

ICDP

International Child Development Programme



ICDP NEWSLETTER: October 2008

www.icdp.info

Hello to all our friends and colleagues,

We welcome you to our ICDP Newsletter which is highlighting some of our activities that were listed as monthly news on our webpage over the past six months or so! We hope to share more information from everyone. This space is reserved for your news, so we invite you not only to read but also to send us information about your work with ICDP, your thoughts, comments, stories from the field and any other ideas that you may wish to share. We welcome to this newsletter also anyone interested in our activities as they may wish to be informed or perhaps contribute in some way.

Looking forward to hearing from you we send our best wishes, [from the ICDP team](#)

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ICDP AGM

The ICDP AGM in Lisbon that took place from 9-11th October focused on formulating ICDP development and fundraising strategies, as well as considering organizational restructuring and creating of new didactic tools to enable the future growth of our work, whose main targets will continue to be vulnerable, neglected children and families at psychosocial risk. ICDP board members are: Karsten Hundeide, chairman, Santana Momade, Nicoletta Armstrong, Virginia Thomas, Stephan Solat and Penélope Villar. The current scope of ICDP activities, achievements, needs and difficulties was shared through board members' reports, all of which revealed a considerable expansion of our work in the world, as well as an ever increasing demand for further developments in Africa, Latin America and Europe.



The work of ICDP has received awards in Norway (The Teaching Prize 2007 to the Health and Welfare Agency in Oslo for their use of the ICDP programme) and Colombia (the National Award for Human rights for ICDP work by the department of Boyaca).

The board drew a distinction between two types of developments: one where ICDP initiates activities as project holder and the other more typical development where ICDP answers requests for competence building consultancy service, without being the project holder. ICDP has particularly strong presence in several countries: Norway (spread over a large part of the country through the Ministry of Children and Equality), Sweden (through health care, family centres, preschools, social care services), Mozambique (four year large training project sponsored by NORAD), Colombia (projects covering 6 provinces cooperating with Unicef, the local governments and ministries of Education, Health and Social Services) and El Salvador (national programme coordinated by ISNA, cooperation with Unicef).

A 3 year research project is evaluating ICDP work in Norway, a one year evaluation study of ICDP in Colombia will be ready by June 2009, and an evaluation is being planned for the work in Mozambique.

An African network has already started to be formed whereas funding for the formation of a Latin American network will be sought in 2009.

Three committees were created: 1. The professional committee will examine the ICDP policies and procedures, the training programme, ICDP manuals and other materials, as well as criteria for use and protection of the ICDP programme. 2. The evaluation committee will produce standards for monitoring and evaluation. 3. The fundraising committee will take on the task of approaching new donor and developmental agencies. In addition to its main task of securing funding for new project developments, there is an urgent need to secure sustainability of funding of our core organization and head office.

The board decided on activities in 2009 which, among other, will include an international training seminar, professional workshop for trainers, training of new persons as international consultants, translation and production of new manuals, consolidation of existing projects as well as new project developments in Africa (special focus on HIV/AIDS), Europe (work with youth and migrants) and Latin America (early childhood development and peace building in families).

NEW BOOK

ICDP has published "Introduction to the ICDP programme" in Norwegian:

Innføring i ICDP (for veiledere) - by **Karsten Hundeide**

It is to be used by facilitators and for facilitator level training. Available for sale from ICDP: icdp@icdp.no or tel. 21 39 34 16

MOZAMBIQUE

From the report by Professor Karsten Hundeide from his visit to Mozambique:

Workshop on the 7-8th of August: It was attended by local representatives and staff from ICDP Mozambique, as well as representatives from other countries: from Community Foundation for the Western Region of Zimbabwe, from Care in South Africa, from Kiwakkuki women's organization in Tanzania, from Save the Children in Maputo representing Save the Children UK, US and Norway. The workshop was split into several parts: - Presentation of ICDP for those who had no background and upgrading for those who had already some knowledge; - Participants reporting about their work in ICDP or Early Child Care; - Discussions about the African network and how it could be implemented; - Field-visit on the second day . The workshop was a success and there was clearly a need for some upgrading but also a need to report and to share experiences. It was quite impressive what the South African representative told about the implementation of ICDP in her region. She was also prepared to go into Lethoto as this was quite near and she also spoke the local language. The two representatives from Tanzania reported about their general work in Kiwakkuki and how ICDP was integrated into their general work of caring. Inviolenta from Zimbabwe was representing a big Foundation (Community Foundation for the Western Region of Zimbabwe) and she told about their work in many sectors and how ICDP could be integrated into this. Save the Children gave a review of their activities in Mozambique and expressed interest in cooperating more with ICDP in the future.

The African ICDP network - All present expressed interest and willingness to participate in this network and would also be included in a future application to NORAD or any other funding agency that might be approached. The possibility of expanding the network into project funding in different countries was discussed.



Young children orderly organized in the day centre



Professor Karsten Hundeide (far left) starting the workshop

The first visit was to a preschool in Maputo, well-organized and well equipped with more than 400 children. Most of the activities we saw were rhythmic singing and drumming with collective gymnastics – all with very little individual contact and caring directed to individual children. The children however seemed to enjoy these exercises and from a comparative point of view, we can consider this as an early socialization into a collective authoritarian orientation and mentality. Even babies were highly organized sitting in circles and obeying the orders of the caregiver who was in charge. No crying and clinging seemed to be allowed or was visible.... In another similar centre the interesting aspect from the point of view of ICDP was the way the preschool teacher used the garden area as an arena for mediation. Groups of about ten children were led by one preschool teacher who stopped at different points where she picked up a leaf or a flower and asked the children questions about it. This had all the aspects of the meaning dialogue from focussing, meaning to expansion and it took place in a dialogue, not with one individual child, but with the group, and the children answered either collectively or one individual child answered.

All this took place in a disciplined and organized way, all children obeyed and were focussed on the interaction that took place. But the whole interaction seemed to be very much teacher oriented, I could not see much initiatives from the children like asking questions about the plants they observed. It was all within the frame of lessons and answering the correct questions – of traditional authoritarian pedagogy. Despite this, the atmosphere was good and the children appeared happy, singing and clapping whenever there was an opportunity – all led by the teacher..

The second field visit with our visitors, was from the point of view of ICDP very interesting and successful: We went far into the community of Mavalane where we were led by the community chairwomen into a small concrete house; a number of women were sitting on the concrete floor with a carpet, exchanging experiences on ICDP, guided by one of our promoters. They spoke the local language but we had fortunately simultaneous translation so that we could follow what was going on.... It was very interesting to follow what these women were expressing regarding the significance of ICDP in their community. Different women raised their hands and gave examples of how they had stopped beating their children and how they had come into closer contact with their children. One of them gave a long speech about the significance of “redefinition” of seeing the child in a positive way. All these positive expressions were interrupted by enthusiastic clapping and singing from the audience - also dancing. When the chairperson of the women’s organization of the area arrived she gave along speech on how important ICDP was for the community and that they were prepared to expand the ICDP activities into new neighbouring communities. Afterwards, there was sustained clapping, singing and dancing together. This must be an example of that the anthropologist Turner describes as “communitas” - deep emotional sharing and contact through dance and music... I have never seen such enthusiasm in an ICDP group. Clearly ICDP seemed to match a need in this community for togetherness and sharing basic issues of human care. Also it convinced me that the danger of “imposing ICDP” which is all the time coming up, is not what we see in reality in such groups. Rather what we see are active women who transform the ICDP topics into their own language and experience and produce their own examples in accordance with their own tradition and frame of mind. Fortunately I was able to video-record most of this.



Singing and dancing together; Irina Mendes (photo on the left) dancing with the leader of the local women's organization; Caregivers clapping enthusiastically after each speaker

The potential of these enthusiastic women's groups to be expanded both to other regions and to include other topics like preventive health, including HIV/AIDS or even micro credit together with the ICDP topics, should be investigated further. With these women, some of them illiterate, emotional sharing with singing and dancing, as described above, seem to be a better way of influencing their lives than through Impersonal information, brochures and didactic lecturing.

ICDP IN KHARAGPUR AND KOLKATA, WEST BENGAL

From the report by Dr. Karl-Peter Hubbertz and Maria Chatterjee:

" **An ICDP introductory seminar** took place in Seva Kendra Kharagpur for a group of village workers and social workers from the region of Kharagpur and Midnapur.

The aim was to enable participants to use ICDP with groups of parents and other caregivers in different project areas and villages. The seminar-group consisted of eight pairs, each of them working in a different place of the region. In this way we wanted to activate cooperation and mutual support as colleagues in ICDP-work. At the end of the seminar, each pair of participants had to develop a project-plan and they went home with strong motivation to try out and implement ICDP in practice.



We held a supervision meeting in Seva Kendra Culcatta that was attended by many participants from the ICDP-seminars which were held in West Bengal during 2006 and 2007.



After some short reports from each project area about their practical work we collected the most urgent questions to be solved:

- How to work with fathers?
- Problems with joint families – how can we deal with them?
- How can we work with illiterate caregivers?
- Is it possible to work with mothers and children together?
- What about the regularity of visits/ missing group-sessions of certain parents?
- Is it possible to present only parts of the agenda?
- Can we work with different target-groups?
- What about continuation of a parent-group?
How can we stay in contact?

People shared their opinions actively and were very supportive of each other, giving advice and developing new ideas. We finished the day examining future steps.

One enthusiastically greeted idea is to produce a short film about the ICDP guidelines expressed through local cultural context, by filming interactions between Bengali parents and children, as well as with tribal families. Participants formed a small group of interested colleagues to actively work on this project. Bablu Sarkar is the initiator of this project; other members are Madhabi Mukherjee, Dr. Aparna Saha and Debashish Mukherjee.

The other point is a translation of important parts of the programme into Bengali. Some first trials already had been made by Debashish and Aparna. Following this, Mrs. Maria Chatterjee as the coordinator plans to translate the booklet "I'm a person too!" for the direct use of parents. On the whole, this supervision-day was a very encouraging experience for all group-members. Everybody's wish and intention was to continue with ICDP work in their own project area!"

NATIONAL AWARD FOR HUMAN RIGHTS



The award ceremony in Tunja will be attended by ICDP in early November. [click for more in Spanish](#) Photo above was taken on 18th February 2005, showing the Governor of the Boyaca province launching the ICDP project at a press conference in Tunja; the project is ongoing.

Dr. Gladys Constanza Medina, (wife of the previous governor of Boyaca) wrote to congratulate ICDP, informing that the Colombian National Award for Human Rights was recently given to the Boyaca department where ICDP as their flagship programme reached 70 000 families.

She also writes: - The ICDP pedagogy based on human love, its programme "I am a person too" has constituted the best seed in achieving a healthier society, a society which one day instead of learning about the concept of democracy in the classroom will be living it from the cradle. This beautiful methodology led to more than the award, it led those who came across it to become happier people."

NEW ICDP GROUP STARTS IN PARAGUAY

ICDP trainer Benita Gavilan writes from Asuncion: "Achievements with ICDP in the Villeta community, located south of the capital Asuncion, secured further funding from the Education Ministry and as result a new group of 20 mothers started to receive ICDP. At the same time the 20 previously trained mothers showed good potential for spreading ICDP to other families. The families speak Guarani much more than Spanish in their everyday life, but fortunately some of my colleagues are able to provide translations. The Villeta project is financed by the Interamerican Development Bank and in connection with the Ministry of Education. I am also involved in the activities of the Working group for Early Childhood public policies, of which I am a member. The new government has very recently designed and presented an emergency Action Plan for 100 days, directed to assist women, children and indigenous groups, and a special focus is on poor families as almost half of the Paraguayan population is poor. Street children are also one of the main targets of this new government plan of assistance. With my team we are already working with street working children in the Asuncion market where we run a day centre for children at risk and their families; however we feel that now in the new political panorama there may be good chances of starting ICDP on a larger scale in Paraguay and for this reason we will have a series of meetings with new Secretaries of State. We hope to organize a public event where ICDP can be presented and promoted in cooperation with the official authorities."

SCANDINAVIAN NETWORK MEETING

The yearly meeting of the ICDP Scandinavian network took place on the 29th and 30th May in the town of Stavanger. It was hosted by the Stavanger ICDP group gathering more than 130 participants from Norway, Sweden and Denmark. Leif Johan Sevland, the town's Mayor, opened the conference by welcoming all to Stavanger, the European Cultural capital for 2008. He stressed the necessity of creating a platform for ICDP development, illustrating the importance of the ICDP work all over Scandinavia. The topic of the conference was sensitization, theory and methodology. On the first day Dr. Margareta Brøden gave a presentation on early intervention, followed up by presentations describing the work of ICDP in the 3 Scandinavian countries.



On the second day psychologist Ingeborg Egebjerg (photo on the left), chair of ICDP Norway, presented challenges related to the ICDP sensitization process and how to deal with group dynamics. Torunn Teigen talked about the practical application of ICDP in health centres, whereas Jamil Syed presented ICDP experiences from projects involving different ethnic backgrounds. There were two parallel workshops conducted by Hilde Tørnes and Paul Bergman, as well some cultural events. Once more the network meeting generated interest and enthusiasm in exchanging experiences with ICDP.

ICDP RECEIVES SPECIAL AWARD

The Health and Welfare Agency received The Teaching Prize 2007 from the Mayor for the best educational and awareness raising effort in Oslo. The award was given to Farahnaz Rastegar and Ellen Tronsmo for their work with ICDP and especially for the ICDP efforts reaching out to the minority population. ICDP is implemented throughout the city through different local networks such as kindergartens, social service groups and health stations. See photos and article published in Oslo:

<http://www.helse-og-velferdsetaten.oslo.kommune.no/article104192-6472.html>

ICDP PORTUGAL IN ACTION

A new ICDP organisation has been registered and set up in Portugal with a strong and enthusiastic team - [click here for report](#).

From ICDP trainer Penélope Villar (photo below): "With the conclusion of the work performed in Lisbon in May 2007, ICDP Portugal sensitised its first Promoter group. From this initial group of seven, four revealed a strong will to continue their training in the ICDP Programme. In order to make this possible, it was urgent to find a place for this team (a Nutritionist, two Psychologist and an Architect) to carry out their fieldwork. Therefore, after a previous meeting with the Director of the Educational Centre "Roda Viva", we were invited to start a sensitisation programme with the children's parents. This educational centre in Alfragide (near Lisbon), is a non profitable social support institution, which receives children aged four months to fifteen years (in a 117 children total).



Due to the social and economic background of this region, due to the relational difficulties between parents and children (identified by the Project Director) and considering the good results obtained in previous parental education actions (performed by ICDP trainer Penélope Villar), it was decided to move on with a project for parents sensitisation. The activity was based on ICDP principles and held as a goal not only the Parents sensitisation, but also to provide the fieldwork for training the first ICDP Portugal Facilitators team.



The project took place between March and June 2008 with the involvement of 15 families. Results were very positive, since both parents and Facilitators were able to develop specific competences. We assisted a process of behaviour change in Parents and also an improvement in our team competences. This successful intervention assured the project continuity, which will see its range widened in the next months. In conclusion, we can say this initiative consolidated this young team and we are looking forward to new projects. www.icdpportugal.blogspot.com

DEVELOPMENTS IN COLOMBIA: [brief overview](#)

CHOCO province



ICDP spread to communities in the province of Choco, including to the most remote areas reachable only by river. Adriana Zapata (standing in the photo below) from Unicef explains:

"Our strategy is to start working on consolidating the ICDP trained teams which are working all over Choco and our focus will be on monitoring and evaluation. The ICDP workshop which took place at the end of May, when we were visited by ICDP trainers, started this new phase; the facilitators received monitoring procedures to help them strengthen the field work carried out by promoters. The ICDP developments represent an inter-institutional effort: Unicef, ICBF, CINDE and more recently the local church, are all

cooperating very closely which is very significant for us. We managed to accomplish a lot with ICDP; most families have been very receptive to the programme but the needs are extreme. At the moment we are facing a very difficult situation due to renewed armed conflicts, particularly outside the capital of Quibdo. Children are traumatised by continuous violence, I feel so sad to see how fearful they are; each time we arrive to their villages they run and hide as they have become scared of all adults. "



HUILA province

ICDP has been present in the entire province, in 37 towns, since 2006. The two photos on the left are from the local school Kue-Dsi in Rio Negro - it is an indigenous name, as the school is located in an indigenous Indian community. Simeon Marinez (photo below, on far right), is one of the 1600 facilitators/promoters that ICDP trained in Huila. He explains the snowballing effect of ICDP in Iquira:



" I was trained by ICDP. Then with colleagues from the education, health and social services networks we started implementing ICDP with 10 educators, 24 community mothers, and four health promoters. They worked with families and children in Iquira, each one through their own network, but we kept in touch. We reached 463 families. The results were good. We observed an increase in empathic behaviour towards children, they were treated like 'real people'. So we decided to reach out to Rio



Negro, to the indigenous community. One teacher trained 22 teachers of the local school, attended by 600 pupils, and the 22 teachers implemented ICDP with the families of the pupils attending the school. It was a great effort as this ICDP work took place outside their working hours during the evenings for about 3 hours each week. It was worth it, as we noticed that they became more affectionate towards their children. Also, something we did not expect to see, was that parents are now playing with their children - this was completely outside their cultural practices but they decided to change! We are so glad that the Ministry of Education decided to allow teachers to use 3 hours for ICDP implementation every week, so teachers will no longer have to do it after finishing their days work. "

TANZANIA



Group of candidate trainers

A 4 day seminar for candidate ICDP trainers took place in Moshi, under the leadership of Mai Bente Snipstad and Grete Flakk.

The candidate trainers are 13 women from the Kiwakkuki women's organization. The work of Kiwakkuki takes place in the Kilimanjaro region and it focuses especially on different aspects of the HIV/AIDS pandemic. [Read more.](#)



The photo on left shows the tree women (out of 13) who proudly received their diplomas as ICDP trainers. They are (starting from the left): Luilialieli Mfangavo, Egla Matechi and Vernynice Monyo

The trained personnel from the Kiwakkuki organization will continue to use the ICDP methodology in their work with vulnerable children and their families.

GUATEMALA SUMMIT

The new government of Guatemala, led by Alvaro Colom, started its administration on the 14 January 2008 emphasising as their priority tackling issues concerning the situation of children and the poor. Guatemala has the highest percentage of malnourished children in Latin America and sixth highest in the world, according to a recent report by Unicef. It is within this context that the Second National Meeting on Early Childhood, ENPI II, took place on 9th and 10th April. It was a joint effort by the government, Plan International and led by Unicef country representative, Manuel Manrique (third from the right on the photo below) and his expert team. It gathered 517 participants, including all the ministries and important national networks and NGOs working for children. A group was also invited to share experiences from Mexico, Colombia, Holland, USA, Nicaragua, Chile, Cuba, and it included Nicoletta Armstrong who presented the work of ICDP. [Conference agenda](#).



The president opened the conference and he announced Guatemala in a state of emergency with regards to malnourished children.

He and the First Lady, Sandra Torres de Colom (in the centre of the photo) spoke about the significance of joining efforts and implementing proposals made by the meeting.

On the last day they signed the action plan formulated by the meeting as national policy and call for action. [Read article by UNICEF](#).

After the conference an ICDP workshop was held for 61 persons from different institutions. Participants included professionals from Plan International, Secretaria de Bienestar Social, SOSEP, Fundazucar and several NGOs. A project proposal for implementation of ICDP on national scale is currently under preparation in cooperation with Unicef, the government secretariat and Plan International.

TRAINING IN SALAZAC, FRANCE

The international training programme for facilitators, which started with a workshop in Oslo in December 2007, continued in Salazac, France, with a second workshop held from 26th to 28th of March. It took place in the countryside home of Erica Sapir, one of the six participants.



Professor Karsten Hundeide, the leader of this training was unable to attend in person, but his lecture was filmed and watched at the workshop, which tested out in practice this way of working for the first time.

Workshop was attended by: Luis Pereira (Van Leer Foundation), Erica Sapir and Pilar Romero (Puppeteer without borders - <http://www.puppeteerswithoutborders.org/>), Ylva Snekkvik and Trine Gerlyng (ICDP), and Michael Hundeide (researcher).

All participants are interested to include the ICDP methodology as part of their work.

ICDP IN NORWEGIAN PRISONS



The implementation of ICDP in Norwegian prisons has so far been very successful. This was the conclusion of both the facilitators and the parents who benefited from the training.

As result ICDP has been integrated as part of the overall training programme for prison staff of the national department Kriminalomsorgens Utdanningscenter (KRUS).

Christine Sørøy is the ICDP trainer responsible for future developments at KRUS. Photo left: a group of ICDP facilitators/prison staff. This group is still in process of training but there are other groups who have already completed their training and will be soon receiving their ICDP diplomas.

WORKSHOPS IN OSLO



1. An International training workshop (photo on the left) took place at ICDP headquarters on February 28, 29 and March 1st. Participants included persons from Australia, Holland, Georgia and Ukraine. Workshop leaders were Nicoletta Armstrong and ICDP chairman professor Karsten Hundeide. On the last day of the workshop plans were outlined for future practical application of the ICDP programme with children and families. A follow up meeting will take place in August.

2. In parallel with the international workshop, Hilde Ternes held a two day course, which was attended by 8 participants, mainly preschool teachers. This activity was part of ICDP developments taking place through pre-schools in the Oslo area. The first part of this training took place in January.

3. A third ICDP workshop took place from 5-7th March. Training was led by Karsten Hundeide, Mona Hannestad and Dragana Tosinovic. It marked the beginning of a pilot project that will be applying ICDP for the first time with families of asylum seekers. The workshop was attended by staff from centers offering assistance to asylum seekers situated in different parts of Norway. The ICDP programme will be applied in 5 centers. It is planned for the ICDP implementation with families to be carried out by two trained facilitators working together, one will be of minority origin and the other will be Norwegian.



Mona Hannestad



Dragana Tosinovic