannesburg, South Africa and new locations have been initiated in Göteborg, Sweden; Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea; Frankston, Australia; and Saida, Lebanon. A version that will include literacy training for street children in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam is in the planning stage. Project members respond on an ongoing basis to requests for materials and information from researchers, youth workers and officials from urban areas around the world.

In November 2000, Childwatch International was invited to send a representative to the IVth International Forum Towards Child-Friendly Cities, sponsored by UNICEF, the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements, the Government of Italy and the Municipality of Florence. At the forum, possibilities for future research links were explored between the UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre in Florence and the Childwatch International and Growing Up in Cities networks. For more information about Growing Up in Cities, see: <http://www.unesco.org/most/growing.htm>

### **5.5 Research on children's participation**

In 1999, the Advisory Board decided to focus on a new priority area: assessing the effects of children's participation in decision-making on the children themselves, on the institutions that foster participatory processes, on families and on communities. Gary Melton, President of the Advisory Board, and Louise Chawla, International Coordinator of the Growing Up in Cities project, were asked to lead an initial planning group. In collaboration with Natalie Kaufman and Susan Limber (both from the Consortium on Children, Families and the Law), they developed a project outline, including topics for a larger working group, areas of expertise required and plans for an expert workshop.

In June 2000, the research symposium Children's Participation in Community Settings was held at the University of Oslo in collaboration with the UNESCO MOST Programme. The symposium brought together Advisory Board members of Childwatch International, members of the Growing Up in Cities project and other experts to review and plan research on children's participation in different settings of community life. In addition to a commitment to children's rights, including the right to participate in decisions that affect their lives, Childwatch International and the MOST Programme share commitments to multidisciplinary research, comparative international research and the application of research to policies to improve children's lives. Within this framework, the symposium was intended to summarise what is known and what needs to be known about the following questions.

- 1) In what ways do children participate in various settings?
- 2) What are children's beliefs and attitudes about their participation? What are the conditions under which they believe that they are being treated as partners?
- 3) What happens when children participate? What are the outcomes for the children themselves and the settings of which they are a part?

Drawing together the papers and discussions, the symposium organisers are preparing a variety of publications, such as an edited book and thematic issues of relevant international journals. A bibliography of selected publications on children's participation drawn from the bibliographies of the various concept papers was assembled. More information about the symposium is available at: <http://www.childwatch.uio.no/projects/participation/symposium.html>.

## **5.6 The rights of the child to health and a safe environment**

A group consisting of representatives from the Canadian Institute of Child Health, the Programme on International Rights of the Child (United Kingdom) and the Institute for Child Rights and Development (Canada) are working to develop an outline for a new project: *The rights of the child to health and a safe environment*. The objective of the project is to create a framework that includes guidelines for monitoring and reporting on the Convention on the Rights of the Child: linking children's rights within the human rights context to environmental and health rights through the harmonisation of various monitoring and reporting systems.

The point of departure for the proposed study is the fact that issues relating to the environment and the importance of environmental factors to children's health are almost invisible in reporting to the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child. The thesis is that understanding of and consciousness about environmental issues and how the environment affects children's health has increased. This should be reflected in the reporting, but as there are no requirements for this, the themes seem to be neglected.

## **5.7 International Network on Children's Health, Environment and Safety (INCHES)**

The International Network on Children's Health, Environment and Safety (INCHES) is a global network of people and organisations interested in promoting the protection of children from environmental and safety hazards. INCHES was launched in August 1998 at the International Conference on Children's Health and Environment in Amsterdam. Childwatch International and the Dutch Association of Environmental Medicine were the key partners in establishing INCHES. The mission of INCHES is to promote healthy and supportive environments that protect the foetus and child from environmental and safety hazards. INCHES represents many interests and speaks from the experience and expertise of its members, of science and of the best practices in policies and programmes. Promoting children's health requires protecting them from harmful environmental exposure, including harmful physical, chemical and biological microorganisms and pollutants in water, air, soil and food.

Partners from all regions work together in INCHES to achieve the following aims:

- increasing understanding of and agreement on how environmental factors influence child health;
- creating a global clearinghouse of research and information on children's environment and health;
- educating and facilitating information exchange on the best practices and policies in children's environment and health;
- identifying information gaps and stimulating new research; and
- advocating for children's environment and health in the intergovernmental arena.

Several Childwatch International Key Institutions have been involved in establishing INCHEs, especially the Canadian Institute of Child Health, the Center for Independent Ecological Programs, Socio-Ecological Union (Russian Federation) and the Norwegian Centre for Child Research. The Childwatch International Secretariat helped develop the INCHEs Web site, where more information can be found. In the summer of 2000, it was transferred to the Canadian Institute of Child Health, where it can be found at <http://www.inchesnetwork.org>.

In January, a project initiated by INCHEs and the National Institute of Public Health, Denmark started with financial support from the European Commission. The project *Health effects of noise on children and perception of the risk of noise* was carried out by partners in Denmark, the Netherlands, Sweden and Portugal. At the end of 2000, the European Commission granted funds for a new project: *Children and noise – prevention of adverse effects*. The Project Leader is Lis Keiding, and the Project Coordinator is Marie Louise Bistrup, both from the National Institute of Public Health, Denmark.

*The IX International Conference: Children's Health and Environmental Risks* was held in Legnica, Poland on 2–3 June 2000, organised by the Foundation for Children in the Copper Basin, Legnica, Poland, with the co-operation of Euro-INCHES.

In August, Euro-INCHES and the Department of Occupational and Environmental Health at the Institute for Public Health of the University of Copenhagen initiated an project on Children and Genotoxic Exposure. An application has been sent to the European Commission for funding for a large European project with partners from 11 countries.

Members of the INCHEs Coordination Committee met on 18 and 19 November in The Hague, the Netherlands. The members of the Coordination Committee were asked to consider the role of the Coordination Committee as the potential board of a foundation. Since no proposal was made at the meeting, the Coordination Committee still regards INCHEs as a loose network that will attract new members based on activities and projects.

INCHEs is included in the European (Environmental Health) Advisory Group, which was renamed the European Health and Environment Network (eHEN). It consists of the major environmental (health) nongovernmental organisations in Europe. This Network will work towards input for the Fourth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health in Budapest in 2004.

Initiatives have been taken to establish chapters or regional sub-networks in the Americas and in the Russian Federation.

## **6 Children's House in Cyberspace**

Children's House in Cyberspace was founded in 1996 to serve as an electronic meeting-place for those working for and with children at the professional level, whether within research, programming, planning, advocacy, legislation or policy-making. A collaboration of several Childwatch International Key Institutions, Children's House has a very wide audience around the world: more than 1000 Web sites provide a link to the Children's House Web site.

Children's House is managed by a House Committee, which prepares and decides on the number of entry points or themes in the House. The main entry points are called floors, in line with the house metaphor, and serve as an information resource on areas such as Early Childhood, Child Health, Children's Rights, Child Research and Information Resources.

Children's House and the House Committee made a major transition in 2000, moving the maintenance of the Children's House Web site from the Childwatch Secretariat to one of the Key Institutions, the Family Life Development Center (FLDC) at Cornell University. This also meant changing server and address, to: <http://child-abuse.com/childhouse>. House Committee Chair Tom Hanna of the FLDC manages this new address. The move allows for continuous technical support for the Children's House initiative, donated by LifeNET, Inc. It also makes Children's House a full partner of the global Child Abuse Prevention Network (<http://child-abuse.com>). More than 300,000 people in 80 countries use the Network's Internet resources every year. The partnership means that every visitor to the Network has an opportunity to learn about Children's House and Childwatch International.

Major work is expected in the coming year to continually enhance the Web site. The transition was worked out in extensive e-mail discussions among members of the House Committee. Those who functioned as the sub-committee for the transition included: Per Miljeteig, Director, Childwatch International; Deborah Whithear, Australian Institute of Family Studies; Bernard Combes, UNESCO; Anne Kielland, the World Bank; Roberta Cecchetti, European Forum for Child Welfare; and Tom Hanna, FLDC.

With a new location and consistent technical support, Children's House has now embarked on working to update resources, strengthen the House Committee and continue to be a supportive component of Childwatch International. Specifically, the joint commitment to make it a "virtual resource" was re-confirmed in 2000. The mission statement remains: "Children's House is an interactive resource centre – a meeting place for the exchange of information that serves the well-being of children. Dedicated to supporting the generation and dissemination of knowledge about children's issues, Children's House facilitates the translation of the benefits of research and programming into policy and practice. The most important criteria for placing information in the House are the needs and concerns of children. Any specific institutional interests or promotion are generally more appropriately placed within individual Web sites."

## **7 Other relevant activities**

In collaboration that started in 1995, Childwatch has assisted the Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa (CODESRIA) in developing and implementing a Child and Youth Studies programme. The main objectives of the programme are to initiate and support capacity-strengthening within child research in African countries; to support publication from such research; and to facilitate and support networking among child researchers. The programme gives grants to new research projects and holds workshops with the grant receivers. Childwatch International Director Per Miljeteig is a member of the Scientific Committee for the programme. Childwatch International Key Institutions are represented through Rose September from the Institute for Child and Family Development, University of the Western Cape. Childwatch International has collaborated with CODESRIA in giving support to national working groups on child research that are established under the programme. In 2000, such groups were established in Côte d'Ivoire and Nigeria. It is hoped that these groups will lead to the formation of structures that can join the Childwatch International Research Network as Key Institutions.

## **8 Organisational matters**

### **8.1 Childwatch International Web site**

In 2000, the Childwatch International Web site (<http://www.childwatch.uio.no>) was totally redesigned. With the assistance of a professional Web design agency, the Secretariat developed a new design for the pages as well as a more user-friendly site format. During this process, the Web sites of Growing Up in Cities and Children's House in Cyberspace moved to other servers and are no longer updated by the Secretariat of Childwatch International.

The main purpose of the site reconstruction was a wish to make the Key Institutions and their activities more visible. In addition to the overview of Key Institutions and links to their respective home pages, an important part of the new site is the News section, where the Key Institutions can place information about publications, upcoming conferences and events and other activities and projects at their institutions. The secretariat sends regular updates by mail to all of the Key Institutions when new material is published. The site also includes information about Childwatch International, its projects and a broad range of links to other resources on children and children's rights outside the Network.

### **8.2 Funding and support**

The Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs continued to provide funds for the Secretariat and its activities in 2000, and the Secretariat received substantial support from the Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Oslo.

### **8.3 Human resources**

Per Miljeteig worked full time as Director through July, and since then part time (50%). Project Officer Sara Brolin finished her contract in November and is now working for the Swedish Institute for Social Research at Stockholm University. Project Assistant Pernille Skotte went on parental leave at the end of March and has temporarily been replaced by Håvard Bjerke.

#### **8.4 Office space and infrastructure support**

Childwatch International continues to have offices at the Blindern Campus of the University of Oslo, as part of the agreement of collaboration between Childwatch International and the University. Through this agreement, the University of Oslo provides substantial infrastructure support to Childwatch International.

### **9 Collaboration with other organisations**

Childwatch International continues to collaborate with UNESCO, UNICEF, WHO, members of the Save the Children Alliance, Child Rights Information Network and others. Several of these organisations are also engaged in maintaining Children's House in Cyberspace, together with several Key Institutions.

## **ANNEX 1 - Childwatch International Key Institutions and directors**

**Canadian Institute of Child Health**, Ottawa, Canada

Executive Director: Dawn Walker

**Caribbean Child Development Centre**, School of Continuing Studies, University of the West Indies, Kingston, Jamaica

Acting Director: Sian Williams

**Catalan Network of Child Researchers (X.C.I.I.I.)**, Girona, Spain

Director: Ferran Casas

**Center for Child Development**, Hong Kong Baptist University, Hong Kong, People's Republic of China

Director: Sing Lau

**Center for Children and Youth**, JDC-Brookdale Institute, Jerusalem, Israel

Director: Jack Habib

**Center for Independent Ecological Programs**, Socio-Ecological Union, Moscow, Russian Federation

Director: Maria Cherkasova

**Center for Research on Childhood (CESPI)**, Universidade Santa Ursula, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Director: Irene Rizzini

**Centre for the Child and Society**, University of Glasgow, Glasgow, UK

Co-directors: Stewart Asquith & Malcolm Hill

**Centre for Family Research**, University of Cambridge, Cambridge, UK

Director: Martin Richards

**Centro de Investigaciones para la Infancia y la Familia (CENDIF)**, Universidad Metropolitana, Caracas, Venezuela

Director: María Angélica Sepúlveda

**Child Research Net**, Tokyo, Japan

Director: Noboru Kobayashi

**Childhood and Youth Programme**, European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research, Vienna, Austria

Director: Renate Kränzl-Nagl

**Childhood and Youth Policy Research Unit**, Department of Social Policy and Human Services, University of Western Sydney Macarthur, Campbelltown, Australia

Director: Jan Mason

**Children's Environments Research Group**, City University of New York, USA  
Co-directors: Roger Hart & Selim Iltus

**Children's Issues Centre**, University of Otago, Dunedin, New Zealand  
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