

National Reports

Fact Sheet

Argentina

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Name of Organisation:
“Vicente Catalano” un Centro de los Madres in Suarez,
in foundation.

Address of the Group

- Sonia Sanchez,
San Martin 8142, Jose Leon Suarez
C.P. 1655, San Martin, Suarez
- Mirta Justina Belizan,
San Martin 1111, Jose Leon Suarez
C.P. 1655, San Martin, Suarez
- Renate Stein
3497 Charcas, Federal Capital
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Contact Person, Renate Stein

Initiative and process of foundation December 05/Januar 2006

At the moment we are working (Initiative group) with about 15 women and there families, about 35 children (0- 12 age) and 10 young persons. The families live absolute in poverty. The income level in cutting through is 0 – 400 Peso argent. (100 € pro family/ month). The majority is working by collecting rubbish. They have problems with drugs by the children from 5 years on and encroachment of violence again women and children is normal. Our participants have bad school education and many child mothers in the age of 13 years haven 1-2 children and they are not able to lead a house keeping. We think that the education together is important and must begin in this place on the “kitchen table”. With the basics of hygiene and nourishment .

Now we can reach about 100 Families and in the future more than 300 families can profit.

We have the process for the foundation and we will organize a Mother Centre. We would like to work with this conception because we are sure, that is the best possibility for help by themselves and give tools in the empowerment for mothers with her children. By this way we can contribute for a good neighbourhood in a basic form.

At the moment we have not a core funding, but our idea is open also in the night time.

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The very important point is:

- midday lunch for and with mothers and the children (“the university at the kitchen table”) That will be our leading idea.
- Care for the children and help by the homework
- Active offers with dancing and singing, this will be an own project.
- Training in hygiene and nourishment
- Workshops for learning little hand works (hear cutting, cosmetics and needle work),
- legal aid.

- the activities are funded through private and economy spends. We will build fund rising.

Our organisation is run by grassroots women

The house building will be work by voluntary and many creative activities too, but the working parts of cleaning, cooking and care and help for the children regularly we would like to paid with little money.

We are building good contacts to churches, sports, economy and political networks in Germany and in Argentina. The network Mother Centre would be help not at leased.

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At this moment we are a self help group in the midst of a quarter with poor people from Suarez, Buenos Aires. We are not a Mother Center, but we will found one. For that reason we will answer the questions so far as possible.

1.) Why was your group founded?

We met people of this poor urban area at the "world social forum 2005 in Porto Alegre, Brasilia".

There are the key persons for our grassroot group in Suarez, Buenos Aires. We built friendship and work groups. Together we would like to work in the spirit of the social forum: "otro mundo es posible". Many dialogs followed. I am read about the possibility the organisation and the ideas the "Mother Center" international. We think that's a good way for make parents with her children powerful and give empowerment to the neighbourhood.

2.) Was there a direct cause for its creation?

At the beginning the group have the idea from a community house in the middle of the quarter, they would like to built in self help and would like organise services that they need.

3.) What are the goals and aims of your group?

Basic education in the way of peer to peer, is our head goal. The child mothers in Suarez for example no have any ideas "how to raise her children". The poor families no have any chance to change their life without basic education . They are in a devil circle and could not participate in society life and not have any future.

4.) What is your mission?

To give parents the possibility to win their own empowerment, to find the way out of her dreary situation and give a human live. With the tool of encouragement and the many experience the "mothers" word wide. I will pass on the idea the Mother Centre witch I know from my own city in Germany. Because it is a tool for families to life human al over the word.

5.) What changes are you aiming for in society?

6.) What improvements to your community have you been able to accomplish?

We are in South America, the democracy is youth and the self-managed working with people not have a position of trust. However in these processes, the community will see good fruits after many times and will see the fruits of basic innovation and the people will be able to change her social live.

7.) What talents and skills are developed in your group?

We have women with great social competence, some have worked in churches or social "cooperativas". Some of them, written many ideas, witch can help the families in their own

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neighbourhoods. In our group you will find women with skills of different hand working, cooking, singing and dancing with the children and many creative ideas.

8.) What influence do you have in your community and/or in your society?

The politic community ignorance the situation, but buy the way, we will built the contact too. I was working many years with Mother centre in Germany. As I came to Argentina, and we become acquainted with families, some of the women told me her dreams for her families, and asked me, to give my experiences to them. My part in this group is the motivation to build awareness that this "little group" have the power and the knowledge to change her life situation.

9.) What are examples of policy changes you have been able to effect

I think, when the people and families grow up in the experience of recognition and empowerment. They are able to knowledge they rights and are able to care their children and take responsibility for their urban area too.

10.) Do you work with specific methods or tools in your group? If so what are they? And why have you chosen them?

We belief that creativity, special form of dancing and theatre, bring a important learning back round. It gives the possibility to learn many competence in a good way with fun and reliability. The experience with many groups in Germany witch worked in this way show it and have a social learning effect. Therefore we will try it in Suarez and we have the contacts now to do it. A dancing project that we mean is leaded with professional dancing leaders and our layman people. We are inspirit from the film "The rhythm is it" and we are working to organised it with the mothers and the children in our group. The professionals dancers would help us to learn, that profession no is ever learned by one way straight on, but what we need is familiarity, teamwork and fun to win the finish line. On the other hand it is important to bring staying power and encouragement each other. We are not sure , if it will succeed, but we will try it with all our power and imagination.

11.) How do participants join your group and how do they participate in decision making?

We will built basic groups, the structure is in the moment in movement. At present we have neighbourhood groups which give there decision at al activities.

12.) Would you call your group a movement or part of a movement? If so, why, if not, why not?

In my opinion our group is part of a movement. Any people in the group have the knowledge about basic democrat

13.) What is your interest in Mother Centers? (+ Answer : 4.)

Proclaim the experiences of family and mother center. As a way of building up a society up from the raises to a safe and healthy future.

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14.) Where do you see similarities between your group and your work and Mother Centers?

15.) Where do you see the main differences between your group and the Mother Centers?

At this moment the basic group is a Neighbourhood work with the idea to build a community house together. If they hear from the conception Mother Center, they would like this, because many women are working in similar form for long time and they were always disappointed. The women witch have heart, they are inspired and will do that.

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Fact Sheet	Bosnia and Hercegovina, Tuzla
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Name of Organisation	Humanitarian Association "Prijateljice" Tuzla
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Fax Number	++ 387 35 245 210 (211)
Tel Number	++ 387 35 245 210 (211)

When was your organisation founded?

International organization Amica e.V. Freiburg Germany opened the office in Tuzla in 1994, and in 1996 was transformed to the local humanitarian association "Prijateljice".

How many women, men and children participate actively in your groups?

Participants are:

*A/ 80 children with special needs from four elementary schools on region Tuzla,
B/ Parents of children participants and
C/ 20 teachers mentioned children.*

What is the composition of your members and participants in terms of age, family status, income level, social status, ethnic background?

In what of the above categories is your group homogenous and where is there diversity?

Our members are children with special needs (meaning children with physical and psychical disabilities, refugees and returnees, children without parents, children of minorities and Roma children). In activities are include children 6 – 12 years old. Partner schools are in the rural areas where some of big problems are unemployment, poverty, obsolete system of educations and discrimination. Majority of our target groups are Muslims / Bosniaks.

How many families do you reach through your activities?

Trough activities we reach families of our children participants.

How is your organisation funded?

Grants from international organizations, local and cantonal government donation, membership fees, income from own services.

Do you have core funding?

no

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What kind of activities do you have?

1. *psychosocial and counselling support*
2. *civil society education and local community empowerment*
3. *poverty alleviation through strengthening Centre of Female Entrepreneurship*

How are your activities funded?

Grants from international organizations, local and cantonal government donation, membership fees, income from own services.

Is your organisation run by grassroots women or by professionals?

Both ways

What part of the work in your organisation is paid, what part is voluntary work?

There are 5 women, leaders of children and women groups who are partly volunteers.

What networks do you belong to?

GWIA/MINE, Reference Group (NGO Tuzla network), FREJA (Western Balkan women network), B&H NGO Coalition of Working and Succeeding Together (KRUZ), SEECRAN

With what groups/institutions have you developed successful partnerships?

With all the a/m

Campaign Results Bosnia and Hercegovina, Tuzla

How many women, men and children participated in the campaign: How do we want to raise our children?

Up to 25 children and 15 parent.

Which questionnaire evoked the most interest and response? What questions were the participants of your group especially interested in?

The most interest and response evoked a questionnaire number 6. The participants are especially interested for questions about alternative possibilities of pre-school and school education, how parents can influence on educational process in kindergarten/school.

What were questions and issues that your groups added to the questionnaire?

The group added issues like communication on relations teacher/parent/child, issues about possibilities of inclusion children with special needs in regular kindergarten/schools.

What were questions where most participants agreed?

What were questions where there was a lot of controversy and difference of opinion?

The most participants agree that impact of group experience in kindergarten/school has very successful influence on children.

What effect did the campaign have on the participants of the dialogs?

Thanks to campaign parents will put a question to themselves about important issues and get answers on questions what concern theirs children.

How has conducting the dialogs influenced the work of your group?

Conducting the dialogs has positive influence on work in group.

What areas of knowledge were gained through the dialogs?

Many areas concerning child care and active participation of parents u process of education and rise were gained.

Did you conduct dialogs with other stakeholders in society? If so, with whom? And what were the results of the dialogs?

Parents, their responses were given in the questioner forms.

What visions of a family and child friendly society were developed during the campaign?

That would be societies based on useful spend time, where will develop mother and child and bout be happy and satisfied.

What are the main lessons learned through participating in the campaign?

The most important thing what I have learned is:

"Things are not getting any better for whole world if we think to make changes by alone. Mother Center as society can make bigger and better changes in our communities and then will be hope for humanity."

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In what way can the results of the campaign contribute to profiling the expertise of parents as “everyday life experts”?

Contribute of campaign is activation of parents to do something for their children and themselves.

What are the main changes parents want and need in order to raise the children according to their visions?

What are the main ways society can support parents in raising their children according to their visions?

Parents want that their children be safe in kindergartens/schools. They want:

- *clean and bright environment for their children,*
- *good, trustful and professional teachers,*
- *modern knowledge (languages, computer, ...)*
- *active participating in educational process (trainings and education for parents),*
- *government support (new laws, financial means,...).*

Group Report	Bosnia and Hercegovina, Tuzla
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**Why was your group founded?
Was there a direct cause for its creation?**

After the war, society in Bosnia-Herzegovina is progressing slowly. During few last years our country work on reformer education, but that happening very slow because we don't have financial means for large and fast reformer.

Children with special needs are physically integrated into classrooms, but the government does provide neither the human nor the material resources for addressing their special needs. The problem is even more acute in the rural areas.

**What are the goals and aims of your group?
What is your mission?**

In human, open and professional way we advocate for active participation and better position of beneficiaries in community, providing psychosocial, counselling and education support and services with possibility of employment, contributing so to democratic society development as a whole.

What changes are you aiming for in society?

We aim to help faster and adequate reform of educational system in our society.

What improvements to your community have you been able to accomplish?

Our aim was, firstly, to enable children with special needs to improve results in school, improving also their chances in secondary school and in the labour market. And, secondly, to help them better integrate in their micro environment, facilitating thus further integration in wider society. Thanks to professional consult work with parents and teachers, they should be more capable to help the children overcome obstacles in their education. All our activities are contributing to reduce marginalization and discrimination in local community.

What talents and skills are developed in your group?

Work with children we realize trough individual and group activities (workshops). Workshops have educative, creative and relax character. In groups are developing:

- *thinking, memory, fantasy and emotions of children*
- *verbal and write expression*
- *communication*
- *creativity*
- *tolerance*
- *empathy and the other positive characters of personality.*

What influence do you have in your community and/or in your society?

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We influence in our local community by organize round tables, seminars and children performances aiming at public information and raising local awareness. On this way we inform local community about possibilities and position children with special needs in society. Long-term in local community we expect bigger percent informed and animated citizens, local and state institution on field educational reform.

What are examples of policy changes you have been able to effect?

We stimulated better including national institutions in similar activities through representing and lobbying of inclusive education.

Do you work with specific methods or tools in your group? If so what are they? And why have you chosen them?

Methods of implementation

In work with children we use different methods. By individual work methods are next:

- *method of dialog,*
- *method of writing expression,*
- *method of verbal expression,*
- *method of practice work,*
- *method of demonstration.*

By group work the most successful method is method of dialog. Beside that method we use and others:

- *method of practice work,*
- *method of demonstration,*
- *method of dramatization (familiar fairy tales and similar pieces)*
- *method of reading,*
- *listening of music,*
- *emotion expression by dance,*
- *movies with education raising contents,*
- *creative expression with painting.*

Method, which will implement in work with parents, are:

- *method of dialog,*
- *method of verbal exhibition,*
- *method of creative expression with painting,*
- *therapy by playing (relax games).*

For teachers by trainings we apply:

- *method of dialog,*
- *method of demonstration,*
- *method of dramatization,*
- *method of verbal exhibition,*
- *method of reading,*
- *movies with contents depends from theme of training.*

Reasons for the proposed methodology

By modern methods of work that is interesting should reach good results in work. Methods which are apply at individual work enable:

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- *immediate and open communication with user which results with higher level satisfy his needs;*
- *detail and better approach to problems of users;*
- *draw closer to user and producing higher level of interpersonal trust;*
- *more time for one person.*

Methods in-group work is suggested because they will enable:
trust in group who leading to group membership;

- *easier examination social frustration at members of group;*
- *bigger consciousness about own values, and respect individual values (similar and differences) every member of group;*
- *animation passive members of group;*
- *comprise-entire work in group.*

The impact of our activities measure through evaluation tools (tests and questionnaires), individual educational programs assessment, and behavioural indicators (parents involvement in workshops and degree of active involvement with children progress).

How do participants join your group and how do they participate in decision making?

Children are included on the base of observation and teachers opinion. Parents of children with special need self-initiatively approached the group just for the reason of lack of their knowledge how to rise and cope with difficulties of children with special needs. Teachers were also involved in decision making – all with aim to be better educated and informed and being capable to implement their every day activities in work with children with special needs.

Would you call your group a movement or part of a movement? If so, why, if not, why not?

No, because we implement all our activities within the registered local association.

What is your interest in Mother Centres?

My interest is to collect new knowledge and experience what can use in my further work with children.

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Fact Sheet Bosnia and Herzegovina

Zavidovici

Name of Organisation –Mother center “Flame”

Address of Group-Naselje gaj B.B.

Contact Person-President Senada Džankić

E Mail-plamenmz@yahoo.ca

Website

Fax Number 0038732878947

Tel Number-032 878-947

When was your organisation founded?

November 2001.

How many women, men and children participate actively in your groups?

Wee have about 80-100 actively womans and chidren.

What is the composition of your members and participants in terms of age, family status, income level, social status, ethnic background?

In what of the above categories is your group homogenous and where is there diversity?

In our mother center wee have members and participans from every part of society ,age -0-70 years old,family and single parents, diferent incoming level,diferent social status and members from diferent ethnic group.

How many families do you reach through your activities?

Wee reach about 25 family.

How is your organisation funded?

Wee funded trough donation and self help.

Do you have core funding?

What kind of activities do you have?

Our mother center have a lot of activities :children groups,saving group,aerobic,masage.dans class.english class,program self helping,creative group,...

How are your activities funded?

Self funded.

Is your organisation run by grassroots women or by professionals?

Grassroots women.

What part of the work in your organisation is paid, what part is voluntary work?

Paid is 30% , voluntary work 70%.

What networks do you belong to?

Wee belong to – Mine network.

With what groups/institutions have you developed successful partnerships?

Wee have a very successeful partnership with lot of organisation in our city and also with institution.

Campaign Results Bosnia and Hercegovina Zavidovici

How many women, men and children participated in the campaign: How do we want to raise our children?

In our campaign was about 15-20 womens from diferent part of society from housewife to director and manager,5 mans and 12 children.

How many dialogues did you conduct?

We conduct lot of dialogues about every questionnaire.

Which questionnaire evoked the most interest and response? What questions were the participants of your group especially interested in?

For shore this is questionnaire No.8 about problems in school and kindergartens.

What were questions and issues that your groups added to the questionnaire?

Wee added some things who is specification for our country and society for example problems in school between three ethnic group.

What were questions where there was a lot of controversy and difference of opinion?

Wee have almost the same opinion about ewery questions,and wee haven"t controversy and different opinion.

What effect did the campaign have on the participants of the dialogs?

Efect was wery positive because wee finalu found the reaso to talk about this wery important problems.

What areas of knowledge were gained through the dialogs?

The areas of knowledge wich have a conection with health,education and happy groving of our children.

Did you conduct dialogs with other stakeholders in society? If so, with whom? And what were the results of the dialogs?

No wee are not conducting the dialogues with other stakeholders because this is a not posible in our society.

What visions of a family and child friendly society were developed during the campaign?

During the campaign wee developed a visions of society who is a perfect sorounding for our children and also a ideas of best schools and kindergarten program and how wee can be a beter parents.

What are the main lessons learned through participating in the campaign?

The main lesson what wee learned is a lesson about sharing our opinion with other people and how wee can talk about problems.

In what way can the results of the campaign contribute to profiling the expertise of parents as "everyday life experts"?

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This campaign help us too open our eyes and see where we make a mistakes and what we do to be a better like a every day life experts.

What are the main changes parents want and need in order to raise the children according to their visions?

According our visions the main changes and needs is to be a beter listener of our children and their nedds and support in expres their own selves.

What are the main ways society can support parents in raising their children according to their visions?

According the visions society should need to listen our opinion and try together with us **(parents) to make a beter place for our and their children.**

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Bulgaria

Name of Organisation-Integro Association-BULGARIA

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When was your organisation founded? Since 2002

How many women, men and children participate actively in your groups?

Womens – over than 100

Men – over than 200

Children and Youths – over than 150

What is the composition of your members and participants in terms of age, family status, income level, social status, ethnic background?

All of them are Roma at the age between 20-40 years old. Mostly of them are married. The income level is very different – there are unemployed people without any incomes, except social assistances they receive monthly, there are agriculture workers, as well as workers in different factories and a little bit young Roma that are teachers, engineers, social workers and so on.

In what of the above categories is your group homogenous and where is there diversity?-

We usually work in Roma communities.

How many families do you reach through your activities? In Bulgaria through our activities are included over 100 families.

What kind of activities do you have?

Activities for children, for youths, for matchers for families – Income Generating Activities, activities for Community development, solidarity, self organising activities and others.

How are your activities funded?

We have many different programs usually 1/3 part of resources come from the community-voluntary work, their own contribution and Local Authority also support our activities. Our activities are also supported by external donors from Dutch foundations and some USA organisations.

Is your organisation run by grassroots women or by professionals?

Usually by grassroots women but we also have in the team professionals.

What networks do you belong to? At this moment Integro Association is part of:

European Roma Grassroots Organisations- ERGO network

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Burundi

1. Name of organisation : Femmes pour la paix au Burundi (Women for Peace)
Adress of Group : B.P. 1017 BUJUMBURA
Contact person : Ms Béatrice NYAMOYA
E Mail : bnyamoya@yahoo.fr
Website :
Fax number : (257) 241451
Tél. Number : (257) 241636 / 924411
2. Q. **When was your organisation founded ?**
R. Our organisation was founded in december 1993. This was just after civil war had started. The founders concluded that women were most affected by the crisis situation and they thought of ways to bring peace back to the country. We got ministerial accreditation as an NGO on 31 January 1995 (N°530/024)
3. Q. **How many women, men and children participate actively in your groups?**
R.
4. Q. **What is the composition of your members and participants in terms of age, family status income level, social statuts, ethnic background ? In what of the above categories is your group homogenous and where is there diversity ?**
R. Our association has women of different ages of all social and ethnic backgrounds and political affiliations.
Q. In what of the above categories is your group homogenous and where is there diversity?
A. So all our members are women, in that sense we are homogenous. The diversity amongst our members expresses itself in the variety of views and ideas they have.
5. Q. **How many families do you reach through your activities ?**
R. At the moment this number is estimated at about 50.
6. Q. **How is your organisation funded ?**
R. At the moment we are not funded at all. We depend on contributions of time and money from our members.
7. Q. **Do you have core funding ?**
R. No. In the past we had project support from International Alert and UNIFEM Burundi.
8. Q. **What kind of activities do you have ?**
R. We have been working a lot inside Burundi to mobilize people for peace, and we have been doing peace advocacy work during negotiations. Inside of Burundi we have been organizing meetings between war-victims, women who were forced to flee because of the war and those who could remain in their place of residence. We also visited the refugee camps outside of Burundi to talk with the women who fled the country to discuss returning. As a result of that we participated as observers in the peace negotiations that took place in Kampala, Dar-Es-Salaam and South Africa.
9. Q. **How are your activities funded**

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R. This was funded by International Alert. We are looking for funders to continue as well as to work on activities in the field of poverty eradication.

10. Q. **Is your organisation run by grassroots women or by professionals ?**

R. We have both categories of women.

11. Q. **What part of the work in your organisation is paid, what part is voluntary work ?**

R. Until now most activities were done on a voluntary basis; we look for financing to have a small office and paid staff.

12. Q. **What networks do you belong to ?**

R. Non so far

13. Q. **With what groups/institutions have you developed successful partnerships ?**

R. Different local associations working in the field of peace building or women and children and human rights.

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Burundi 10 minute presentation at conference

How do we want to raise our children ? Bratislava, 17-20 november 2006

Madame chairperson, dear organisers, ladies and gentlemen,

First let me say that it is a big honour for me to be here and share our experiences as parents with you. I come from the small Central African country Burundi. It is the third poorest country in the world and it has just recently come out of over a decade of civil war. The outbreak of this war in 1993 marked the birth of « Femmes pour la paix au Burundi » or Women for Peace in Burundi. Our objectives are the following:

- Work towards the return of peace in the country
- Assist people, especially women and children, affected by the socio-political crisis
- Encourage solidarity amongst women
- Strengthen aspects in our culture and education that reinforce the status of women
- Try to support all sorts of initiatives to promote women through education and training
- Initiate elaborate and lobby for the adaptation and use of legal instruments that reinforce the respect for and dignity of women
- Support women in their socio-economic activities
- Support education for the children and youth that promotes the positive values of peace, tolerance, social justice and human rights.

We kept these goals in mind when working to bring our country closer to peace. Our members went inland to seek to bring together groups of women who were separated because of the war. They went abroad to meet with Burundese women living in the refuecamps, and exchange views with them on ways and possibilities to contribute to the return to peace.

Recently we have been focusing in our strategies more on the post-war reconstruction. The fight against poverty is the main issue. Especially the women headed households are extremely poor. They are in need of everything and often do not own more than the clothes they wear. The health situation has deteriorated and malaria is now the main killer, more even than AIDS, which has left thousands of children orphaned without help of other family members in children headed households. Then there is sexual violence, a curse which is on the rise. Finally there are land issues which, according to the experts in the matter, really are time-bombs undermining the security in the country. There are no clear policies in this field and women risk losing their property when they are widowed, it is difficult to get their rights.

Many children don't go to school for several reasons. When the war ended the demand was so large that the number of schools and teachers was largely insufficient. For many families it is too expensive, even though school fees have been abolished; they do not have the resources to buy food, a pen a note book and a school uniform.

Together with other groups we look towards common goals we have and what what activities we should focus on to help women (and their children) to first survive and then next get started on activities that will help them become independent.

Our association already works on two different levels on the campaign goals. We work with another group supporting a total of 300 orphans in the age range of between 4 and 20 years of age. Then we work in the slums of the capital in a project with a coalition of groups.

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Our thinking about the question “How do we want to raise our Children” should be seen in the light of this context. In Burundi we can only start thinking of raising them, when we manage to keep them alive. We are struggling to get the bare MINIMUM for the women and children we work with, meaning finding something to eat, a place to sleep and clothing to wear going to school and accessing health care. Those are both the challenges and the constraints the women in our society face.

In this context, parents and educators themselves are in need to access information that could be helpful for them in the education of their children. That was one of the conclusions we drew in our debate on the question of How do we want to raise our Children.

We are in the process of building up mine Burundi. Mother Centers are something new for us, it is a new framework of thinking that helps us meet the challenges of the difficult context in Burundi and live up to the expectations of the mothers and children: to learn and grow, and to find ways to overcome the challenges as a self help movement.

Ladies and gentlemen, I thank you for your attention

Group Results

Burundi

Why was your group founded?

R. Burundi has been at war since 1993. The association was created to cope with the devastating effects this war has been having particularly on the situation of women and children.

Was there a direct cause for its creation?

R. Yes its creation was directly related to the outbreak of the civil war in 1993

What are the goals and aims of your group?

R. Contribute to the ending of the war and to bringing people, especially women, together, who are at different sides of the conflict

What is your mission?

R. Defend and promote the rights of women and children.

What changes are you aiming for in society?

R. We strive towards a peaceful cohabitation of different (ethnic and political) groups.

What improvements to your community have you been able to accomplish?

R. We have managed to bring women back into their community after the ending of the hostilities. By organising exchanges and meetings we have managed to support a process of reconstruction and peace building.

What talents and skills are developed in your group?

R. Peaceful resolution of conflicts between women as well as between women and their children.

What influence do you have in your community and/or in your society?

R. Our association has been helping other peace groups in their start-up phase, we were an example. Our members are being invited often in panel discussions and other exchange fora on national peace related issues.

What are examples of policy changes you have been able to effect?

R. Members of our association have participated as observer in the large negotiations that have resulted in the end of the war in Burundi

Do you work with specific methods or tools in your group? If so what are they?

And why have you chosen them?

R. Yes. Participative method, because this method engages everybody in the discussion

How do participants join your group and how do they participate in decision making?

R. As an association we are part of networks where we take part in decisionmaking

Would you call your group a movement or part of a movement? If so, why, if not, why not?

R. No. It is an association that has given itself the goal of finding non political roads to peace.

National Reports

What is your interest in Mother Centers?

R. Because of our objectives. Mothercenters would contribute to the coming together and reconciliation of families and to the activation of women

Where do you see similarities between your group and your work and Mother Centers?

R. My work is office work. My association supports activities on the ground for empowerment. Mother Centers could combine the two and give additional information and education.

Where do you see the main differences between your group and the Mother Centers?

R. The information and education offered by the centers and the income generating activities.

Fact Sheet

Cameroon

Name of organisation: Ghaife Mother Center
Address: C/O Ntankah Village Women Common Initiative Group
Contact Person: Veronica Kini Morfaw
Email: verkini@yahoo.com
Tel: (237) 5207441

When was your organisation founded?

The Ntankah Village Women common Initiative Group was founded in 1996. However, the Ghaife Mother Center is an initiative of the group. Ghaife Mother Center was started in August 2005 following some contacts and coaching from MINE.

How many women, men and children participate actively in your groups?

In terms of numbers our activities within the framework of the current campaign have involved about 1,000 women directly about 200 men and at least 300 children

What is the composition of your members in terms of age, family status, income level, social status and ethnic back ground?

In what of the above categories is your group homogenous and where is there diversity? Most of the members who participate actively at the Ghaife mother center tend to be adults in their late twenties. Most tend to be married women. However, there are single parent mothers who also participate. Children, youths also participate, as do men and young adult Bachelors and spinsters. The income level of most participants tends to be low because of the generalised poverty in our society. There are some middle income participants. The homogeneity tends to be in the low income level. There is a lot of ethnic diversity because Cameroon has more than two hundred different ethnic groups. There is also diversity in educational level. Participants vary from illiterates to university graduates.

What kind of activities do you have?

At the Ghaife Mother Center we have the following activities effectively on-going
Children play groups:

- Remedial classes;
- Elder care;
- Children vaccinations;
- Debates;
- Children games room;
- Farming, weeding and harvesting activities;
- Sporting activities like handball, football
- We teach home economics/home management;
- Language classes and oral tradition;
- Cookery;
- Meals and soft drinks;
- Sales of artefacts and handicrafts;
- Tie and dye and soap making;
- Laundry;

We organise home visits/Home based care of the sick and orphans/vulnerable children.

National Reports

How are your activities funded?

Our activities are mainly funded from own resources as well as a small grant of 1,000 Euros that we received from The Dordrecht- Bamenda Foundation.

Is your organisation run by grassroots women or by professionals?

Our organisation is exclusively run by grassroots women.

What part of the work in your organisation is paid and what part is voluntary work?

Most work done by members of our organisation is self help and voluntary and so is not generally paid. However those who do laundry are paid as well as those who do meals. Some people who do childcare are paid occasionally. Farming activities are on paid contract basis. All the other activities indicated above are voluntary.

What Networks do you belong to?

- The Ghaife Mother Center is a member of MINE
- Ghaife Mother Center is an initiative of Ntankah Village Women Common Initiative Group.
- Ntankah Women C.I.G is a member of the following networks:
- Association of Women's Rights in Development (AWID-Canada);
- Grassroots Organisations Operating Together in Sisterhood (GROOTS)/Huairou Commission;
- Member of Women's Global Network for Reproductive Rights (WGNRR);
- Founding member of Cameroon Association of Grassroots Women Educational, Economic and Social Advancement (CAGWEESA);
- Founding Member of the African Alliance of Home Based Care Givers;
- Members of the Women Land Link Africa Initiative;
- Currently Negotiating membership of Global Alliance Against Trafficking in Women (GAATW);

With what group/institutions have you developed successful partnership?

We have developed good working relationships with about fifteen different women groups with whom we have worked on the MINE campaign, Habitatjam in preparation for World Urban Forum III as well as the Women Land Link Africa with whom we recently formed CAGWEESA. We have good working relationships with various Parents/Teachers Association of several schools as a result of the MINE Campaign.

We have a good working relationship with the provincial technical group of the Provincial AIDS Control Committee.

We have developed very positive partnership with traditional rulers and traditional institutions. Finally we have developed very good partnerships with the media as well as the administrative and municipal officials.

Group Report

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National Reports

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Group Report

Cameroon

Name of group: Ntankah Village Women Common Initiative Group

Name of Reporter: Theresia Fonjia and Esther Fai

Municipality or Country: Bamenda, Cameroon

Address, Phone/Fax, E Mail, Website: Address: P.O. Box 2062, Bafut Mezam Division, Northwest Province, Phone: (237) 5207441. E Mail: villagewomen_ntankah@yahoo.com

Brief description of your group and your activities:

Brief description of your group and your activities: The Ntankah village Women Common Initiative Group is a self-help organisation of twenty-four women of diverse socio-economic backgrounds. The group's mission is to improve the long term socio-economic conditions of members in particular and women in general through education, sensitization and increase their choices and self esteem as well as enhance the long term capacity of women to deal with development actors. The group has been in existence since 1996. Its activities are joint agricultural production and marketing, revolving loan fund and social solidarity or assistance. The group recently modified its constitution to enable it start up a pioneer Ghaife Mother Center in Cameroon last August 2005. The group has developed a strategic plan to work with widows and property rights as well as orphans and vulnerable children. The group is working on improving home based care for HIV/AIDS clients following its recent participation at the Grassroots Women International Academy and the International Conference on AIDS and STI's in Africa which held in Abuja Nigeria from 30th December 2005 to 9th January 2006. The group has pre membership of GROOTS as well as membership of MINE.

II Information on Dialogs

Topic: What do you consider good child-raising?

Number of grassroots debate participants: 200

Number of professional debate participants: 10

Number of debates on this topic: 10

Number of hours engaged in the debate: 25

Number of female debate participants: 125

Number of male debate participants: 50

Number of children engaged in the debate: 25

III Contents and Results

Summary of Debate Results

Question 1

From the results of the debates, the main issues raised concerning what is considered good child raising were:

- Accepting parental responsibility
- Honouring responsibilities such as providing children with basic needs and ensuring a good health and nutritional status
- Ensuring good education

National Reports

- Disciplining the child
- Good spiritual/moral upbringing
- Question 2
- Spending enough time with children
- Knowing the children's problems and effectively interacting with them
- Trying to bridge the generation gap
- Question 3
- Success
- God fearing
- Love for one another
- Obedient and responsible citizens
- Patriotic
- Self respect
- Innovativeness
- Good leadership quality
- Creativity and ingenuity
- Future financial help
- Continuation of family name/ lineage
- Pride/honour
- Moral uprightness
- Child useful to society and humanity

Question 4

- Strict
- Liberal
- Authoritative
- Stern

Question5

- Honesty
- Self-confidence
- Determination
- Reverence for the Lord
- Hard work
- Humility
- Adaptability
- Fast/smooth operator
- Patriotism

Question 6

- Parents
- Society
- Customs and traditions
- Behaviour of other parents
- Grand parents
- Family relations
- School/Books
- Friends
- Spouse
- Films
- Bible studies

National Reports

Question 7

Very secure, moderate, insecure

Areas of insecurity: Morals, sexuality, Financial, Educational quality, family influence, changing world and values, technological challenges, declining educational and moral standards, physical safety, peer pressure and friends

Question 8

Most debate participants were between 80-90% satisfied

Areas would like to improve included:

Improved transmission of moral values

Educational quality

Morals

Financial security

Leadership (Leading by example)

Question 9

Finances

Modernization (TV, Radio, Internet and mass media)

Environment (Physical and social)

Uncertainty and unpredictable future

Corruption

HIV/AIDS

Tribalism

Poor governance

Exposure to indecency

Access to inappropriate information

Question 10

Success:

- Academic
- Financial
- Humility
- Marriage
- Good Employment
- Health
- Satisfaction of family needs
- Love and care
- Self-reliance/autonomy

Positive Outcome:

- Improved standard of living
- Longevity
- Responsible and steady family life
- Civic responsibility
- Honesty/uprightness

National Reports

II Information on Dialogs

Topic: In what way are Mother Centers a unique environment for raising children?

Number of grassroots debate participants: 85

Number of professional debate participants: 5

Number of debates on this topic: 5

Number of hours engaged in the debate: 10

Number of female debate participants: 55

Number of male debate participants: 20

Number of children engaged in the debate: 10

Suggestions for additional questions:

How do your children compare their experiences at the mother Center and their schools?

In what ways have Mother Centers reinforced/undermined your role as a parent?

In what ways have Mother Centers reinforced/undermined your role as a mother?

In what ways have Mother Centers reinforced/undermined your role as a father?

In what ways have Mother Centers reinforced/undermined your role as a husband?

In what ways have Mother Centers reinforced/undermined your role as a wife?

III Contents and Results

Summary of Debate Results

Question 1

- Children experience different mothers
- Children learn artistic and scientific creativity
- Positive exchange of ideas
- Peer exchange and collective development
- Some children experience love and care not found at home
- Some children experience brotherhood and sisterhood
- Children could experience gender role reversals
- Improved standard of living
- Access to different educational and recreational facilities
- Better hygiene and sanitation
- Varieties of meals
- Experience different inter personal relations

Question 2

Likes

- Games, leisure and distraction
- Meeting other children
- Food and drinks
- Relaxation
- Attention
- Special comfort
- Challenges
 - Different mothers
 - Varieties of foods
 - New experiences
 - Dealing with children whose parents don't get on together with theirs
 - Hearing adults gossiping about others

National Reports

Question 3

Morals

- Parental relationships
- Love
- Sharing
- Community spirit
- Honesty
- Care/concern

Question 4

- Friendship
- Respect
- Submissiveness
- Standing up for themselves
- Boldness

Question 5

- More tolerant
- Awareness of Children character variety
- Receptive
- Talkative
- Patient
- Increased anger
- Reconciliation with adversaries
- Question 6
- One can be appreciated
- One can be criticised
- One can be exposed to shame
- Shortcomings are made public
- Children can embarrass one
- Negative aspects of character can be exposed

Question 7

- More Tolerant
- Exposes children to too many parenting styles that can cause conflict
- Can cause children to become too demanding
- Confusing standards of discipline and morals
- Can improve the relationship as well as strain relationships with children

Question 8

- Necessity of being patient
- Concern and time for children
- New parenting skills
- Tolerance
- Recreation
- Feeding
- Interaction with other children
- More tolerant

National Reports

Question 9

- By individual and group discussion
- Joint conversations
- Observation
- The Mother Center helps make mothers more extrovert
- Helps to bring out hidden talents

Question 10

- Mother Centers don't rely on professionals
- Mother Centers value expertise acquired from long experience
- Mother Centers operate on informal timetables so one can participate or not as one pleases
- The emphasis is both on mothers and children as well as fathers unlike playgroups, baby-groups etc.

II Information on Dialogs

Topic: How to involve fathers in parenting

Number of grassroots debate participants: 55

Number of professional debate participants: 5

Number of debates on this topic: 5

Number of hours engaged in the debate: 10

Number of female debate participants: 16

Number of male debate participants: 30

Number of children engaged in the debate: 9

Suggestions for additional questions:

What do fathers find as the biggest drawbacks of Mother Centers?

What activities are most attractive to mothers, fathers and children for joint execution?

National Reports

III Contents and Results
Summary of Debate Results

Question 1

a) Family heads

Providers

Disciplinarians

Educators

Role models

More visible as parent

More involved in childcare

More time spent with family

Would like fathers to be more involved in supervising child up bringing

Contribute to child psychosocial and emotional and physical welfare

Question 2

Morals

Parental relationships

Love

Children welfare

Sharing

Community spirit

Friendship

Respect

Independent adulthood

Submissiveness

Standing up for themselves

Boldness

Honesty

Care/concern

Achievement

Physical and mental security

Defence of family position/title

Continuation of family name

Consolidation of family socio-economic status

Question 3

a) Occasional visitors

Observers

Fathers must authorise/give consent to mothers and children to participate in Mother Center activities

Moderators of misunderstandings between mothers and between children

Participants at social functions

Beer and food consumers

Would like them to act as companions/mates to children and mothers at Mother Center

Would like them participate in father-centered activities

National Reports

Question 4

Most fathers have realised child up bringing not exclusive duties of mothers
More responsive and attentive to children
Fathers less macho
Less stigma attached to certain domestic tasks considered as purely women roles
Roles reversals
Gender differences in child rearing emphasised
More tolerant
Awareness of Children character variety
Receptive
Talkative
Patient

Question 5

Games
Drama
Film shows
Debates
Food
Drinks
Politics
Newspapers

Question 6

They are challenged because if they don't give wife and children the attention and facilities at home they will spend more time at mother center
Also challenged because submissive wives learn to assert themselves and start seeking ways to gain financial independence
Challenged because wife gets to know of rights
Challenged to provide certain amenities for children at home
Challenged to show responsible parenthood
Challenged to interact with many women at once
Challenged in finding themselves in a space totally run and dominated by women

Question 7

Social/political debates
Excursions with children
Peer exchange with other fathers
Course on taking care of children in absence of women
Thrift and loan schemes for end of year festivities
Community development programs
Educational programs for children run by fathers together with mothers

Question 8

Yes and friendships have been made as a result of meeting at Mother Center and exchanging experiences.

Question 9

Need to be more sensitive and attentive to needs of wives and children
Importance of patience in dealing with children
Appreciation of what material property one has irrespective of quantity
Sensitivity to needs of orphans, girls and other vulnerable children
Different fathering values/styles

HOW DO WE WANT TO RAISE OUR CHILDREN

International Mother Centres Conference

Bratislava, Slovakia

2006, November 17 – 20

National Reports

Fathers have learned most children have similar needs and problems

Children have rights just as adults

Children have independent personalities

Question 10

Yes, at mother Centers fathers develop and learn new ideas on parenting

Fathers realise that mother Centers are a reliable place to take care of their children while they are away.

Mother Centers help ensure proper child growth and development.

National Reports

Fact Sheet

Czech Republic

Name of Organisation: The network of Mother Centres in the Czech Republic

Address of Group: Hradební 3, 110 00 Praha 1

Contact Person: Rut Kolínská

E Mail: sit.mc@centrum.cz

Website: www.materska-centra.cz

Fax Number: -

Tel Number: 00420/224826585

When was your organisation founded?

The first Mothers Center in the Czech Republic was founded 1992.

The formal network was accomplished 2001.

How many women, men and children participate actively in your groups?

We have 187 members (Mother Centres), medial number of families around one MC is 100, it is about 80.000 people

What is the composition of your members and participants in terms of age, family status, income level, social status, ethnic background?

You could find every generation in our MCs but mostly small children with their mothers, families from every status, income level, social status and time to time also refugees from different countries.

In what of the above categories is your group homogenous and where is there diversity?

How many families do you reach through your activities?

About 20.000 families

How is your organisation funded?

The idea of mothers centres imported Czech refugee from Germany after velvet revolution. We copied the MCs model from the German centres.

Do you have core funding?

Yes

What kind of activities do you have?

Mothers centers:

- Helps through self-support (mutual counseling, exchange of experiences, giving and receiving, mutual help, lay advice)
- Programs for mothers, parents and children (creative, educational, sportive, requalifying one-off events)
- Integration
- Problem and Conflict Prevention
- Co-operation with no-profit organisations as well as state services with similar aims and partner organisations abroad
- Civic life school

National Reports

Main tasks of the network

- coordination of the network
- support and methodological guidance for newly established MCs
- documentation of common projects and establishment of an archive documenting the activities of single MCs
- organising projects on a national scale
- cooperation with governing bodies
- cooperation with partner organisations abroad
- fund-raising

How are your activities funded?

We have different money – government, EU, private sponsors

Is your organisation run by grassroots women or by professionals?

Mothers centers run mostly grassroots women, the network start to be more professional.

What part of the work in your organisation is paid, what part is voluntary work?

Half-and-half

What networks do you belong to?

MINE, GROOTS

With what groups/institutions have you developed successful partnerships?

Ministry of work and social affairs

Universities

Campaign Results

Czech Republic

How many women, men and children participated in the campaign: How do we want to raise our children?

The answers which I got were mainly from women who attend mother centre in Czech Republic. There were all the questions taken through in a groups of 3-7 people. Six mother centres participated in the campaign.

How many dialogues did you conduct?

The questionnaire were given per mail, direct dialogues did not take place. For the last questions we did not get any answers. During soomer holiday many mother centres close down and in September they are very busy, that is why it was difficult with giving the questionnaires.

Which questionnaire evoked the most interest and response?

What questions were the participants of your group especially interested in? The questionnaires - Mother centres a unique place for raising our children.

The interesting questions were: in the 1st step- questions number 5,6,7. In the 2nd step - question number 2. In the 3rd step- questions number 1,9. In the 4th step- questions number 4,5.

What were questions and issues that your groups added to the questionnaire?

The groups mentioned: too many questions, which need longer discussion.

What were questions where most participants agreed?

.in the 1st step – questions number 1,9, in the 2nd step – questions 1,4, in the 3rd step – questions 1,4,6,8, in the 4th- questions 2,9

What were questions where there was a lot of controversy and difference of opinion?

The most participants agreed with this questions: In the 1st step- questions number 3,11. In the 2nd step- questions number 3,6. In the 3rd step -question number 9. In the 4th step- question number 4

What effect did the campaign have on the participants of the dialogs?

The effect of the campaign on the participants were: the chance for discussion, thinking about ours and others opinions to interesting questions. The possibility of giving the names to some problems and situations.

How has conducting the dialogs influenced the work of your group?

The mother centres of Czech Republic would like to continue in this Campaign with getting more opinions to similar range of questions.

What areas of knowledge were gained through the dialogs?

The knowledges were aspecialy peoples main experiences, opinions and also the common live from mother center.

National Reports

Did you conduct dialogs with other stakeholders in society? If so, with whom? And what were the results of the dialogs?

What visions of a family and child friendly society were developed during the campaign?
I can not exactly answer this question. The vision will maybe connect with main themes.

What are the main lessons learned through participating in the campaign?

In what way can the results of the campaign contribute to profiling the expertise of parents as "everyday life experts"?

The results of the campaign can help in many ways. The very best is that the campaign took place, that everyone could work with the themes and discuss them, to hear the opinions of other people. The results can be a stimulation for other discussion not only between parents but also with specialists, public. The results can also help the mother centres with their positions in public.

What are the main changes parents want and need in order to raise the children according to their visions? The changes are very individual according to an aducator, a pedagogue.

What are the main ways society can support parents in raising their children according to their visions?

main ways society can support parents could be: the possibility to stay with children at home on maternity holiday (mother lief) also for both parents. A part time jobs. Contact with the informations- television, literature, existence of a new organisations witch support families -as mother centres.

Fact Sheet

Germany I

Mütterforum e.V., Verband der baden-württembergischen Mütter- und Familienzentren

Address of Group: Ludwigstraße 41-43, 70176 Stuttgart

Contact Person: Petra Renz and Andrea Laux

E Mail: info@muetterforum.de

Website: www.muetterforum.de

Fax Number: 0049-(0)711-50 53 68 51

Tel Number: 0049-(0)711-50 53 68 50

When was your organisation founded?

In 1991

How many women, men and children participate actively in your groups?

The organization consists of 51 mother and family centers. These centers have between 10 and 500 membership families, the number being determined by size, location (urban or rural) and service range. Many more families than are members benefit from the services offered.

What is the composition of your members and participants in terms of age, family status, income level, social status, ethnic background?

In mother and family centers everyone from baby to senior citizen is welcome and may feel at home. Family composition (single parent, patchwork and classic families, migrant families), income level, social status, educational level and ethnic background are irrelevant in the estimation of the women, men children and neighbours who daily frequent the center.

In what of the above categories is your group homogenous and where is there diversity?

The mother and family centers are homogeneous in all the aforementioned points. This is due to the fact that they share a common philosophy which is reflected in the "Four pillars" concept. That is to say, that those persons active in mother and family centers, are all experts in everyday concerns of the center (1st pillar), the centers have public premises and unrestricted opportunities (2nd pillar), every contribution of work is honoured, which means will receive non-material or possibly material appreciation (3rd pillar), the incorporation of children is self-evident, or else they will be adequately supervised (4th pillar)

There will be differences in the form of municipal support for the work, in what is offered beyond childcare provision, with regard to the location of the mother center (urban or rural structure, type of neighbourhood, etc.)

How many families do you reach through your activities?

This depends upon the size of the mother and family center, its situation/catchment area in both municipality and county, and its service range. A mother and family center accesses from 20 to 2000 people.

How is your organisation funded?

National Reports

The Mothers Forum Organization is supported annually with €75000 from the provincial government of Baden-Württemberg's Ministry for Employment and Social Welfare. The offices for network assignments, public relations, further training, administration and other sectors, have €50000 at their disposal. An annual sum of €25000 is allocated between the member centers (€500 per member center for their individual purposes)

Do you have core funding?

In the case of special events, the organization sustains a cooperative scheme with regional commercial and industrial establishments, as well as service providers, who contribute additional financial support. Many mother and family centers cooperate locally with nearby businesses or establish trusts in order to secure their financial basis. Often, a center profits from success in a competitive bid for a particular project, and subsequently enjoys a sponsorship.

What kind of activities do you have?

The diversity of the range of activities varies from center to center. A common constituent comprises child-minding with playgroups beginning in babyhood upwards. Homework supervision for school children, open lunch service, creative workshops, musical program, sport and wellness opportunities, seasonal and cultural celebrations and festivities, educational advancement and support for children (e.g. nature projects), and for parents (e.g. literature circle), savings and credit information groups, clothes markets (second hand), help with bureaucratic matters (advice and practical help), etc.

How are your activities funded?

In the mother and family centers there is income from the various services, membership subscriptions, donations, monetary awards from competitions, as well as the aforementioned project sponsorships.

Is your organisation run by grassroots women or by professionals?

A PR editor is operative in the Mothers Forum office, supported by a woman in the function of intermediary, whose task it is to communicate the content of mother center policies and assist with lobbying enterprises. As a rule, the day-to-day experts working in the mother center come partly from corresponding professional backgrounds such as accountancy, website skills, graphics, public relations and education science. It is a principle not to engage outside professionals, but rather to mobilize internal skills. These naturally encompass besides social abilities, professional experience.

What part of the work in your organisation is paid, what part is voluntary work?

This varies according to the actual financial circumstances. Whenever possible, the active assistants in mother and family centers receive a nominal compensation, for example, in the area of café catering (the open reception room), for child minding, for media compilations, public relations. Along with other resources, public funds are employed for these purposes. A large constituent of the work is absolved on an honorary, unsalaried basis. It is a voluntary engagement on the part of active assistants; it is valued by these persons as a means of broadening skills, as a meaningful occupation, and to participate in a community. The tasks carried out are always honoured, whenever it is possible, by monetary remuneration.

The work of the agency of the Mothers Forum Association is financed from funding by the state of Baden-Württemberg. Executive work is purely voluntary.

National Reports

What networks do you belong to?

The Mothers Forum is a member of the German Federal Association of Mother and Family Centers in Hamburg, of mine International, of Groots International, the Provincial Women's Council, the Provincial Family Council and the German Charitable Donations Council.

With what groups/institutions have you developed successful partnerships?

With the Baden-Württemberg State Administration for Social Welfare, with the state research institute for family sociology, with the municipal children's commissioner for Stuttgart, with the administrator for social welfare in Baden-Württemberg on the basis of a consultant status in the children's state of Baden- Württemberg, at federal level with the initiative "Land of Ideas", in connection with success in a competition, with the Association of Working Mothers, with service providers such as the "Dresdener Bank", the "Deutsche Bank", and the insurance company "Allianz-Lebensversicherungsgesellschaft", with companies like "Weleda" (natural based cosmetics), and "Princess" (baby carriages), to name but a few.

Group Report

Germany I

How many women, men and children participated in the campaign: How do we want to raise our children?

In Baden-Württemberg eight mother and family centers took part in the dialogs. Approx. 400 active women, but also a number of fathers, as was the case in Rheinfelden and Stuttgart-Wangen, occupied themselves with the issues at hand.

How many dialogues did you conduct?

Between March and October 2006, about 30 dialogs took place, the resulting information from which was also incorporated into the conference agenda. Certain mother and family centers will resume these dialogs, (with regard to questions 5, 6 and 7 of the questionnaire), after the conference in Bratislava, in order to apply conclusions to work being done in the centers, and in order to be able to address concrete suggestions to the political institution.

Which questionnaire evoked the most interest and response?

Questionnaire 3, which was concerned with the paternal role in parenthood, was of particular interest to the target group of fathers. The participating fathers benefited from being included in the dialog and from the attention accorded their opinions. By and large, all the questionnaires were held to be equally interesting, enthralling and sustainable by those centers which had established the dialog practice. As a result, individual questions, in particular those from questionnaires 1 to 4, were discussed and evaluated in the dialogs. The mother center in Heubach even developed from the poll an independent catalog of questions on the theme of development and relay of societal values.

What questions were the participants of your group especially interested in?

Questionnaire 2, concerning "Successfully rearing children". The participants of the dialog thought it very important to discuss the challenges and difficulties encountered in contemporary parenting, and to define their objectives in bringing up children.

What were questions and issues that your groups added to the questionnaire?

For example, the mother center in Heubach set up a working team with the objective of determining and summarizing those issues essential to the mother center. Each individual question from the first four **mine** questionnaires were examined, considered, abbreviated, or as the case required, specified. In a most animated and productive session, the Heubach center compiled a customized, 2 page questionnaire. It specifically confronted the topic of greatest interest to the Heubach center; "The promotion of the culture of appreciation in society".

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What were questions where most participants agreed?

Generally it appears conclusive that, independent of income, family status, origins and religious denomination, mothers, and fathers alike, are confronted by similar challenges in raising their children, share similar wishes and do recognize the opportunities for support offered by the mother and family centers. On the whole they gave completely concordant answers about what they consider essential in bringing up children.

Here a statement: Parents not only learn from other parents, but also from their own children. A mother center demonstrates to parents that nobody is perfect and a child certainly does not require the perfect upbringing. What a child most needs is the time and the space in which it can be a child; parents need time and space in which to be parents.

What were questions where there was a lot of controversy and difference of opinion?

There is no overall answer to this. One dialog group did however report that particularly animated debates developed from the questions and many a woman participant displayed hitherto unknown facets! Criticism was voiced and advice handed out and those problem situations were reconstructed which continually crop up in the course of child rearing. These could be more effectively resolved by a group discussion. Various remedial possibilities for a particular problem were enacted and skilfully worked out, taking into account the child's well-being, financial circumstances, size of accommodation, or one's own nervous constitution. It was notable during the debates that women, even in dissension, maintained a respectful tone with one another.

What effect did the campaign have on the participants of the dialogs?

According to the summary compiled by the mother center in Heubach, the dialogs demonstrated that participants had much in common: They enjoyed the community aspect, recognized (each one his own!) skills, developed sensitivity for the interdependence of children - upbringing - family - the global situation, and moreover, experienced active interchange. This mother center used the dialogs to actively stimulate intercommunion with its members, and to gain their support for the common objectives. Interactive group meetings took place, which naturally integrated bystanders. Several demonstrated their pleasure at having their opinions about child rearing taken seriously, and being considered competent as a parent.

One of the Stuttgart mother centers compiled the following summary of the survey: You can learn from one another through dialog and one can increase one's knowledge when one listens to all opinions. Sometimes one learns from people from whom one never expected to do so.

How has conducting the dialogs influenced the work of your group?

The dialogs confirm participants in their cognition, that mother and family centers are competent: They offer, for example, children of pre-kindergarten age a rich social learning environment in which they can develop abilities like social responsibility, interaction with all sorts of people, and how to solve problems which arise. By the same measure with which the dialogs reflect these and other skills, they could be absorbed by the group participants, and quasi perceived as their own capabilities. A further positive aspect of the dialogs is that participants became more open in confronting one another. The possibility within the dialog of being able to admit to situation-specific mistakes and failures in child rearing, creates the

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scope for mutual sympathy, and also, understanding of oneself. The group learned in this way to voice taboo topics.

What areas of knowledge were gained through the dialogs?

The participants acquired through the dialogs the assurance that the family institution in itself presents the remedy for many societal problems, because it counters the effects of misguided political policies. Were parents to be asked what they needed, the result would be a number of practical, constructive solutions for, to give examples, the compatibility of career and family, a family orientated environment, effective civic planning, educational provision, recreational opportunities. Many parents know what is required in order to successfully bring up their children; the dialogs only confirmed this.

Did you conduct dialogs with other stakeholders in society? If so, with whom? And what were the results of the dialogs?

In Baden-Württemberg we already have communication and networking with municipalities, parishes and entrepreneurs through the Local-to-Local-Dialogs and local alliances. What is missing is the instrument of engagement such as, for example, contracts or memoranda (memorandum of understanding) , which confirm that all partners will commit themselves to their part in achieving the common goal.

What visions of a family and child friendly society were developed during the campaign?

A family and child friendly society is one in which children receive the basic sense of what is essential to becoming a responsible person in the world in which they live! To this end it initially means involving men and women as partners in the design of a family friendly world. Motto: Take a lesson from the parents; they know what is good for you! This appreciation and – most important – sound conditions (social, emotional, economic), strengthen both women and men in their self esteem as parents and they will go on to convey to their children this positive feeling of being welcome in this world. Whoever feels welcome and accepted can develop his personality: Strong, independent, self reliant, playing a part in decision-making, appreciative of others, etc.

What are the main lessons learned through participating in the campaign?

Besides personal lessons which the participants learned for themselves, the network of mother and family centers ascertained that: Mother and family centers begin to provide solutions exactly at that point where institutions and political administration fail; practical, immediately effective solutions to everyday problems, because they are conceived by those affected by the institutional deficiencies. These are the conditions with which family structures can be established and consolidated. Moreover, mother and family centers are places of informal learning with a low threshold status. The quality of familial socialization is aided by mutual consultation and support, and a practice of copying from one another tips and tricks for the shared daily lives. This is family education in the context of daily practice. It is high time that this form of educating families received the sponsorship it rightly deserves. It is necessary

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that this kind of family guidance be institutionalized in self-help provision by means of appropriate subsidies. It is about establishing this basic wisdom in the mainstream. Given its own academy, self-reflection, the processing of practical know-how, the dialog with other socially relevant groups and stakeholders would become customary social practice.

In what way can the results of the campaign contribute to profiling the expertise of parents as “everyday life experts”?

The campaign strengthens parents in their self-perception; their frequently instinctive wisdom as to what is right for their children. The campaign boosts their strength of purpose through the experience of sharing common ground with other parents, who share similar aspirations with regard to a sound future for their children, such as, for example, that their children will grow up to be independent, healthy, happy and fulfilled adults: That they will learn how to confront their fellow men with honesty, humanity, respect and tolerance: That one must offer children the freedom they need, but also provide a framework, a foothold and orientation. The campaign can inspire parents with the courage needed to counter the harmful societal pressures, which impede the undertaking of rearing children.

What are the main changes parents want and need in order to raise the children according to their visions?

- More recognition of the task of rearing children,
- more money for this undertaking,
- fewer external demands/impositions,
- more places where men and women can learn how to be a parent,
- more opportunities of individual encouragement,
- parents need a lobby in society,
- the monetary resources to fund the autonomy of decision in the child/career question,
- less materialism,
- society must become once more a caring, sharing one,
- one doesn't need elbows to survive!
- having the choice of motherhood in young adulthood without having to abandon career prospects,
- enjoying motherhood while young, without threat of poverty,
- not to have to rigidly plot life's phases – education/training – career – children, rather enjoy a flexible life scheme.

What are the main ways society can support parents in raising their children according to their visions?

- Ask parents themselves what they need – more opinion polls
- recognition of parenthood as a career,
- egalitarian funding of family life in all configurations, made possible by dismantling bureaucratic hurdles,
- remuneration of honorary work for and with families,
- part-time employment made possible for men and women in all branches
- offer men and women alike the possibility, concurrently and in equal parts, to be a parent and pursue a career,
- affordable training/education, and therefore equal educational opportunities,

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- give parents and children more places in which they feel at ease, for example, mother and family centers,
- sensitivity towards environmental issues in order to preserve it for future generations,
- more considerateness on the part of society (employer, establishment) in the case of circumstantial occurrences (a child's illness, or a case for nursing care within the family), moreover, the acceptance of such circumstances without causing further affliction to the sufferer.

Fact Sheet

Germany II

Mother-father-centre-neuhausen e.V.

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Germany

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When was your organisation founded?

1987

How many women, men and children participate actively in your groups?

We have about 140 members, in our open meeting point (Coffee) come regularly per day about 10 till 20 mothers, (and two or three fathers) with one, two or three children. About 15 women are working within one to three times per week in the coffee- or second-hand-shop

What is the composition of your members and participants in terms of age, family status, income level, social status, ethnic background?

The members are between 25 and 43 years old, 5% are alone-educating women, about 95% are married; 70% are German; 30% come from other countries: Italy, France, Turkey, Africa, Poland, Romaine, England, Spain, India, Canada, Croatia. The women have mostly qualified professions with high income level, 60% of the women have studied and now they are taking the parents-time. 40% have normal jobs

In what of the above categories is your group homogenous and where is there diversity?

Homogenous is our group to do all best to give their children the possibilities to grow and learn. They think and talk about how they could find a good way to be parents.

How many families do you reach with your activities?

About 150 families

How is your organisation funded?

70% from our money we get from the city of Munich; 15% we have to bring up with memberships, sponsoring, money from the gains of the coffee-shops, the second-hand-shop, markets, to rent the rooms and the gains from different interesting and playing groups, and courses. 10% we get from the Bavarian country.

Our complete financial household includes 120.000 Euros per year.

Do you have core funding?

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Yes we have core founding about 84.000 Euro per year.

What kind of activities do you have?

The open-meeting-point for all visitors open at three mornings and 4 afternoons; women and children second-hand-shop, 4 flee markets and 3 bazaars; groups for parents and children, Mini-Kindergarten, playing groups, first aid-lessons, family weekends yearly celebrations like Santa Claus, eastern...; talking groups with different themes, creative workshops for children, guidance, learning languages together, politically activities, networking with other mother-centres and social organisations.

Is your organisation run by grassroots women or by professionals?

Our organisation is running more by grassroots women.

What part of the work in your organisation is paid, what part is voluntary work?

Social worker and project leader are paid with a half-day job. Mothers who are working in the office and cleaning the rooms have a mini-job.

All mothers who work in the open-coffee-meeting-point and do child-caring are getting 5 € per hour.

What networks do you belong to?

We belong to the network of the Bavarian mother- and father-centres.

With what groups/institutions have you developed successful partnerships?

We have good partnerships with the part of the city, where our centre belongs to, with other mother-centres from Munich, with political representatives of our part of the city and many other social institutions who work with families too.

Campaign Results

Germany II

How many women, men and children participated in the campaign: How do we want to raise our children?

In the first dialogue we have had 10 participants, in the second 7, only women, age between 25 and 50 (mostly over 30). Over the next weeks we'll have more interviews during the open coffee time to get additional input.

How many dialogues did you conduct?

We started in the middle of September and until the conference it will be four dialogues.

Which questionnaire evoked the most interest and response? What questions were the participants of your group especially interested in?

In the first session we only had time to write the answers. The first and the second question of the questionnaire from January had a lot of informations in the answers

"1) What is a good child raising for you?", for example:

Joy to discover the world around / family and friends giving support / values like tolerance, respect, acceptance, courtesy and

"2) Which things are very important for you as parents? What challenges do you have as mother/ father? Which objectives do you have for raising up your kids?"

for example: develop the own personality / parents as a role model / independence, autonomy

In the second dialogue we wrote the answers down and discussed two questions:

"1) What can children experience in Mother Centers that they don't experience at home?", here some results:

Find friends / learn to share with others / other possibilities to play / experiences in a group / to learn about the own limits / some children can't handle the sometimes turbulence atmosphere and

"6) What effect does it have on you that in the Mother Center others witness your parenting style and your relationship to your child/children?", here some results:

more self-reflexion / new inspirations and ideas / to be able for self-criticism / it's a good feeling, if someone is consulting oneself / discussion about values transfer (what can I do, if someone lay the hand on the children?)

What were questions and issues that your groups added to the questionnaire?

So far groups have not added additional questions.

What were questions where most participants agreed?

What is good for child raising:

Social competence / empathy / no isolations (6 from 10 participants)

Important things:

Self-confidence / balance (5 from 10)

The own way for child raising:

Consequence more or less (6 from 10)

Values:

Tolerance (6 from 10)

Get inspirations about raising up children:

Dialogues and confrontations with other parents and educationist (8 from 10)

Confrontation with the own childhood (8 from 10)

Media like books, newspapers, television (4 from 10)

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To be proud of:

Social competences (4 from 9)

Areas for improvement:

Be more relaxed / patient (6 from 9)

Take time (4 from 9)

Hurdles:

Comments from others (family) (7 from 9)

Financial problems (4 from 9)

Experiences in mother centres:

Contact to other children of different ages (5 from 7)

Children like and enjoy:

A lot of toys (5 from 7)

To have space (4 from 7)

Find friends (4 from 7)

Challenges:

High noise level (4 from 7)

If mama is off for a moment (3 from 7)

What were questions where there was a lot of controversy and difference of opinion?

A lot of different insecurities in the role as parents: (for examples)

- If siblings have conflicts
- How much freedom for decisions needs a child
- If there are too many different opinions
- If the kid doesn't react of rules
- How to define limits
- To show the own fears

During the discussion of the second dialogue the opinions were different. The 6.question: "What effect does it have on you that in the Mother Center others witness your parenting style and your relationship to your child/children?" developed into the question: "What can I do, if someone lay the hand on their children?" one side would like to talk alone with this person, the other would prefer to discuss this in a group, maybe with the result, that the person will never come again to this centre.

What effect did the campaign have on the participants of the dialogues?

Another kind of reflexion their own way of raising up children is concerned.

Open up for other opinions.

Continuing discussions after the dialogues.

Planning more dialogues after this campaign with own questions.

How has conducting the dialogues influenced the work of your group?

It's too early to answer, because we finally started in September with the campaign.

What areas of knowledge were gained through the dialogues?

The question of values and the wish to have values

Many insecurities about raising up children

Did you conduct dialogs with other stakeholders in society? If so, with whom? And what were the results of the dialogs?

No

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What visions of a family and child friendly society were developed during the campaign?

Self-confidence, balance, tolerance, different values like respect/honesty/friendly, social competences. These aspects were often answered in different contexts

What are the main lessons learned through participating in the campaign?

The "Mütter-Väter-Zentrum" helps to transfer and to give values, parents are helping each other, they have the feeling aren't be alone with problems.

In what way can the results of the campaign contribute to profiling the expertise of parents as "everyday life experts"?

If parents have the possibility to meet other parents as in mother centres, the problems of losing values and feeling insecure about raising up children diminish.

What are the main changes parents want and need in order to raise the children according to their visions?

More values, more self-confidence, more balance and social-competences

What are the main ways society can support parents in raising their children according to their visions?

- Support institutes like mother centers, where like minded people meet each other.
- More nature in cities
- Values like tolerance
- Supporting from other people in the way of doing something and not "great" advices

Fact sheet

Germany III

Name of Organisation	Mütter- und Familienzentrum Klara e.V.
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Fax Number	
Tel Number	049-761-272051

When was your organisation founded?

1990

How many women, men and children participate actively in your groups?

We have about 60 families as members

About 15 women do the main work

about 50 women and 30 men participate actively

we have about 40 children in our open café, our childcare group, or other open offers

What is the composition of your members and participants in terms of age, family status, income level, social status, ethnic background?

In what of the above categories is your group homogenous and where is there diversity?

The age is about 30, the well educated women are often in higher age (35-40years), and we have some women volunteers about age of 60

It differs between very good educated women and women without education

We have mostly married couples or together with a partner, 15% are single mothers

The most parents are German but about 15% are international, mostly because of Freiburg being a town with university

Homogenous we are in age and education.

How many families do you reach through your activities?

We have 4 Mothercenters in Freiburg, every center reaches about 50 families actively.

How is your organisation funded?

- Community council pays for the rent of our rooms
- the members fee
- two fleamarkets

What kind of activities do you have?

Open café for parents with childcare

Family-chill-out in the weekend

Our presentation in several meetings of the town, fair ...

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2 fleamarced
the world-day for children
Jugendhilfsauschuß

How are your activities funded?

look at our funding

Is your organisation run by grassroots women or by professionals?

What part of the work in your organisation is paid, what part is voluntary work?

The women doing the childcare are payed

We try to give money to all, which are working for us: the manager, the childcare women, the women organising the café, the women working on the fair for us.

But most of the work is done by grassroots or volunteers, not all are aware of they´r being a part of a worldwide movement.

What networks do you belong to?

our personal contacts
the 4 mothercenters in Freiburg
contact with the community council
comitee for youth
Work group of the woman in Freiburg
Mütterforum Baden-Württemberg
mine
German academic group for women, Freiburg

With what groups/institutions have you developed successful partnerships?

spacially the other mothercenters
all our network-groups in Freiburg

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Campaign Results

Germany III

How many women, men and children participated in the campaign: How do we want to raise our children?

20 in our mothercenter, 10 from the outside

How many dialogues did you conduct?

4 questions by wallpaper

1 in the café-time

3 in the meetings we have

1 with parents and grandparents socialy

Which questionnaire evoked the most interest and response? What questions were the participants of your group especially interested in?

reflecting upon the own action

reflecting upon the education and parenting

What effect did the campaign have on the participants of the dialogs?

to keep an eye on our own opinion

to get connected to our visitors, not only to work for them

Did you conduct dialogs with other stakeholders in society? If so, with whom? And what were the results of the dialogs?

We plan a day next year with buissness representitiv and politition, we didn´t made it this year

What visions of a family and child friendly society were developed during the campaign?

We find privat needs: as single parents, as forengers, with personal problems

Group Report

Germany IV

Eltern Kind Zentrum
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When was your organisation founded?

- Our organisation was founded in 1971.

How many women, men and children participate actively in your groups?

- In 2005 366 men, 4464 women and 5525 children visited our Center.

What is the composition of your members and participants in terms of age, family status, income level, social status, ethnic background? In what of the above categories is your group homogenous and where is there diversity?

- The Centre is mainly visited by young families, and grandparents sometimes visit us with their grandchildren. The people who visit us come from all elements of our society: married couples come just as single parent families do. We are sought out by German speaking people, Italian and Ladins, and we are often the first point of contact for emigrant families where there are courses to help them with the languages spoken here.

How many families do you reach through your activities?

- I would say we reach with our activities a minimum of 1500 families .

How is your organisation funded? (heisst das finanziert?)

- 70% by the public authorities
- 30% by our income

Is your organisation run by grassroots women or by professionals?

- Our organisation is run partly by grassroots women and partly by professionals.

What part of the work in your organisation is paid, what part is voluntary work?

- The work during the opening hours is paid, but all the rest, like meetings, shopping, planning the programme, public relations etc. is voluntary work.

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What networks do you belong to?

- We belong to the network of the 13 Eltern Kind Zentren of South Tirol.

With what groups/ institutions have you developed successful partnerships?

- From time to time we are offering courses or other activities with other social institutions of our town.

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Fact Sheet

Hungary

Name of Organisation: REGINA Foundation
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When was your organisation founded? **The first Regina Group started in 2003. It became a legally registered NGO in 2005.**

How many women, men and children participate actively in your groups?
About 150 women and their families

What is the composition of your members and participants in terms of age, family status, income level, social status, ethnic background?
Age range: 26-75, mostly mothers (90%) some singles, diverse social status, diverse income level. The most typical family setup is mother/father/children and also single parent families

In what of the above categories is your group homogenous and where is there diversity? **100 % rural women, otherwise rather diverse**

How many families do you reach through your activities?
150-200

How is your organisation funded?
mostly project and grant based

Do you have core funding?
no

What kind of activities do you have?
For women: information exchange platforms, community development, community events, trainings, consultancy, film club, news portal,
For children: playground, music daycare, teenage-volunteer program

How are your activities funded?
mostly project and grant based, lot of volunteer work from the members

Is your organisation run by grassroots women or by professionals?
Both

What part of the work in your organisation is paid, what part is voluntary work?
Estimation: 30% paid, 70% volunteer

What networks do you belong to?
REGINA Women and Mother Center Network, Hungarian Women's Lobby

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With what groups/institutions have you developed successful partnerships?

Mostly Hungarian women's NGOs, Globalfund For Women, Resource Centers Sweden, UCMTA Spain

Campaign Results

Hungary

Organisation: REGINA Foundation, Hungary
www.reginanet.hu

How many women, men and children participated in the campaign: How do we want to raise our children?

About 100-150 families

How many dialogues did you conduct?

We organise open discussions every month or sometimes two a month and this series were combined with the "How do we want to raise our Children" campaign in 2006. In 2006 we organised 9 discussions till now.

Which questionnaire evoked the most interest and response? What questions were the participants of your group especially interested in?

Q No3. Fathers' role in the family and the raising of the children?

Q No6. How to choose a kindergarden or school?

What were questions and issues that your groups added to the questionnaire?

The general question that was raised in regard to every issues was how to balance the roles of women and men, mothers and fathers in the family, how can women find balance for themselves regarding work/life balance, housekeeping and paid work. How do we prepare ourselves for the changes that come when children grow up. And what does it mean to be a single parent.

What were questions where most participants agreed?

1. The role of the government is controversial, it fixes traditional roles which is not necessary suitable for everyone. 2. It is important to speak about the balance between the parents to be able to find the best practices for the children. 3. The recognition of single parent families should be a lot higher in the society.

What were questions where there was a lot of controversy and difference of opinion?

The amount of work that should be done by the mother and the father in the paid and unpaid work areas. What the actual balance between the parents should be.

What effect did the campaign have on the participants of the dialogs?

Dialogs were open, honest, and tolerant, participants could take home diverse opinions and ideas. The main message was that we are all different and it is our task and responsibility to find the ways that suit the best for the children and the parents.

How has conducting the dialogs influenced the work of your group?

We gained a lot of useful information about the needs of our members to build our future work on.

What areas of knowledge were gained through the dialogs?

Mostly psychological and also practical about the needs of the families in the local context

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Did you conduct dialogs with other stakeholders in society? If so, with whom? And what were the results of the dialogs?

No, not about these issues

What visions of a family and child friendly society were developed during the campaign?

- 1. An article in Hungarian was written by one of the volunteers about a women and child friendly city development that combines the experiences of local mothers with the gender mainstreaming practices of other European towns. We keep doing advocacy in the local community to promote these ideas.**
- 2. More equal and balanced economic situation of the mother and the father is required within a family in order to maintain the healthiness of the family, which is a key element of child raising.**

What are the main lessons learned through participating in the campaign?

- 1. Individual conciseness, personal responsibility and clear communication is essential between the parents in order to find balance for the family.**
- 2. The role and responsibility of the governments is huge in providing equal opportunities for both the mother and the father in the access to the family life and the labour market.**

In what way can the results of the campaign contribute to profiling the expertise of parents as "everyday life experts"?

It helped to form stronger and more aware communities and families.

What are the main changes parents want and need in order to raise the children according to their visions?

More balanced division of family life and work, equal opportunities for mothers and fathers within and outside the family, more conscious school system that pays more attention to the "soft skills" of children such as communication, EQ, community skills.

What are the main ways society can support parents in raising their children according to their visions?

- More tolerance in respecting alternative life style strategies.**
- Laws and regulations that support parents raising child/ren.**
- More equal opportunities for women to gain financial independence within the family and in the society as well.**

Fact Sheet

Italy

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Italy

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When was your organisation founded?

1988

How many women, men and children participate actively in your groups? 1.400

1. What is the composition of your members and participants in terms of age, family status, income level, social status, ethnic background?

- Our members are all families and the participants are to 90% women with their children. The terms of the age from the women goes up from 20 to 70 years and they are mothers, grandmas and babysitter with their children in the age from 0 to about 10 years.
- Most of our participant's life in a family status (marriage or similar), but we d' not ask our visitors.
- The income level is various and we have members which make part of all the levels
- Bozen is a town where lives two ethnical groups, German and Italian people and so we just have two languages and a grand part of our members speak two languages. Our members are also people from other country like families from Iran, Croatian, England, Bangladesh, Netherlands.

2. In what of the above categories is your group homogenous and where is there diversities?

3. How many families do you reach through your activities?

- **Approximately 1.400**
-

4. How is your organisation funded?

- Our organisation is funded to about 70% from the Provincial government in form of contributes and to 30 % with own funds and donations

5. Do you have core funding?

6. What kind of activities do you have?

- Our activities are a lot of:
- Play groups for children in the age of 2,5 years
- Play groups for babies an their mothers or fathers
- Music lessons for infants

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- Swim groups for babies
- Courses to prepare the birth (before an after)
- Lecture
- Meeting place

7. How are your activities funded?

- Our activities are funded in part by the provincial government and in part with contributes from our members

8. Is your organisation run by grassroots women or by professionals?

- Our association has three meeting places and there are working about 30 women. Five women are professional and they works in the field of the organisation, the other one works with the children an the families.

9. What part of the work in your organisation is paid, what part is voluntary work?

- About 90 % of the work is paid, but the fee is very low
- The rest is voluntary work

10. What networks do you belong to?

- The 13 organisations from South Tyrol are connected in their own network and work together

11. With what groups/institutions have you developed successful partnerships?

- Our first contact with other groups is the participations bye the project (How do you want to raise our children) an the first contacts we make so in December 2005

Group Report

Italy

Eltern Kind Zentrum
Paul von Sternbach Straße, 8
39031 Bruneck (BZ)
Italy

Contact Person: Erharder Hitthaler Waltraud
E Mail. bruneck@org
Website: www.elki.org
Fax Number: (0039) 0474 410777
Tel Number: (0039) 0474 410777

When was your organisation founded?

- Our organisation was founded in 1971.

How many women, men and children participate actively in your groups?

- In 2005 366 men, 4464 women and 5525 children visited our Center.

What is the composition of your members and participants in terms of age, family status, income level, social status, ethnic background? In what of the above categories is your group homogenous and where is there diversity?

- The Centre is mainly visited by young families, and grandparents sometimes visit us with their grandchildren. The people who visit us come from all elements of our society: married couples come just as single parent families do. We are sought out by German speaking people, Italian and Ladins, and we are often the first point of contact for emigrant families where there are courses to help them with the languages spoken here.

How many families do you reach through your activities?

I would say we reach with our activities a minimum of 1500 families .

How is your organisation funded?

- 70% by the public authorities
- 30% by our income

Is your organisation run by grassroots women or by professionals?

Our organisation is run partly by grassroots women and partly by professionals.

What part of the work in your organisation is paid, what part is voluntary work?

- The work during the opening hours is paid, but all the rest, like meetings, shopping, planning the programme, public relations etc. is voluntary work.

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What networks do you belong to?

- We belong to the network of the 13 Eltern Kind Zentren of South Tirol.

With what groups/ institutions have you developed successful partnerships?

- From time to time we are offering courses or other activities with other social institutions of our town.

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Group report

Jamaica

My name is Arlene Bailey – I am one of the founding members and current President of Fletchers Land Parenting Association.

I am the mother of a wonderful ten-year old boy - Kyle

I became a single parent because of crime and violence on July 8, 2001.

My loss has not made me bitter it allows me to yearn for a positive change.

The previous members of the community development committee, Principal – Mr. Charles Reid and myself spearheaded a peace walk into the community where the alleged killer of my son's father came from The peace walk was done on 2002. I can safely say it was a success. This can be said because since then we have never had a flare-up of violence. We now have a cohesive balance.

We have continued our quest for peace by reaching out across the imaginary boundaries to save our children and parents.

Fact Sheet

Kenya

Name of Organization: Spearheading Economic Development for Africa (Speed Africa)
Address of Group: P.O. box 4612- Kisumu City, Kenya
Contact Person: Rhodah Ahono Obadha
Position: Programme Officer
Email: rhobadha@yahoo.com
Website: is in the process of being developed
Fax: Nil
Tel Number: +254721592181

When was your Organisation founded: May 2005, Registered in June 2006

How many women, men and children participate actively in your groups?:
300 in total

What is the composition of your members and participants in terms of age, family status, income level, social status, ethnic background?:

15-60 years, those coming from poor families whose income levels are low regardless of ethnic background, but have the potential to engage in patty income generating activities if their potentials ere developed.

In what of the above categories is your group homogenous and where is there diversity?:

we are homogenous in our operations eg training and capacity building. We are diverse in age, ethnic orientation and income level.

How many families do you reach through your activities?:

50 families with an average of 6 family members.

How is your Organisation funded?:

Our organisation is a young Non Governmental Organisation which have not attracted any major funding. In the meantime, its being funded through member's contributions, membership fees and yearly subscriptions.

Do you have core funding?:

we do not have any core funding at the moment.

What activities do you have?:

we have a micro finance business approach through members savings and loaning scheme intended to empower the financially marginalised community members especially women whose capacities to do business have been developed. We also have civic education awareness programmes intended to teach members about their human rights

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How are your activities funded?

Our activities are being funded through member's contributions, membership fees yearly subscriptions and goodwill from well wishers.

Is your organisation run by grassroots women or by professionals?:

Our organisation is run by grassroot women who are organised into grassroot organisational administrative structures.

What part of the work in your organisation is paid, what part is voluntary work?

Paid work -for project manager and training consultancy for community frontline extension workers. Voluntary work -is done by trained community frontline extension workers by providing free training to the members of the organisation.

What networks do you belong to?

We belong to local CBO networks where we coordinate and network with local based community organisations in information exchange

With what groups/institutions have you developed successful partnerships?

This is still at its initial stages since we are young and just began our operations just the other day

Group Report

Kenya

Why was your group founded? Our group was founded in May 2005 and got registered in June 2006.

Was there a direct cause for its creation? Yes, the direct cause was necessitated by the inherent poverty, especially among the women folk living in the slum and poverty stricken areas

What are the goals and aims of your group?

To make credit available to the financially marginalized slum and rural communities to start small business with a view to promoting their living standards; develop their capacity to manage credit, create awareness about their human rights and to empower them to participate in the development of their regions.

What is your mission?

To empower the financially marginalized slum and rural communities to advance and promote equitable involvement of economically active women and men in sustainable micro enterprises by supporting locally governed community-based associations with a view to developing their capacity to manage credit.

What changes are you aiming for in society? Improved income for individuals and their families leading to increased standards of living. Empowerment and awareness of the members on their human rights.

What improvements to your community have you been able to accomplish?

Identifying individuals to form credit groups; Performing savings mobilization and overseeing its management; making available credit money from their own savings either for business opportunities and/or for other social needs; Coordinating and training community members in financial and organisation management' and Creating awareness and empowerment in the community

What talents and skills are developed in your group? Capacity building and training skill among the local population whereby the frontline extension workers who were initially trained now have the skills in training local members of the organisation in identified training needs. As such training has been given in prudential financial and organizational management.

What influence do you have in your community and/or in your society? I have through the work I am doing the capacity to influence policy direction and changes where the government and upcoming financial institutions are now coming up with small and micro business programmes for the poor.

What are the examples of policy changes you have been able to effect? Banking institutions have come up with small and micro business borrowing schemes for the poor whereby the don't need any security or collateral; the Kenya Government has also created the ministry of youth affairs and ministry of sports and Gender development. Through special programmes within these ministries, funds for business development are available to those wishing to start small business ventures.

Do you work with specific methods or tools in your group? If so what are they? And why have you chosen them? Yes, we work with specific methods and tools in our group. We

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have established and are utilizing village level financial structures, owned and managed by identified community groups with a view to providing sustainable rural credit to poor women, men also included. This strategy provides low-income people living in the city's slums, especially women with easy access for financial services with a capacity for major outreach to rural areas. The strength of the approach lies in the participation of the community and in their ownership of the programme as well as their ability to manage it. It encourages the community to take full control of (their destiny) the programmes resources, especially in savings mobilization and strict management for credit, their commitment to the programme and capacity by SPEEDAFRICA/PARTNER to train and support the community through the learning processes.

How do participants join your group and how do they participate in decision making? In the formation of a village bank, SPEED AFRICA/PARTNER will start dealing with locally based community groups that are registered with the Ministry of Culture and Social Services which will form the core of the SPEED AFRICA/PARTNER organization. Others may join our organisation through registered groups and not as individuals. The village bank will be made up of various sub-groups from the same locality which come together and elect their own officials (CMCs). It is these groups that constitute the village bank. The groups are independent in decision making within their own grassroot organisations as pertains to how they want to run it, how and when to save, who to give credit and how much, repayment period etc, but they coordinate with our organisation through their elected office bearers.

Would you call your group a movement or part of a movement? If so, why, if not, why not? I would call it a movement. This is so because it aims at providing the poor rural and slum communities where poverty is a reality credit money where it is a necessity as opposed to the wealthy urban clients targeted by banks and well established micro-credit lending financial organizations; establishing grass root structures through which the project will operate; relying on it's own resources of trained community personnel to build the capacity and educate other members; and owning and managing it's own rural credit lending programme through its trained personnel.

What is your interest in Mother Centers? For partnership, information exchange and networking.

Where do you see similarities between your group and your work and Mother Centers? Working toward the welfare of the poor especially mothers who bear the burden of catering for their families. They also acknowledge that progress is based on sustainable economic growth, which must focus on the poor, with human rights at the centre; promoting "a comprehensive approach and a coordinated strategy, tackling many problems simultaneously across a broad front"; and Promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women.

Where do you see the main difference between your group and Mother Centers? There is very little difference as both our organisations are fighting towards a common goal. The only difference is that we are young, still struggling to meet our common objectives, while mothers union is an old organisation with very clear vision.

Campaign Results

Kenya

How many women, men and children participated in the campaign: How do we want to raise our children? About 150 women, men and children participated. We would like to see our children raised in a proper balanced manner with a view to becoming responsible members of the society. Being raised up responsibly requires one to have been brought up embodying the virtues of ethics and work for the development of their society.

How many dialogues did you conduct? I conducted about 5 dialogs of 30 people in a focus group discussion (FGDs)

Which questionnaire evoked the most interest and response? What were the participants of your group especially interested in? Questions that evoked most interest were those on individual welfare and how children should be brought up. Many participants emanate from different ethnic and social background, social status and therefore had diverse ideas on how to raise up children to become responsible members of the society. They were particularly interested in knowing if there were standard and universal ways of raising children. Why there were many deviant children even from the upper class where financial obligation was not a problem.

What were questions and issues that your group added to the questionnaire? Questionnaire added by our group: does poverty contribute to deviance and irresponsibility in the mentality of children among the poor?; does the wide difference in property acquisition among the rich lead to despair among children from poor backgrounds?

What were questions where most participants agreed? The question where most participants agreed were on the point where upbringing of children should start- that it should start as early as possible and should be by the parents.

Where were questions where there was a lot of controversy and difference of opinion? The questions that raised a lot of controversy were those touching on property and how it can contribute to despair in raising children and poverty and how it can impact negatively on the upbringing of children.

What effect did the campaign have on the participants of the dialog? The campaign became an eye raiser for the participants. They were able learn that the parents of children have got a lot of influence in their early development. They also learnt that they are the primary role models within their families and their obligations and duties within their immediate environments and how they conduct their affairs will greatly influence the development of their children.. at the same time what is important in the upbringing of a child is the provision of the basic necessities to life-food, shelter, clothing and education.

How has conducting the dialogs influenced the work of your group? The participants should be facilitated in the acquisition and provision of the above basic necessities in order to raise responsible children.

What areas of knowledge were gained through the dialogs? These were in the areas of parent-child relationship, the relationship between a child's welfare being a function of parent's welfare;

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Did you conduct dialogs with other stakeholders in society? If so, with whom? And what were the results of the dialogs? We were not able to conduct dialogs with other stakeholders in society due to the limited time that we had.

What visions of a family and child friendly society were developed during the campaign? During the campaign, the visions of a child and friendly society developed were: promoting a child friendly society through the improvement of their parent's welfare for the balanced development of children.

What are the lessons learnt through participating in the campaign? Lessons learnt: That parents are very important in the future development of society through the raising of children; that improving their welfare has a direct benefit of building the society through the improvement of children's welfare; that the stakes in the societal development is a function of the parent-child relationship and should therefore be facilitated through parent child-welfare.

In what way can the results of the campaign contribute to profiling the expertise of parents as "everyday life experts"? Parents should be stakeholders in development issues affecting their own lives. They should also be involved in various development forum and policy formulations affecting their own destiny and in matters such as raising of children.

What are the main changes parents want and need in order to raise the children according to their visions? Changes that want and need to raise children according to their visions are mainly those in the area of policy change. They say that the government, and donor organisations should empower those families in order to pull up from poverty and develop a positive attitude toward their governments, a society in which they belong and feel obliged to support.

What are the main ways society can support parents in raising their children according to their visions? This it can do through the following ways: facilitating the means through which the above named basic necessities of life can be acquired by each family so that their children get a balanced reward from society so that they don't turn out to be rebels against what they would have considered the unjust system. Those who are not able to get these basic necessities should be assisted to get them

Suggested/Recommended activities

A good number of women spend a greater proportion of their earnings on the family and, when they work for income, their children and their husbands included enjoy better food, health and education.

- Enhancement of income and education that results from investing in women should be made a priority in order to bring improvements in the lives of these otherwise desperate individuals;
- Credit should be made available to low income women as one of the most effective ways of raising their standards of living and increasing their opportunities for advancement;
- Operating through legally registered groups should be done in order to pool resources for investment as most of the poor women do not have adequate resources to invest in income generating activities that will improve their standards of living.
- Women's access to such resources as property, credit, training and technology should be increased so that they can overcome their disadvantaged status;

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- Women's capacity in management of women organizations and education in credit lending scheme should be developed to give them the capacity to manage and control their own destiny.
- Women's advocacy groups need more effective lobbying skills and stronger networking with other women's organizations. When opportunities are made available to women, the benefits are seen in improved education, health care and income.
- Lending schemes for women should offer low interest earning credit lending facilities with flexible repayment schedules that accommodate fluctuations in the women's income. Women borrowers should be assisted and cushioned in the repayment process.

Conclusion

The intended credit lending scheme is a carefully designed and modelled along a unique grass-root structure that will make small loans available to poor rural and slum women's income generating groups. The approach is built on the premise that lending to legally constituted and structured women's groups whose capacities have been developed will be more effective than lending to individuals because a larger number of women benefit while group exerts pressure on its members to meet their financial obligations.

Small credit schemes are likely to become a factor in improving the quality of life of the poor who have limited or no access to major credit lending financial institutions.

Fact Sheet

Netherlands

Platform Ouderkindcentra Nijmegen

Postbox 1547

6501 BM Nijmegen

Netherlands

Contact person: Jeannette Janssen Duyghuysen

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- Our Mother center is founded in 1993.
- There are 4 mother centers in Nijmegen and in all centers together there are 6 fathers, 30 children and 47 mothers active doing all kind of things, like organize course for mother and kids, bicycle lessons, all kind of meetings for parents, cook projects. It all depends on the qualities of the women. The most of our participants are young women with small children. Some of the women are divorced and are taken care of the children on their own. The half of the women who are active in the centers do have a education. Some of them are working part time. Most of them are depending on social security. So you can see that the status of our participants is not very high. They have to live from a small income. The ethnic background of our participants is a mirror of our society. There are a lot of participants from Turkey and from Morocco and a smaller group from Somalia, Indonesia and other countries. The mother centers are started mostly in neighborhoods where there are more problems and the local government support positive initiatives from the people.
- It is impossible to say how many families we reach through our activities. But every week we fill in a registration form, saying how many women, children and men we have reached. On an average week we have a total of 50 visitors.
- Every year we get municipal subsidy. We have to justify that money for the monthly charges as well for the activities that we organize.
- We organize the following activities:
 - Creative groups
 - Drama classes
 - Cooking with kids
 - Coffee meetings
 - Pedagogical course (together with a social worker)
 - Informal teaching of the Dutch language
 - Theme evenings
 - Female day
 - Turkey women group
 - Morocco women group
 - Creative afternoons for small kids
 - aerobics
 - bicycle lessons
 - kampweekend with mothers and their children
 -
- Our organization runs partly by grassroots women and by professionals.
- In every mother center works 3 assistant-social worker
- We have a network for mother centers in Holland, but at the moment it is not active any more. We have our own network with the four mother centers in Nijmegen. And we started a

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network with the Home room for children. (there are 8 Home rooms for children after school) . And we are looking for the possibility on each Open School organization starting a network for the parents who are active on school, after school, and in the mother center. So we can help each other and make us more strong.

- The best partnership we have with the Open School organization.

Group Result

Netherlands

Guidelines for Campaign Results of Campaign: How do we want to raise our Children?

1. How many woman, men and children participated in the campaign?

60 women, 4 fathers and 15 children

2. How many dialogues did you conduct?

5 in small groups and one very big with 50 persons, breakfast debat with people from local government and director of well fare organisation

3. Which questionnaire evoked the most interest and response? What questions were the participants of your group especially interested in?

We cannot name a specific question, but we can name some theme's. Standards and values and being a rolmodel for the children are two theme's that evoked the most interest and response.

4. What were questions and issues that your group added to the questionnaire?

We did not add any questions in specific, but we did answer the questions in a broader context. By broader context we mean that we concentrated on how school, childcare and the neighbourhood can work together.

5. What were questions where most participants agreed? What were questions where there was a lot of controversy and difference of opinion?

The question where the majority of the participants disagreed on was about the subject childcare. The participants all had different opinions about bringing your child to daycare. Some thoughts were that one day is no problem, but bringing your child for 5 day to daycare is to much. Some parents also refused to bring their child to daycare because they believe that they are responsible for raising their child and not other people. Childcare is a big issue in Holland. Compared to other countries, childcare in Holland is scarce as well expensive. Our school system deviates from other countries. Children come home for lunch and again at three o'clock in the afternoon. For parents who are working fulltime means this that they need to bring their children to childcare, but often need to find an other solution because of the high cost. At this moment the government and schools are working together to find a solution for this problem.

6 + 7 + 8. What effect did the campaign have on the participants of the dialogs? How has conducting the dialogs influenced the work of your group?

The effect of the dialogs were that participants were more involved. Talking about subjects that are close to peoples hart and mind, resulted in becoming closer to each other. The band between the participant became closer, but also the band between the participants and the Mother center.

Also the awareness that on global level the enormous strength of woman, but also the difference we al have in our daily life. The different choice we have and make in relation to raising our children.

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9. Did you conduct dialogs with other stakeholders in society? If so, with whom? And what were the results of the dialogs?

In September 2006 the welfare organisation Tandem, the mother centers and a project for children named "Huiskamer" organised a breakfast-debate. Theme of the debate was of course "how do we want to raise our Children". For the debate we used questions from the mine-project.

The buggy-parade in Nijmegen was a big event that received a lot of media attention. Tandem and the Mother centers in Nijmegen worked together and invited people from the municipality of Nijmegen and journalist of local en national newspapers.

10. What visions of a family and child friendly society were developed during the campaign?

The vision that we always must remain the dialog about how to raise our children with each other. There is never a final answer, because things keep changing in our lives and in that of our children.

11. What are the main lessons learned through participating in the campaign?

To stay in dialog with each other, listen to each other and learn, supporting the people in your community who need help and acknowledge the expertise of the parents and believe in their qualities.

12. In what way can the results of the campaign contribute to profiling the expertise of parents as "everyday life experts"?

The results of the campaign shows that we need to acknowledge the qualities and the knowledge of the parents. To combine the strength of the parents, their knowledge as everyday life experts is valuable for the society. What we want to achieve is that we want to give the parents the confidence to use their qualities.

13 + 14. What are the main changes parents want and need in order to raise the children according to their vision? What are the main ways society can support parents in raising their children according to their visions?

The first thing the participants named was the media. The media has a big influence on children. As a parent you can't always control what your child is watching (on television and internet), but we need to acknowledge that the media is a major socializing force and we don't know enough about it to deal with it correctly. But not only is it important to discuss about what the media is showing, but how many hours are our children allowed to watch television ore play a computergame. What is normal in these days?

The second important thing is that school and the neighbourhood should work together. It is important to find harmonisation between parents and the school about what they find important, so the children can benefit from this.

In Holland we have a individualistic society. For the benefit of our children we need to become more open, and more willing to help each other. The mother center is an example for the society to show that we need each other, and that helping each other makes our lives and the lives for our children so much more valuable.

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Fact Sheet

Poland

Name of the Organization:

The Astrid Lindgren Institute for Early Childhood Development

Address of the Group:

Two groups have meetings at the Institute premises

Os. Wichrowe Wzgórze 119

61-699 Poznań

One group has meetings at the cooperating organization's premises, the Association for Help in Life Crisis "Our Hut"

ul. Żupańskiego 14/10

61-572 Poznań Polska

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The Astrid Lindgren Institute for Early Childhood Education is a non governmental organization, whose origins go back to 1993. The Institute's mission is to create the young child culture in society, and in particular to support young children closest environment: a family and a pre-school.

The Institute promotes the importance of the early childhood and good quality education for development of young children and their further educational, professional and personal success. The Institute's team - psychologists, pedagogists, sociologists as well as the pre-school and academic teachers join their activities for young children and their families with training programs for preschool headmasters and teachers. We cooperate with national and international organizations, projects and academic centers, i.e. from the USA, Germany, Holland, Slovakia, Greece and Poland.

There were 32 participants in our groups in the "How do we want to raise our children?" Campaign. Two groups consisted mainly of parents that participate in activities for young children and their parents at our Institute, or parents that live in the Institute's neighborhood. They usually have average or good financial situation, are young, well educated (high schools or universities) and involved in their children's development. Joining the Campaign was the main reason for the creation of these groups.

The third group consists of women who turn for help at the Association for Help in Life Crisis „Our Hut“. Among the reasons for their difficult situation are poverty, addictions, violence, unemployment, debts and chronic illnesses. This group had already met before the Campaign started.

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The participants of the first two groups are homogenous due to having a young child. Although they differ in terms of standard of living, education or job activity, their life situation as a rule is good.

In the third group there are persons who experience some kind of life crisis.

The services of the Institute for Early Childhood Development are diverse and directed towards promoting the young child culture in our society. We also provide direct actions for families of young children. In the time being approximately 150 families take part in various activities.

Our services include trainings for educators, local social campaigns (together with media), publications on early childhood development. Although of wide range, all these activities influence families indirectly, and thus are difficult to calculate.

The Astrid Lindgren Institute for Early Childhood Development is the non governmental organization, and gets its financial means from non-governmental and local-government organizations as well as from individual and institutional sponsors. Partially it is based on volunteering.

The Institute came into being thanks to grassroots initiative of professionals and group of volunteers who wanted to improve the quality of young children lives in our city. Nowadays it is mostly the place of work for professionals.

Our work in the Institute is paid, but due to the specifics of the non-profit organization each employee has some volunteering job included in his or her schedule.

We belong to the network of organizations that get the financial support and cooperate with the Bernard van Leer Foundation. Through this network we got to know the Mother Centers from Slovakia.

In addition, together with a group of organizations from Poland we are in the process of creating the Common Platform of organizations working for young children in our country.

We cooperate with many organizations. The ongoing and long-term cooperation includes:

- in Poland
 - Comenius Foundation for Child Development
 - Association for Help in Life Crisis "Our Hut"
- outside Poland:
 - Freie Universitat Berlin, and in particular the INA projects ("Living Democracy", Eberswalde and "Kinderwelten", Berlin)

Group Result

Poland

1. Why was your group founded? Was there a direct cause for its creation?

We found the campaign organized by Materske Centra a very important initiative, in line with our Institute's long-term goals and everyday services. Being a part of network of organizations cooperating with Bernard van Leer Foundation, we had the opportunity to meet the Materske Centra representatives and immediately got very interested in their activities.

2. What are the goals and aims of your group? What is your mission?

We wanted:

- The parents participating in the campaign to have the opportunity to share with other parents and learn from each other.
- The parental feeling of competence to be higher and to strengthen parents in their parental roles through discussions and reflection on upbringing related issues.
- The Institute to get closer to parents as one of its target groups: to get the better understanding of their way of perceiving the world of children, their lives, thoughts and everyday obstacles they have to overcome.
- The Institute could understand the parental needs better and meet them by its services.
- The group of parents involved in the campaign to start a new initiative group of parents at the Institute for Early Childhood Development.

3. What changes are you aiming for in society?

During their meetings parents decided that they would like to lead to:

- creating favorable conditions for women so that they could function both in their mother and professional roles (enabling half-time jobs, organizing day care centers in their places of work);
- Creating good job opportunities for young people, better payment, better safety of work ("many young people are afraid to set up families");
- Introducing law regulations that would make it "profitable for organizations to hire mothers".
- Changing the status of a child in Polish society, so that he or she would be respected as a person, with his or her own individuality and needs (preschools, schools and other places, family homes including, do not care for individual needs of a child).

4. What improvements to your community have you been able to accomplish?

Since the beginning the Institute services have been directed towards children and their families. In this way we can observe the fact that young child needs are more frequently discussed and - as a result - present in our local public space.

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At the same time the Institute aims at improving the quality of preschool education and better accessibility of preschools in the city of Poznan. To fulfill this goals we provide various trainings for educational environment as well as local social campaigns. Thanks to the Institute's activities there is a better local community awareness of the importance of the adaptation process and home/preschool and preschool/school transfers.

The groups of parents that have been meeting in the Campaign were created for the Campaign purpose and at this stage their goal was self-development and participation in the international exchange.

5. What talents and skills are developed in your group?

First of all the participants could improve their parental skills. Through discussion and sharing of their ideas they could also develop their interpersonal skills in a group.

6. Do you work with specific methods or tools in your group? If so what are they? And why have you chosen them?

The work in our groups is based on discussion and sharing. In order to create a good climate in new groups, during the first meetings we introduced the active methods of integration for group members.

7. How do participants join your group and how do they participate in decision making?

The groups are open and joined by parents that have been invited by other parents-members.

8. Would you call your group a movement or part of a movement? If so, why, if not, why not?

The Institute for Early Childhood Development may be called a movement, as we are the non-governmental organization working in the legal formula of the association.

9. What is your interest in Mother Centers?

We have a huge interest in Mother Centers!

10. Where do you see similarities or differences between your group and your work and Mother Centers?

It is difficult to see the similarities or differences because we have too little information about Mother Centers. The biggest difference we can spot has to do with the fact that we are the organization set up by professionals and working for young children. At the same time we work for families and for educational environment of children. As far as we understand, Mother Centers are parents grassroots organization.

Campaign Results

Poland

Introduction:

In the "How Do We Want to Raise Our Children?" Campaign The Astrid Lindgren Institute for Early Childhood Development worked with three groups of parents. Two of them were quite similar in their composition. Their needs, expectations as well as the ways of working were alike. The third group, on the other hand, was different with regard to its member. This led to different answers in this questionnaire. Hence we decided to divide it into two parts:

Part I: the answers from parents from the first two groups as a whole (as they were very similar)

Part II: the answers from parents from the third group.

PART I:

1. How many women, men and children participated in the campaign: How do we want to raise our children?

There have been 22 persons participating in the Campaign, mainly moms (and one father). These are people that have been participating in other activities of the Institute for young children and their parents. They usually have average or good financial situation, are young, well educated (high schools or universities) and involved in their children's development. Joining the Campaign was the main reason for the creation of these groups.

2. How many dialogues did you conduct?

There were six, 2-hour-long meetings. Four of them discussed the questionnaires no 1,3,5 and 6. The first meeting was devoted to organizational issues, and was aiming at group integration. During the last one the participants reflected on the Campaign and made some preparations for the Bratislava Conference. There is still one more meeting scheduled, during which the questionnaire no 4 will be discussed.

2. Which questionnaire evoked the most interest and response? What questions were the participants of your group especially interested in?

The most interest was evoked by the questionnaire about the role of a father in a family, and about the values in raising children. In addition, the questionnaire about preschools and sharing the upbringing experiences was also interesting.

3. What were questions and issues that your groups added to the questionnaire?

Sharing the experiences concerning the birth, infancy, breast-feeding. Discussing the successes and difficulties in taking up a parental role, the individual understanding of the idea of upbringing.

To what extend children are bound to fulfill their parents' expectations, and to what extend the parents should follow their children.

To what degree should parents sacrifice for their children. Is such a sacrifice good for children?

Subject concerning the generation changes. How was upbringing perceived in the past? What to do when grandma raises her grandchildren differently?

How to prepare children (and us as parents) to „rat race“, competitiveness and fast pace of living?

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How to show the world's diversity, how to prepare children to understand it? How to show that different people have different value systems that often disagree with ours?

How to talk to children about difficult subjects? How to instill passion in them? How to give a child enough freedom and set up boundaries?

4. What were questions where most participants agreed? What were questions where there was a lot of controversy and difference of opinion?

The most controversial subjects were about the religious values and about fatherhood.

5. What effect did the campaign have on the participants of the dialogs? What areas of knowledge were gained through the dialogs?

Joy. A lot of delight from sharing the information and listening to other moms.

Openness. The possibility to speak openly about own opinions, to share experiences and different perspectives and points of view

Approval. Feeling of approval in the group, support from other members.

Learning. Heightening the awareness about upbringing and self-reflection.

Ideas. Some moms would like to start the activities towards creating the places for parents and their young children in the future.

6. What visions of a family and child friendly society were developed during the campaign?

Vision of a family: It would be great if both parents participate in raising their children. In this way children may experience the difference in beliefs, care, etc. Parents accept and support children, play an active role in their upbringing.

Vision of society: The workplace respects the family interest, create good conditions for combining the professional and parental roles. Political stability. Jobs for young people.

7. What are the problems of Polish parents? What are the main changes parents want and need in order to raise the children according to their visions?

Modern parents need:

- the alternative forms of preschool and school education, as these institutions usually are not children-friendly.
- Social changes: more budget funds for changes in the system, for system solutions that would support young parents.
- Changes in the awareness of politicians, decision makers, architects and CEOs. Better knowledge of what children need and what is important for them.
- Changes in education: in teachers' education, teachers' salaries, so that the youngest would be taught by the best
- More activity of parents, openness and involvement in local initiatives for children.
- Leaving the communistic context in which the individuality and diversity of children are not getting noticed. All the children are to be equal and passive, according to the old rule.

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PART II

1. How many women, men and children participated in the campaign: How do we want to raise our children?

There have been ten women from "Our hut" association participating in the Campaign. They are the clients of the Association for Help in Life Crisis. Their common issue is the current difficulty (crisis) in their professional or family lives.

2. How many dialogues did you conduct?

In the "Our hut" Association there were 6 meetings. We are planning to have two more.

3. Which questionnaire evoked the most interest and response? What questions were the participants of your group especially interested in?

All the subjects were enthusiastically welcomed by the group. The most intense reaction was evoked by the subject about fathers; the subject about preschools and schools in particular was the most interesting.

4. What were questions where most participants agreed? What were questions where there was a lot of controversy and difference of opinion?

The most controversial and evoking the most diverse opinions was the subject of the father's influence on upbringing. This subject was the most emotional in our group, which is probably the result of the traumatic experiences of women (suffering from home violence or coming from the alcohol-dependent families). At the same time there was a question: "Why isn't there any such questionnaire about mothers?"

5. What effect did the campaign have on the participants of the dialogs? How has conducting the dialogs influenced the work of your group? What areas of knowledge were gained through the dialogs?

The participants of dialogs say that taking part in discussions taught them a lot:

- *I got to know the experiences of others, I „took home with me“ a lot.*
- *It was a good suggestion from more experienced moms who have older children.*
- *I got to know the problems of other people and found out that everybody has similar ones.*
- *„we all share the same fate“, have the same problems as a social group,*
- *now I know what to do if I ever had any problems with children*
- *had I known at the beginning, many years ago, what I do now, I would have dealt with my children differently. Now I know that.*

Discussions contributed to better self-awareness of women in their maternal roles and woke up their need to improve their knowledge of raising children. The group decided they need a "school for parents" in "Our hut" Association.

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6. What visions of a family and child friendly society were developed during the campaign?

Mothers have very concrete visions of family and child-friendly society, which results mainly from their difficult life experiences:

- they stress the huge role of both financial and emotional security: *"peace and quiet, life without stress, financial security"; "jobs for mothers, the possibility to combine raising up children and working", "the father and the mother are getting nervous when there's a lack of money", "it would be good if parents could spend more time with their children";*

- They would like the society to prefer the style of upbringing based on higher values, and not only on materialistic ones, just like it is today:

„only then children won't feel inferior because of not having luxury things"; „parents should be sensitized to teach their children respect for others, not to be condescending towards others, and to be modest"

- At schools and preschools they would like EVERY child to be treated more individually. There should be equal attitude towards all children.

7. What are the main changes parents want and need in order to raise the children according to their visions?

It is painful for mothers to feel social inequalities and disproportions, which are hurtful for their children's development and opportunities:

„there is a huge gap in the society between the rich and the poor and some children are disadvantaged because others (more wealthy) have better opportunities: they have additional lessons, tutoring, the best equipment. Our children don't have all this, although they are not worse. They are often very talented and have many gifts".

The women stress the need for additional and free of charge classes for all children in schools and preschools. They also see the need for such jobs for women that would enable them combining the house routines and responsibilities with professional ones.

As they say, teachers should get better pedagogical and psychological training: *„they have problems with children in schools and preschools, and it shouldn't be like that."*

National Reports

Fact Sheet

Russia

Name of Organisation

Mother Center "Three generations"

Address of Group

Russia, 142290, Moscow oblast, Pushchino, AB- 21A

Contact Person

Galina Sapozhnikova

E Mail

gpsapozhnikova@online.srack.net

Website- No

Fax Number- No

Tel Number – 8-(code Russia)-4967-73-02-41

When was your organisation founded?

12 September 2006

How many women, men and children participate actively in your groups? **More 80**

Young mothers-19

Mothers more 35 years- 29

Grandmothers- 17

Grandfathers- 5

Young girls and boys- 13

What is the composition of your members and participants in terms of age, family status, income level, social status, ethnic background?

of age - from 15 – to 83

family status- married and only mothers, and only grandmothers-

income level - low and middle

social status – housewife, theachers. phsycologist, businessmen, employees

ethnic background – Russians, Ukrain, Koreans, Uzbeks and others

In what of the above e categories is your group homogenous and where is there diversity? In general there are **no diversities**

How many families do you reach through your activities?

Near 40 famylies

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How is your organisation funded?

Only little finance help from Information Center of the Independent Women's Forum (ICIWF) and support from bibliotek of city Pushchino, club of yong family of Young Center of Pushchino and from Children.s center city Pushchino, shop "Happy chance", shop "Sputnik", local newspaper "Pushchinskaja Sreda" and local TV-"TWS-PUSHCHINO"

Do you have core funding?

No and we very much wish to have support from Mother Center Internatinal Network for Empowerment (MINE)

What kind of activities do you have?

Reconstruction children play-grounds, and two seminars about our problems with arts-trainings together with ICIWF, festival for childrens with sport-and ecological competitions

How are your activities funded?

Only little one time finance support of 3-4 members from ICIWF

Is your organisation run by grassroots women or by professionals?

By grassroots women

What part of the work in your organisation is paid, what part is voluntary work?

Two seminars about our problems paid ICIWF. Another works were voluntary and were supported by Young iniciative group "Keepers of Pushchino"(project "Bright city" grant NOKIA on the materials) and also Festival for childrens supported by businessmen of city .

What networks do you belong to?

No commercial social organization

With what groups/institutions have you developed successful partnerships?

**Inform Center of the Independent Women's Forum (ICIWF)
Bibliotek of city Pushchino,
Club of yong family of Young Centre of Pushchino
Children.s center of city Pushchino
Social Center " The Sun"
Shop "Happy chance"
Shop "Sputnik"
Hotel "Pushchino"
Administration of city
Local newspaper "Pushchinskaja sreda"
and local TV-"TWS-PUSHCHINO"@**

National Reports

Campaign Results

Russia

How many women, men and children participated in the campaign: How do we want to raise our children?

More 200

How many dialogues did you conduct?

8-(in childrengardens. scools, seminars)

Which questionnaire evoked the most interest and response? What questions were the participants of your group especially interested in?

The most interesting questions were: «How do we want to raise our children?» and «What is needed to do it»

What were questions and issues that your groups added to the questionnaire?

We have added only one question: "What can you contribute by yourself to this process". And this was the most difficult question for majority of participants.

What were questions where most participants agreed?

The most common response to the question: "How do we want to raise our children?" was: "the most important is to make child happy and healthy"

What were questions where there was a lot of controversy and difference of opinion?

Responses were quite common and not concrete. Parents mentioned only their own experience. They all want to give their children more time.

What effect did the campaign have on the participants of the dialogs?

Now parents more often communicate with each other and share their experience about raising children. They help each other to accompany their kids to different children's clubs (sport, dance etc). Some parents have started to participate in the organization of the center.

How has conducting the dialogs influenced the work of your group?

Now we know parent's opinion. This dialogues have helped us to gather together. Now we are creating new public organization "Three generations".

What areas of knowledge were gained through the dialogs?

We have found out that mothers don't know how to make their children happy. Patience and understanding are not the only things, which could make our children happy and healthy.

Did you conduct dialogs with other stakeholders in society? If so, with whom? And what were the results of the dialogs?

We have conducted dialogues with different stakeholders (doctors, teachers, librarians, journalists, administrative workers, designers) while the seminars.

What visions of a family and child friendly society were developed during the campaign?

During this campaign everybody has concluded that we need coordination center, which could help parents with raising their children.

What are the main lessons learned through participating in the campaign?

National Reports

Now it's clear to us that a lot of parents don't know what their kids need. They have lots of experience, but they can not transfer it to their children

In what way can the results of the campaign contribute to profiling the expertise of parents as "everyday life experts"?

To raise the role of parents in social life of the city.

What are the main changes parents want and need in order to raise the children according to their visions?

Parents want to share their experience and get new knowledge while different educational seminars. Also they think that schools and kindergartens should organize different festivals for children, parents and teachers as often as they could.

What are the main ways society can support parents in raising their children according to their visions?

Social policy of the city must provide opportunity for parents to work in their own city. Also young parents must be provided with good places to live.

Group Report

Russia

How many women, men and children participated in the campaign: How do we want to raise our children?

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Fact Sheet

Slovakia

Name of Organisation: Union of Mother Centres, Slovakia

Address of Group: Bastova 5, 811 03 Bratislava, Slovakia

Contact Person: Elena Bakosova

E Mail: elena@materskecentra.sk

Website: www.materskecentra.sk

Fax Number: + 421 54 417 906

Tel Number: + 421 54 417 906

When was your organisation founded?

Union of Mother Centres as an umbrella body of Slovak MCs was founded in 2003. The first MC in Slovakia was established in 1998.

How many women, men and children participate actively in your groups?

Nowadays there are more than 86 Mother Centres all around Slovakia – 64 are members of the Union and 22 are at the waiting list to become members soon.

What is the composition of your members and participants in terms of age, family status, income level, social status, ethnic background?

Our MCs are very diverse; it depends mostly on region where they are. Generally speaking, the most often active participants are mothers on maternity leave with their small children. Programmes and activities in the centres are open to all – regardless age, sex, religion, income etc. Many fathers and grand parents have started to participate in the last years.

In what of the above categories is your group homogenous and where is there diversity?

There is diversity in all terms, but one we have in common: children.

How many families do you reach through your activities?

There is a community of average 100 families around each centre – it means more than 4 000 people around each MC, altogether within the Union it makes more than 300 000 people.

How is your organisation funded?

We are projects based – currently we are working on more than 10 projects which bring money for our work and activities.

Do you have core funding? –

Yes, we've been supported by Bernard van Leer Foundation (BvLF, Netherlands) since Sept. 2003.

What kind of activities do you have?

The mission of Mothers Centres' Union is to reach the appreciation and honour for motherhood in the society and co-create the supportive conditions for motherhood in order to advocate the highest interest of a child.

The mission is fulfilled by implementing various projects through our members MC with the main objectives:

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- Spreading of the MC concept – at the local level helping to create friendly environment for mothers and children; at national level by our representatives and joint activities
- Keeping in touch with our members; coordination of joint activities; providing trainings and counselling service for MCs; helping and supporting beginning MCs
- Communication with state, private, NGO, media representatives in Slovakia and in abroad
- Helping in protection of rights and improving situation of all mothers and children at non-discriminated level – by advisory, lobbying, publishing, information and educational activities and events for the public

How are your activities funded?

Thanks to our core funding from BvLF we have established a strong network which is able to implement various projects – some of them are grants from Ministry, some from private foundations and companies.

Is your organisation run by grassroots women or by professionals?

Our MCs are led mainly by grassroots women, who have been professionalising through their work in MCs, The Union itself has full paid staff – two coordinators: one network, another for PR activities, four regional coordinators for part time and an accountant. Board of Directors is executive and rewarded for their work too. In a year we are going to change our organisational structure – to separate decision making and executive part of work.

What part of the work in your organisation is paid, what part is voluntary work?

All core people involved give their best – their time, energy, heart, soul. We feel the UMC like our child – therefore speaking about money in this sense is useless.

What networks do you belong to?

Mine is ours☺

With what groups/institutions have you developed successful partnerships?

At national level we have come to a close cooperation with ZMOS (which is an umbrella organisation for municipalities), because a support from municipalities at the local level is crucial for MCs. As the biggest women's organisation in Slovakia we are a partner of many NGOs. We have entered into cooperation with big private companies, who support our educational projects (Slovenska sporitelna), project of networking via Internet (Slovak Telekom) and funds for MCs in crisis (Milli).

At international level thanks to joint mine campaigns (Move the pram, move the world, How do we want to raise our children) we have been cooperating with all mine members. Looking forward to being them more after the conference!

Campaign Results

Slovakia

- *How many women, men and children participated in the campaign?*

Adults - 480

Experts - 49

Women - 436

Men - 44

Children - 369

Total time spent in debating: 5420 min., i.e. 90 hours. 33 min., i. e. 3,7 days. It means that the most important part of the 3-day conference took place where everyone was allowed to enter the discussion and to present his own opinion.

- *How many discussions were carried out?*

In our MCs took place more than a hundred discussion meetings.

- *Which questionnaire raised the biggest interest and response? Which one invoked the special interest among the participants in your group?*

The biggest interest rose the first meetings which means that the parents desire to meet together, to discuss, to change their opinions focused on education of their children. This is confirmed with the fact that the question of life in this group isn't the in centre of interest of the society. The problems and difficulties in education of children is underestimated and perceived as a very private thing of family. The parents were pleased that someone showed the interest and was willing to listen to their opinions, their pleasures and sorrows of everyday life.

- *What questions did the participant add to the questionnaires?*

Integration of children to the social life

Humanization of maternity hospitals and clinics

Conservative or alternative education system

Differences in education of a mother and a father

Punish in education

Education of siblings

Sicknesses, death and child

Conception and birth of child

Parent and handicapped child (attitude of the family and the society)

Father delivering

RD and stress

The part of man delivering

How to help the child to find the right group of friends in the same age

The multigenerational families and education in

How to motivate correctly our child

What are the right requirements of a toy?

To punish or not to punish

Development of fantasy

The most suitable adaptation when enter the preschool education

The building of cooperation between a teacher and parents

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The possibilities of preparation for parenthood which offers the society
How to educate correctly in a broken family and where to find help

- ***What were the questions that evoked the greatest agreement?***

They were the questions focused on the mission and importance of maternity centres (questionnaire 2), where all the responses were the same. The maternity centres are the places which are needed for meetings of mothers and children together. It's the place for exchanging of different education styles, for evaluation of attitudes towards education and for finding a new inspiration.

The other questions were related to preschool education (questionnaire 6 and questionnaire 7) where the convenient and inconvenient conditions of this kind of education were discussed. All the responses, requirements and experiences of parents in these questions were the same.

- ***Which questions were controversial and different in opinions?***

The greatest variety and difference was in questionnaire 5 ("parents recipe book") where the attitudes of parents and their experiences in solving problems in educations of children were individual and diverse.

- ***What was the effect of the campaign on the participants?***

When meeting and discussing the parents started to realized their parenthood as a great challenge and the responsibility for this so important mission they were invited to. The meetings made them sure that every parent may be found helpless in some of the situations. But when there are places and people who can help, it's easier to solve the problems. He can eliminate the sorrows and the troubles in ways corresponding with his imagination and needs of his children.

The parents also reassured that the learning in the questions of education of children is a long and difficult way, but on the other hand beautiful and joyful. And first of all it's a period which will mark the souls of those we lead for life.

- ***Did any stakeholders participate in the discussions? If yes, who? And what were the results of these discussions?***

Yes, the specialists for preschool education, paediatricians and psychologists participated in the discussions. They expressed their professional view and expert opinion to the topic, but in the end of it, to leave the parents a lot of space to express their opinions and to not to influence them. The parents appreciated the presence of specialists and the chance to ask them direct questions.

- ***What are some of the visions of family and children set up during the campaign?***

Parents as educators responsible for good upbringing of their children expressed the idea about the expected steps and measures from the society. They also presented the activities and ways in which they can be active to help each other by education of their children. One of the forms how to help the other parents is to have specialists in their surrounding, willing to help them in new, strange situations of everyday life.

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- ***What have you learnt on the campaign?***

The participation in the meetings of the campaign strengthened the awareness of parenthood in parents. It assured all of them that everyone can be both a teacher and a student in this mission, that the parenthood is a process of education for both sides – for a parent and for a child. It confirmed that at no time is late to start to evaluate and to change the opinions on the basis of a new knowledge and experience. Every parent desires to hand over his child the best from his part hence when we are looking for the best and the most competent ways tested in practice we can help the other looking parents and educators.

- ***In what way can the results of the campaign contribute towards the profile of parents as “experts of everyday life”?***

All responsible parents desire to improve themselves and this fact motivates loving parents to look for and to reach new knowledge to fulfil their mission the best. They follow the motto: “Love is always creative”. The parents realized that they can often help themselves by using their own experience and also the experience of other parents and to transform them into their needs and in the concrete situations. Everyone enriched the discussion with his own opinion and perception and on the other hand everyone carried along the opinions and views of the others which are tested in practice and in life.

- ***What are the main demands and changes the parents need to educate their children in harmony with their expectations?***

Beside the need of permanent developing and learning they expect the help from the society by strengthening the losing position and that the medias will be disposed to the pro-family questions related to high-quality and expert education.

Quotations of discussion groups

“If the MC is the pillar for mother it is also for me as father of family.”

- Education – handing over the better ME
- MC is the helping wings in our education.
- To be a parent is a great motivation to be a better person.
- I reached my opinions and attitudes towards education from the kindest and the most loving person I have ever known – from my mother.
- MC is a place for a secure discovering of the world in the presence of parents.
- I am learning more educative methods which develop both the child and me.
- A feeling of leaving the crowd and realisation of the most generous mission of woman – mother.
- I am trying to apply new knowledge into the relationship which helps to improve it.
- Father - a manager of entertaining activities.
- To give a child the root and the wings.
- The grandfather: “Time spent with children is time of keeping my youth.”
- To be a father is a mission, to become a father is a task – for lifetime.
- Having a baby showed me new dimensions in my life which have changed my work habits.
- The most of us must learn to be a true parent.

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- If the MC is the pillar for mother it is also for me as father of family.
- It is important to see a work of a father, but the more, the MC where the children like going to.
- Happy mother = happy child = harmonic family.
- An effort to learn to be a true parent.
- The forwardness of each society can be measured according to its dignity to the mothers and children.

“Each child is an extraordinary original so try to accept it like this.”

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Fact Sheet

Trinidad and Tobago

NAME OF ORGANISATION: Creative Parenting for the New Era

ADDRESS OF GROUP: Building #10
Fernandes Industrial Center
Eastern Main Road
Laventille
Trinidad, WI

CONTACT PERSON: Joan E Bishop, MA
Chief Executive Officer

EMAIL: cpne@wow.net

WEBSITE: NONE

FAX NUMBER: 1-868-626-2422

TELEPHONE NUMBER: 1-868-626-2424

FOUNDING DATE OF ORGANISATION: July 2001

HOW MANY WOMEN, MEN AND CHILDREN PARTICIPATE ACTIVELY IN YOUR GROUPS?

- Women - 375
- Men - 30
- Children - NIL

WHAT IS THE COMPOSITION OF YOUR MEMBERS AND PARTICIPANTS IN TERMS OF:

NB. Participants of our programmes are not categorized as "members"

- AGE: Range from primary school children to adults
- FAMILY STATUS: Single; 15% Married; 60% Common-Law; 15% Separated; 10%
- INCOME LEVEL: 'Poor'20%, Middle income 70%. 'Upper income'10%
- SOCIAL STATUS: Grassroots urban 10% Grassroots rural 10%, Other 80%
- ETHNIC BACKGROUND: Predominantly African 80% and Indian 20%

IN WHAT OF THE ABOVE CATEGORIES IS YOUR GROUP HOMOGENOUS AND WHERE IS THERE DIVERSITY?

There is diversity in all the above categories.

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HOW MANY FAMILIES DO YOU REACH THROUGH YOUR ACTIVITIES?

Since our strategy is to reach families directly and through graduates of our programmes who are gatekeepers in schools, churches and community organizations we cannot provide exact figures. Over the past five years we estimate a reach to four thousand five hundred families.

HOW IS YOUR ORGANIZATION FUNDED?

The original and funding source for the past five years is the **J B Fernandes Memorial Trust1**.

DO YOU HAVE CORE FUNDING?

The JB Fernandes Memorial Trust 1 has negotiated matching funding on our behalf from the Ministry of Education.

WHAT KIND OF ACTIVITIES DO YOU HAVE?

- Residential Train the Trainers Parenting Workshops for gatekeepers in NGOs, Government Ministries and community organizations
- Capacity building workshops for participating agencies
- Direct interventions with parents using schools as entry to both urban and rural depressed communities.
- Curriculum development
- National conference
- Content analysis of newspapers on relevant issues

HOW ARE YOUR ACTIVITIES FUNDED?

See above.

IS YOUR ORGANIZATION RUN BY GRASSROOTS WOMEN OR BY PROFESSIONALS?

Professionals.

WHAT PART OF THE WORK OF YOUR ORGANIZATION IS PAID, WHAT PART IS VOLUNTARY WORK?

50% Paid and 50% Voluntary

WHAT NETWORKS DO YOU BELONG TO?

Families in Action, CHOICES and the Caribbean Conference of Churches

WITH WHAT GROUPS/INSTITUTIONS HAVE YOU DEVELOPED SUCCESSFUL PARTNERSHIPS?

CPNE has developed successful partnerships with:

- Over fifty NGO including the National PTA, Families in Action
- The Toco Foundation, The Trinidad and Tobago Federation of Women's Institutes, The Child Welfare League and the Rape Crisis Society
- Community Police in Tobago
- Ministry of Education –Peace Promotion Programme
- Ministry of Social Development –National Family Services
- National AIDS Coordinating Council
- Poverty Reduction Unit
- Urban and rural schools that are receiving funding from private sector agencies
- The Commission on Social Justice

Group Report

Trinidad and Tobago

WHY WAS YOUR GROUP FOUNDED?

To respond to widespread concern for the breakdown in family life and its effects not only on children but the community as a whole.

WAS THERE A DIRECT CAUSE FOR ITS CREATION?

A group of NGOs involved in parenting education initiated a search for a unified and systematic approach for dealing with the challenges of family life that impact negatively on the lives of children and youth in Trinidad and Tobago.

Their collaborative efforts extended to a conference on the theme "Exploring Tools and Skills for Innovative Parenting". Participants from Government and Non-governmental Organizations nationwide participated in workshops held in October 2000.

WHAT ARE THE GOALS AND AIMS OF YOUR GROUP?

- To bring together and share ideas with a cadre of relevant persons interested in contributing to the development of parenting skills nationally.
- To develop by consensus a culturally relevant curriculum and methodology for creative parenting in Trinidad and Tobago.
- To train trainers in the creative parenting methodology
- To establish systems that disseminate, encourage and support creative parenting practices.
- To stimulate the development of family supports and networks in keeping with the creative parenting philosophy.
- To refine and document the evolving creative parenting methodology.

WHAT IS YOUR MISSION?

TO ENGAGE THE NATIONAL COMMUNITY IN CREATIVELY EXPLORING, RESEARCHING AND SHARING CULTURALLY APPROPRIATE TOOLS AND SKILLS OF PARENTING IN TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO IN THE NEW ERA.

WHAT CHANGES ARE YOU AIMING FOR IN THE SOCIETY?

- Purposeful parenting by self-aware parents.
- Enlightened parenting techniques sensitive to the needs and rights of children
- Responsible parenting
- Improved gender relationships and reduction of violence
- Healthy male/female communication
- Stable homes
- Adoption of healthy lifestyles
- Creation of support for families and the development healthy community life
- Crime-free environment

National Reports

WHAT TALENTS AND SKILLS ARE DEVELOPED IN YOUR GROUP?

- Parenting facilitators
- Creative thinking
- Problem solving
- Leadership
- Project planning
- Networking
- Advocacy

WHAT INFLUENCE DO YOU HAVE ON YOUR COMMUNITY AND YOUR SOCIETY?

- Citizens are more conscious about the Rights of the Child.
- We have raised the consciousness and attitude of many parents who are more purposeful, protective and active in their role as parents.
- On a national scale there is reduced tolerance of violence against children by teachers and parents.
- There is financial and social support for the poorer members of the community.
- The search for culturally appropriate methodology for training in parenting has gained increasing relevance
- CPNE has participated in a concerted lobby for a National Child Development Programme with appropriate diagnostic and treatment services
- CPNE graduates have been lobbying for Community Parenting Centers linked to schools and are assuming leadership in this regard.

WHAT ARE EXAMPLES OF POLICY CHANGES YOU HAVE BEEN ABLE TO EFFECT?

- Statements in the 2007 Budget of Trinidad and Tobago indicate that support for parenting is now officially on the national agenda.
- CPNE has contributed significantly to building the capacity of the leadership and over fifty members of the National Parent Teachers Association. This organization is now being accorded greater recognition by the political directorate. Consequently, the National PTA has been invited to provide After-School Homework Centers with financial support from Government and the private sector private sector.

DO YOU WORK WITH SPECIFIC METHODS AND TOOLS IN YOUR GROUP? IF SO WHAT ARE THEY AND WHY HAVE THEY BEEN CHOSEN?

Creative Parenting has been evolving, collecting and testing a body of tools from best practices both internationally and locally and has as a result built a curriculum that that honors the wisdom present in every group of trainees.

The curriculum is based on needs identified by stakeholders in consultations held prior to the start of training. It contains the following elements:

- A methodology that is totally participatory.
- Critical thinking by use of the Focused Conversation
- Spirituality /Meditation, use of music and art
- Sexuality
- Story-telling – Healing through your life story
- Listening as Healing
- Anger transmutation
- Leadership/ role-play.

National Reports

- The Self in Context, the Family in Context and the Self as a Facilitator
- Expanding your Feelings Vocabulary /Affirmations
- Conflict management/ The Behavior Window/Use of "I Messages"
- Analysis of the Family Circle/ the roles and needs of parents and children
- Evaluation of the impact of the environment and high-risk behaviors
- Coping with learning disabilities /differentiating between IQ and EQ
- Mental health and wellness
- Substance abuse and addictions
- Addressing the needs of children in institutions
- Creativity and problem-solving
- Community mobilization, programme planning and proposal writing
- Monitoring and evaluation

HOW DO PARTICIPANTS JOIN YOUR GROUP AND HOW DO THEY PARTICIPATE IN DECISION MAKING?

Invitations are extended to the Ministry of Education, NGOs, CBOs, programme graduates and others to nominate eligible persons for scholarships for training. Other interested persons apply directly. Persons selected are expected to share what they learn with others within their spheres of influence. Since many teachers are involved they are free to decide how they will design the curriculum for their target audiences.

Creative Parenting for the New Era could best be described as a "Movement". Our agenda is the widest possible diffusion of the tools and skills that we share and the provision of support to groups the share what they learn within their communities. We therefore not only provide training in capacity building and project proposal writing but recommend graduates' programmes for funding. We have negotiated a grant to provide some with seed money to start their projects.

WHAT IS YOUR INTEREST IN MOTHER CENTERS?

Mother Centers remind us of structures created by women in our society over sixty years ago that promoted the development of women, taught them mother craft and income generating skills, provided friendship, mentoring, leadership training and emotional support. Three such organizations, The Trinidad and Tobago Federation of Women's Institutes, The Child Welfare League and the Coterie of Social Workers now only have a membership of elderly persons and seem to be unable to attract the new generation of mothers many of who would benefit from the kinds of activities promoted by Mother Centers. The opportunity exists to share the concept of Mother Centers as a catalyst for re- mobilizing the above mentioned organizations and in this respect the idea of Mother Centers as Universities of Parenting has special appeal.

National Reports

Fact Sheet

Turkey

**Name of Organisation: International Children's Center (ICC),
Address of Group: Bilkent University, Main Campus, Library Building,
06800, Bilkent, Ankara, Turkey.**

Contact Person : Prof.Dr. Kadriye Yurdakök

E Mail : icc@icc.org.tr

Website : www.icc.org.tr

Fax Number: +90 312 266 6929

Tel Number: +90 312 290 2366

When was your organisation founded?

The International Children's Center (ICC) was jointly established by the Government of France and UNICEF in 1949 in Paris. Fifty years later it was closed due to financial difficulties. With the efforts of Prof. Ihsan Dogramaci, in consultation with UN agencies and with the support of the Turkish Government the Center re-opened in 1999 on the premises of Bilkent University in Ankara.

How many women, men and children participate actively in your groups?

- 46 women (all mothers) and 6 men answered the questionnaire 1, 2 and 3 during group discussion sessions. They were with their children during the discussions.
- Questionnaire 5 and 6 answered by 27 participants.

What is the composition of your members and participants in terms of age, family status, income level, social status, ethnic background?

members	age	family status
Kadriye YURDAKÖK	48	married
Dilek HAZNEDAROĞLU	47	married
Defne AĞAOĞLU ELBAŞI	33	married

Participants

- The age of the participants varied between 18 to 41 years.
- All the male participants were employed. 48 female participants were housewives and only 25 of the 73 mothers were working outside.
- One of the participants was illiterate, two were literate, 18 were primary school, 17 were high school and 40 were university graduates.
- 22 of them were living in very poor regions of the society.

In what of the above categories is your group homogenous and where is there diversity?

They had different levels of education, culture and income and mostly women.

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How many families do you reach through your activities?

We have reached 79 families

How is your organisation funded?

From various sources, both governmental and non-governmental organizations, UN agencies (UNICEF, UNFPA, WHO)

Do you have core funding?

What kind of activities do you have?

ICC has concentrated on child rights, adolescent health (especially reproductive health), and disaster preparedness & management. ICC is especially running courses on Adolescence and Adolescent Reproductive

The goal of ICC is to promote the physical, mental and social well being of children and adolescents in the contexts of the family and the community and to foster women's health and reproductive health. ICC concentrates on the health and problems of adolescents, especially reproductive health, child rights and disaster preparedness. By establishing branch offices and signing agreements of affiliation with similar minded centres in a number of other countries, ICC exchanges different views and experiences.

The Center:

- o Conducts research to identify priorities for the improvement of the health and welfare of children, women and families everywhere.
- o Organizes international seminars, workshops and congresses in which participation from developing countries is specially encouraged
- o Organizes projects and programs in education and health
- o Establishes branches and collaborate with other organizations with similar objectives.

How are your activities funded?

From various sources, both governmental and non-governmental organizations, UN agencies (UNICEF, UNFPA, WHO)

Is your organisation run by grassroots women or by professionals?

Mostly by professionals

What part of the work in your organisation is paid, what part is voluntary work?

What networks do you belong to?

International networking

- ICC - Affiliated Centres Network
- Child Rights Information Network (CRIN)
- South East European Child Rights Action Network (SEECRAN)
- NGO Group for Convention on the Rights of the Child
- Youth Peer Education Network

Contribution to Yale Law School project "Representing Children Worldwide the legal provisions of 194 countries and 56 states concerning how children's voices are heard in child protective proceedings in 2005.

With what groups/institutions have you developed successful partnerships?

HOW DO WE WANT TO RAISE OUR CHILDREN
International Mother Centres Conference
Bratislava, Slovakia
2006, November 17 – 20

National Reports

Health for participants from the Balkans, the Central Asian Republics, the Indian subcontinent, Middle East and Africa. ICC has branch offices in Baku, Azerbaijan and in Erbil/Iraq from which it coordinates activities. The ICC also has Affiliated Centers in Afghanistan, Bashkortostan/Russia, Bulgaria, Georgia, Greece, Italy and Uzbekistan. The Center has a Council with members from 15 countries as well as from six international agencies and NGOs including WHO, UNICEF, IPA, and UNFPA.

Campaign Results

Turkey

How many women, men and children participated in the campaign: How do we want to raise our children?

- 46 women (all mothers) and 6 men answered the questionnaire 1, 2 and 3 during group discussion sessions. They were with their children during the discussions.
- Questionnaire 5 and 6 answered by 27 participants.

- **How many dialogues did you conduct?**

Overall we had 6 group discussion sessions and 79 participants

Which questionnaire evoked the most interest and response? What questions were the participants of your group especially interested in?

- How did your ideas on parenting develop?
- Participants never thought that parenthood "can be a training and learning issue". Parenthood is usually perceived as an instinctive behavior. Their child rearing practice developed and learned as they go through their own life experience. However they are not sure of being good parents and this interview helped them realize that they need training on parenthood.

What were questions and issues that your groups added to the questionnaire?

New question developed by the facilitators)

- Is it good for the child to have his/her house by the help of his/her parents?
- What would you like to have in your environment? (From the government, any service that you can not afford to have?)
- What would you wish your parents should have done for you or how should they have approached you?
- If you had had a good education, in what ways would it had been good for your life?)

What are challenges in being a parent?

- Would it be more easy if your had only one child?
- Who or what has affected your parenting style? (Views, behaviors, different approaches?)
- How did you succeed in being a friend to your child?
- Could you show your love to your child? Do you, from time to time, kiss and hug your child?
- Don't you get tired while being the only responsible one for the child at home?
- If you and your husband were to handle equally the responsibilities of your child/children, what would you like him to do?
- Do your children obey their father? Do they obey him because they are afraid of him?
- Would you like to learn how to be a parent from somewhere or from someone?
- Do the fathers take care of the child because they want or because they are assigned by the mother?

What were questions where most participants agreed?

QUESTION 1: What is the most important thing for you in being a parent? Almost all parents responded "raising a healthy child" is the most important thing in being apparent among all.

National Reports

What were questions where there was a lot of controversy and difference of opinion?

QUESTION 9: Which roles are assigned to the father in the community?

Answers differed according to education levels of participants from “no expected role” to “being more responsible parent in child care”.

What effect did the campaign have on the participants of the dialogs?

Participants become conscious that child rearing is a vital issue and they have an important responsibility in the community and realized their weaknesses and limitations on the matter.

How has conducting the dialogs influenced the work of your group?

Our group also recognized the urgent need for parental training.

What areas of knowledge were gained through the dialogs?

We learned the values, hopes, ideals, problems, drawbacks and limitations of parents during their daily child rearing practices. This project assisted us to draw a picture of current situation in our country.

National Reports

Fact Sheet

Uganda

Name of Organization: Community Support for Capacity Development (CSCD)

Address: P.O Box 5871 Kampala, Uganda

Contact Person: Dr. Margaret Musoke Bukenya- Executive Director

Email: cscd_org@yahoo.co.uk

Tel: 256 41 288 245, 256 772 654 547, 256 772 436 041

Year of Foundation: 2005

Number of people participating: (As of 30th June 2006)

Women	Men	Children
646	592	7100

1. Composition by Age:

Women: 18-25yrs	25-35yrs	35-45yrs	<45yrs
15%	40%	35%	10%

Men: 18-25yrs	25-35yrs	35-45yrs	<45yrs
12%	45%	40%	3%

Children: 0-2yrs	3-5yrs	<5yrs
20%	70%	10%

2. Family Status:

Majority of the members are married.

3. Income level:

Low income level households that depend on subsistence farming as a source of income.

4. Social Status:

The majority are peasants

5. Ethnic Background:

Bantu and Nilotic groups mainly

The groups are more or less homogeneous in terms of Income levels, social status and family status. However there is a lot of diversity in terms of ethnicity and age of the members of the groups.

Number of families reached(as of 30th June 06):

Approx. 2367 households.

Funding:

The sources of funding are: Membership contributions, Donations, Partners

The Organization does not have Core funding:

Organization:

The grassroots women and men through their Management Committees run the grassroots Parental groups. However professionals run the Secretariat at national level from diverse backgrounds.

National Reports

What part of the work is paid and what is voluntary: Everybody is a volunteer!!!!

ECD caregivers, Management Committee members are community volunteers. The staff at the secretariat are facilitated (paid a subsistence allowance where appropriate) to carry out the community support programs, capacity building and to provide technical support but are not paid a salary.

Partnerships:

District Local governments

UNICEF

Schools

Churches

Cultural Institutions

Government Ministries and Departments

NGOs and CBOs who share the same objectives with CSCD.

Group Report

Uganda

Why CSCD was founded:

The Nutrition and Early Childhood Development Project (NECDP) of the Government of Uganda which targeted infants, toddlers and pre-school children (0 – 6 year olds) together with their care providers, had developed (holistic) ECD programmes for the few sub-counties where they operated (NECDP covered only 10% of Uganda's 1000 sub-counties) yet this is an intervention that would benefit the entire country. As a community based intervention, the project activities were suspended just as beneficiaries were getting to grips with it, leaving a lot of unfinished work. It's against this background that professionals who participated in implementing the NECDP wanted to replicate, that which had been started in the few target districts, and also to help the communities that benefited from NECDP sustain the positive outcomes.

Community Support for Capacity Development (CSCD) is an NGO founded to specifically address the needs of parents and other child care providers in an effort to strengthen their ability to care and support children and adolescents in the context of family, culture and community, i.e. in the most natural environment. Children especially those aged 0 to 17 years have their primary place of abode and care in their homes, families and communities. This is particularly true in rural areas where majority of Ugandans live. Parents, siblings or other guardians/relatives from the extended family, majority of who lack adequate information and skills give childcare in rural Uganda. CSCD supports districts, sub counties and communities to manage and sustain programmes that promote Early Childhood Development and give support to adolescents.

VISION OF CSCD

CSCD hopes to see empowered parents, families and communities who will make informed decisions for the well-being of their children, a reduction in illiteracy and poverty levels a healthy population with reduced incidence of HIV/AIDS, a morally upright society and promotion of cultural values and customs among communities that reflect good child rearing practices blended with new ideas that are beneficial the youth and society in general.

MISSION OF CSCD

To build and strengthen the capacity of families and communities to promote quality childcare practices through parental education and adolescent support programmes.

1. OBJECTIVES OF CSCD

The objectives of CSCD are to:

- Provide support services that are aimed at capacity building for the partners to provide quality social services to address the needs of the communities with particular emphasis on the elderly, Orphans and other vulnerable children (OVC).
- Build the capacities of families and communities in mobilizing resources to ensure improved family welfare.
- Build the capacity of partners to plan and implement programmes that focus on promoting and improving the welfare of families and communities.
- Promote Food security
- Provide services that promote life skills among adolescents
- Advocate for adolescent reproductive health programmes
- Scale up activities for the prevention and control of HIV/AIDS among the youth.

National Reports

- Provide support to partners to promote quality child care practices in Uganda

Achievements so far:

1. Facilitated setting up and strengthening of 126 EDC Centres in the area of operation.
2. Advocated for the setting up of 100 Child health Outreach centres at the ECD Centres by the District Local Governments.
3. Facilitated improvement of delivery of extension services to the communities
4. Advocated for the integration of ECD Centre activities into District and Sub county Local government Development Workplans and Budgets.
5. Increased enrolment of children to ECD Centres by 76% overall and that of the girl child by 80% in the target districts.
6. Improved access to information, knowledge and skills on childcare and protection through an Integrated Childcare giver Education package in 100 target communities
7. Established and strengthened linkages for lobbying and advocating for ECD at all levels

Talents and skills developed in the group:

Members have developed skills in the following areas:

- Community Mobilization and Sensitisation
- Gender, Participation and Development
- Participatory Rural Approaches
- Micro enterprise development
- Early childhood education
- Nutrition
- Strategic Communication
- Financial Management
- Social Work
- Reproductive health
- Community Health
- Primary Health Care
- HIV/AIDS
- Agriculture Extension/education
- Finance Management
- Project Planning and Management
- Training of Trainers
- Corporate Law

Example of policy Changes that we have been able to influence:

1. Recognition of the Community and Home based ECD Centres by the Min. of Education and Sports.
2. Establishment of the Education Sector ECD Policy that is in the final stages waiting approval by Ugandan Parliament.
3. Integrating EDC in the Local Government Development Plans

Tools used by CSCD:

In the process of carrying out activities, CSCD used the participatory Tools integrated with adult learning methods. These are used to ensure that all members and all beneficiaries of our programs are involved in the programs. This increases the sense of ownership and belonging among the stakeholders.

How members join our group:

Individual members apply in writing giving reasons as to why they would like to become members.

The Community Development Assistant in the sub county recommends community parental groups with interest in setting up or are already having an ECD to us.

CSCD is not a movement because it is not open to everybody who wishes to join.

National Reports

Interest in Mother Centres:

CSCD is interested in the concept of Mother Centres. This is because it focuses both on the mothers and the children. The concept of ECD Centres emphasizes the provision of the best care environment for the children (0-5yrs) at home and at the centre at the same time ensuring successful transition from home or kindergarten/nursery schools to the primary schools by setting up community ECD Centres run and managed by the community. However, most of the activities at the ECD Centres are child centred. In ensuring that in addition to the children the parents also get direct benefits from the ECD Centre by integrating more activities that target the parents and other child caregivers directly, we are interested in integrating the Mother Centre Concept with the ECD concept

Similarities/Differences between the ECD Centres and the Mother Centres:

Both target the mothers and the children below 5 years of age. They both emphasize the need for providing an environment that will stimulate both cognitive and psychosocial development to ensure that the children achieve their maximum potential. The Centres are run and managed by the parents themselves on a rotational basis and on a voluntary basis. Both provide knowledge and skills to the mothers for quality childcare.

However, the main difference is that ECD centres involve fathers as well on an equal basis as mothers. Thus men are involved in all activities of the centre both as Centre management committee members, caregivers and as participants and beneficiaries in centre activities.

Campaign Results

Uganda

SUMMARY OF CAMPAIGN RESULTS

Number of respondents to the "How do we want to raise our children" Campaign:

Women: 14748

Men: 10046

Children: 878

Number of dialogues conducted: 863

Number of grassroots respondents: 25524

Number of professional respondents: 1563

Number of groups in the dialogues: 88

Number of hours spent on dialogues: 1595.5

Issues and Questions added to the questionnaires

Questionnaire No.1

Juvenile Delinquency:

Suggested questions for the dialogue:

What is juvenile delinquency?

Is this condition common in your area? If yes why do you think so?

What motivates peers to engage in such behaviours?

How does this condition affect the family?

What can we do as parents to control juvenile delinquency among the youth?

What can be done to help rehabilitate delinquents youth?

What can be done to help affected families cope with the situation?

Questionnaire No.3

Acknowledgement of children's feelings:

Suggested questions for the dialogue:

1. What is the Importance of acknowledging children's feelings

2. What are the effects of denying children their feelings?

3. In which ways can parents deal with children's feelings?

4. Which strategies can promote good Child-Adult relationships?

5. What is the importance of allowing children take their own initiatives

Which questioning techniques are appropriate when dealing with children?

Questionnaire No.4

Suggestions for additional debate topics:

How do children learn?

What is the importance of Acknowledging children's feelings

Which strategies support Adult-Child relationships

What is the Importance of allowing children take their own initiatives

Are there any benefits from natural conversation with children

What negative effects arise from labelling and praising children?

National Reports

8. The majority of respondents had similar answers to questionnaires 1,2, 4 and 6. These were questions focusing on Child raising- goals, challenges, of parents what parents perceive as quality childrearing practices, the rationale uniqueness of ECD Centres for children <5yrs of age and. However when it came to questionnaires 3 and 5 which focus on roles/ responsibilities of fathers and parental childrearing recipes respectively, there was a lot of controversy and difference in opinion.

9. The majority of the Campaign respondents felt that such a campaign was long overdue. It has enabled them to review individually the quality of their child rearing practices, carry out self evaluation, have learnt new skills and acquired knowledge and also shared experiences and how to overcome challenges of child upbringing. Most parents felt there is an inadequacy in the skills and regretted the continued degradation of collective responsibility of both the biological parents, the extended family and the community at large.

10. The conducting of dialogues with the different partners has created and strengthened CSCD's linkages with the different stakeholders of ECD at various levels. It has also revealed the gap between the planners for ECD and what the intermediaries (parents) perceive as the best for their children. This aspect has influenced the strategic objectives of CSCD in lobbying and advocating for ECD for the period 2007-2009

11. The dialogues were conducted with of stakeholders from a wide range of sectors i.e. Local Authorities, Government Ministries, Civil Society Organisations (NGOs and CBOs), Faith Based Organisations, Academic Institutions, Primary Schools, Teacher Training Colleges, ECD Centres, Nursery schools, Kindergartens, Manufacturers.

12. Lessons learnt:

- There is a lot of knowledge and skills at the grassroots on childcare issues that are not captured or documented. And since most of this knowledge is passed on orally from generation to generation some of it is lost.
- There is need to ensure that parents play a more active role in pre-primary education Centres.
- Due to "modernization" most parents are not confident both in terms of knowledge and skills on child upbringing.
- There is need for more parent support and education programs
- A community-based approach to ECD ensures collective and cost effective delivery of parent support programs to the parents.
- The influence of the media on the character, morals and behaviour of children
- There is need to narrow the gap between the professional and the lay-persons in terms of knowledge and skills on ECD.
- Globalisation and cross-cultural influences have a very big influence on how the children are brought -up.

Fact Sheet

USA

Name of Organisation: National Association of Mothers' Centers, Inc.
Address of Group: 64 Division Avenue, Suite 7
Levittown, NY 11756 USA
Contact Person: Linda Juergens, Exec. Director
E Mail: LindaJ@MothersCenter.org
Website: www.MothersCenter.org
Fax Number: (516) 520-1639
Tel Number: (516) 520-2929

When was your organisation founded?

The first Mothers' Center in the USA was founded in 1975 in Hicksville, NY. The National Association of Mothers' Center was incorporated in 1995.

How many women, men and children participate actively in your groups?

At present we have approx. 1,000 women participating in 35 Mothers' Centers and an alumni network of over 6,000 women (membership record keeping only dates back to 1999). Over the past 32 years hundreds of Mothers' Centers have existed but they have a finite life span due to the lack of financial support and resources available to them in their communities.

What is the composition of your members and participants in terms of age, family status, income level, social status, ethnic background?

We do not collect this information from our members however we could generalize that overall our active members are married, white, middle class mothers between the ages of 25 and 40.

In what of the above categories is your group homogenous and where is there diversity?

There is some racial/ethnic diversity based on the location of the particular Center. There is less diversity in terms of income level due to the fact that most Centers have to charge dues and fees to support their programs.

How many families do you reach through your activities?

We reach approximately 1,000 families through our Mothers' Center network. We reach additional families through our New Neighborhood program which brings parenting support groups to working parents in their workplace. We also reach many more women through our national advocacy initiative MOTHERS (www.MothersOughtToHaveEqualRights.org).

National Reports

How is your organisation funded?

We solicit private donations and grants. We also collect membership dues from our members. We receive no public or government support.

Do you have core funding?

We have several private foundations that have been core supporters but their funding is not guaranteed from year to year. We must reapply each year.

What kind of activities do you have?

The National Association of Mothers' Centers (NAMC) addresses the needs of mothers through a network of programs that: offer information and support, break the isolation of motherhood, advance maternal health and well-being, recognize the importance of mothers to society, valuing both their paid & unpaid work, and become caring communities for mothers and families. We provide training and consultation to existing centers and those that are just getting started on topics such as leadership in a non-hierarchy and peer group facilitation skills. The interpersonal communication skills learned at a Mothers' Center are used by members to negotiate for themselves and their families and empower them to feel they can advocate more effectively in their communities and beyond. We partner with other organizations and professionals to provide information on parenting, normal child development and post-partum depression to our members.

Through our New Neighborhood program we provide discussion groups for working parents in the workplace. Additionally, the NAMC hosts an annual Work/Life conference for corporations and their employees and a National Mothers' Center Conference every 2 to 3 years.

Our member centers, Mothers' Centers throughout the U.S., are self sustaining, non-profit groups where mothers meet, engage in discussion groups, enjoy a respite from their child caretaking role (childcare is often available while the Mothers' participate in groups), and help keep their center going through cooperative responsibility. Many also offer informal playgroups, social events for families as well as structured nursery school or "mommy & me" programs.

How are your activities funded?

The NAMC funds its activities via membership dues from centers as well as individual members, event fees, donations, grants and fee for service programs like the New Neighborhood.

Each Center funds its own activities. Some have income generating programs like Mommy & Me and/or Nursery School. All collect dues from their members and raise funds in other ways.

Is your organisation run by grassroots women or by professionals?

The National Association of Mothers' Centers office has a paid staff of four (1 full time, 3 part time) who are all alums or active members of local Mothers' Centers. The Centers are run by grassroots women.

National Reports

What part of the work in your organisation is paid, what part is voluntary work?

At the NAMC, staff positions are paid. We also have, currently, over 50 volunteers working for the NAMC. Volunteer opportunities include serving on the Board of Directors, special committees or working on special projects or events.

Some local Centers have nominally paid positions (coordinators, child care providers, teachers, etc.) but the general work of the Center is voluntary (facilitating groups, marketing/PR, financial management, etc.).

What networks do you belong to?

Assoc. for Research on Mothering (ARM)
(http://www.yorku.ca/crm/ARM%20info/arm_index.htm)
Non-Profit Coordinating Committee of New York (<http://www.npccny.org/>)
Grassroots Organizations Operating Together in Sisterhood (GROOTS)
(<http://www.groots.org/>)
National Council of Women's Organizations (NCWO)
(<http://www.womensorganizations.org/>)
Postpartum Support International (PSI) (<http://www.postpartum.net/>)
Long Island Women's Agenda (LIWA) (<http://www.liwa.org/>)
Early Care and Education – LI (ECELI)

With what groups/institutions have you developed successful partnerships?

Parents Action for Children (<http://www.parentsaction.org/>)
Mothers Movement Online (<http://www.mothersmovement.org/>)
Moms Rising (<http://www.momsrising.org/>)
The Motherhood Project (<http://www.motherhoodproject.org/>)
Women's Media Center (<http://www.womensmediacenter.com/>)
The National Association of Child Care Resources and Referral Agencies (NACCRRRA)
(<http://www.naccrra.net/>)
Libraries for the Future: Family Place Libraries
(<http://www.lff.org/programs/family.html>)
National Organization for Women (NOW) (<http://www.now.org/>)
Family and Home Network (<http://www.familyandhome.org/>)
L.I. Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM-LI) (<http://www.shrml.org/>)
Parent Child Home Program (<http://www.parent-child.org/>)
North Shore Child and Family Guidance (<http://www.northshorechildguidance.org/>)
Long Island Advocacy Center
Childcare Council of Nassau County (<http://www.childcare Nassau.org/>)
Childcare Council of Suffolk County (<http://www.childcaresuffolk.org/>)
Childbirth Connection (<http://www.childbirthconnection.org/>)
YMCA (<http://www.ymca.net/>)

Campaign Results

USA

How many women, men and children participated in the campaign: How do we want to raise our children?

Ninety Eight (98)

How many dialogues did you conduct?

Seven (7) – they were done as online surveys not face to face group dialogues.

Which questionnaire evoked the most interest and response? What questions were the participants of your group especially interested in?

Our ability to disseminate the survey improved over the course of the 7 questionnaires due to an upgrade in our database software. It is therefore difficult to determine whether an increase in response to some surveys was due to an increase in interest in the topic or the mere fact that more people actually received it.

Having said that, we were able to determine that the majority of those that did respond are mothers of young children (elementary school age and younger). They had a lot more to say on the “private” issues that involved their day to day parenting – i.e. eating, sleeping, discipline, school issues, social interaction, environmental hazards, harmful media exposure, marketing products to children etc.

What were questions and issues that your groups added to the questionnaire?

Not applicable. The survey tool we used does not allow more than 10 questions. There was no provision for participants to add questions.

What were questions where most participants agreed?

There was overwhelming agreement that our own mother is the #1 role model for parenting, that Mothers’ Center peers serve as resources and role models, that patience is key and that the goal of parenting is to raise caring, compassionate, happy children as we prepare them to go out into the world on their own. Additionally, there was significant agreement on the following:

- Use of “time outs” to discipline young children
- Importance of being informed about normal child development
- Need to have great patience with and to listen to children
- Need to encourage independent sleeping
- Need to encourage healthy eating by offering many choices

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What were questions where there was a lot of controversy and difference of opinion?

There was difference of opinion in the following areas:

- Need for pre-schools to incorporate academics vs. primarily for socialization
- Whether parents can influence the schools
- Best parenting styles: authoritarian, authoritative, attachment methods, etc.
- Perception of day care – necessary, good experience vs. something to be avoided

What effect did the campaign have on the participants of the dialogs?

Not sure since they completed them on their own. We hope it was a thought provoking experience for those who participated and that they will discuss these issues with their partners, family, and friends.

How has conducting the dialogs influenced the work of your group?

It confirmed the value of Mothers' Center programs in the lives of individual mothers and validates the need for programs like these in every community. It also confirmed our belief that while mothers of young children must of necessity be focused primarily on the needs of themselves and their families we can help them connect their own personal struggles with the larger societal causes/factors. This advocacy work to engage the grassroots is vital to long term social change and should continue to be an important part of our organizational mission.

What areas of knowledge were gained through the dialogs?

From the perspective of the NAMC, we gained perspective on commonalities and areas of concern for mothers. This is useful in our program planning and validates our current focus on advocacy in the areas of early care in education, post-partum depression and work/life issues.

It is our intention to summarize the results of the surveys in our newsletter coverage of the MINE conference.

Did you conduct dialogs with other stakeholders in society? If so, with whom? And what were the results of the dialogs?

No

What visions of a family and child friendly society were developed during the campaign?

The #1 ingredient in a family and child friendly society is "patience and time" -- a place where children are not just "merely tolerated" but welcomed in public life and protected from harmful influences (media, marketing, environmental dangers, etc.). (*Note: There is a growing movement in the US for child free spaces – housing developments, restaurants, etc.*) Mothers' Centers are vital community resources - they model what 'child welcoming' public spaces could look like.

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Also mentioned often was workplaces flexibility – work options that allow for caregiving responsibilities for both mothers and fathers and healthcare that is universally affordable, accessible and of high quality.

What are the main lessons learned through participating in the campaign?

We learned that we are on the right track with advocacy efforts aimed at consciousness raising among our members. There are definitely “personal” connections to the more “global issues” we are promoting.

- *Work/Life Issues:* The fact that the US work ethic calls for an ever increasing amount of time dedicated to paid work is seen in participants’ responses regarding the role of fathers (i.e. most fathers do not or can not participate in Mothers’ Center programs, many do not or can not share equitably in the caretaking responsibilities for children) and as well as mothers wishes for more time to parent with patience.
- *Early Care in Education:* Parents report it is an ongoing challenge to protect their children from harmful media influences, corporate marketing to children, environmental dangers, etc. The larger societal issues include – recognizing the role of mothers/caregivers as the earliest educators of children who need support, validation, accommodation; improved childcare and pre-school options in terms of quality, accessibility, and affordability.

In what way can the results of the campaign contribute to profiling the expertise of parents as “everyday life experts”?

- Responses indicated a willingness by these parents to go against perceived “norms” (what toys to buy, schools to attend, media exposure, etc.) to do what they think is right and best for their child(ren).
- The number one source of information for participants when making decisions for their own family regarding choosing schools, appropriate discipline, parenting strategies, etc. was “talking with other parents”.
- The majority of participants reported that they get information from many sources; formal- books, magazines, doctors, and informal- Mothers’ Center groups, friends, family - then are able to trust their own judgment. Ultimately, they see themselves as the “experts” of their children.

What are the main changes parents want and need in order to raise the children according to their visions?

- Reduction in or better controls on harmful media exposure (TV, internet, etc.) and marketing to children.
- Safe environment
- Schools with “child centered” versus test based focus.
- Better public role models. (focus on ethical behaviour not material successes)
- More time with their children. Relief from ever increasing need for and demands of paid work.
- Caring communities and support for the work of parenting (i.e. Mothers’ Centers)

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What are the main ways society can support parents in raising their children according to their visions?

Be more child welcoming:

- breastfeeding in public normalized
- accommodations for parents fulfilling civic duties (jury duty)
- public spaces designed with the needs of families and children in mind

Policies that make children a priority:

- Protection from environmental dangers
- Healthcare that is universally accessible, affordable and high-quality
- Day care/preschool that is universally accessible, affordable and high-quality

Jobs that allow time to care for children and other family members: paid parental leave, PT work with benefits, etc

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