

FOCUS TOPIC:

Street Children in Morocco: Analysis of the Situation

Scale and forms of the "street children" phenomenon

The term "street children" includes children who live on the street and are not supported or protected by their families. It is, however, important to stress that not all street children are candidates for clandestine migration. On the other hand, minors who have been time and again sent back from Europe squat the northern ports waiting for another opportunity to leave and end up becoming "street children".

In Morocco, in 1999 the State Secretariat for Children, Women and the Family, in partnership with local authorities, conducted a preliminary study in most of the Kingdom's medium-sized and large cities. The study, which counted between 14,000 and 16,000 street children in Morocco, showed how difficult it is to get exact figures because of the mobility of children who live or wander in the street. Their number is now officially estimated at between **10,000** and **30,000**.

- | | |
|------------------------|--------------------|
| • Marrakech: 606 | • Tetouan: 60 |
| • Safi: 2322 | • Fes: 1700 |
| • El Jadida: 504 | • Meknès: 1412 |
| • Beni Mellal: 1686 | • Casablanca: 5430 |
| • Tanger / Assila: 490 | |

The invasion of children living on the street is the result of several factors:

- socio-economic factors: poverty, the flight from rural areas, uncontrolled urbanisation, unemployment, under-achievement at and dropping out of school, economic exploitation of children;
- family factors: single-parent families (divorced, single mothers), domestic violence, families that have given up, lack of affection.

The street has become an alternative for these children providing freedom, informal economy, solidarity, clan, etc.

Street children are not a homogeneous group. A number of street typologies have been identified: permanent residents who have lived full-time on the street for years; working children (hawking, washing windscreens, working as packers in ports, shoe-shining, etc); sexually exploited children (prostitution); beggars; those who want to migrate clandestinely or have already been turned back and are awaiting another departure to Europe; offenders; runaways; and child maids escaping violent employers.

Their age varies from 6 to 25, most being pre-adolescents (11-14). There are now almost as many girls as boys, girls being increasingly visible on the streets (48% girls and 52% boys, according to BAYTI, a Moroccan NGO involved in the protection, rehabilitation and social reintegration of street children).

The street affects its inhabitants, sometimes irreversibly. According to the profile, age, and time spent on the street, the following are observed to varying degrees:

Behavioural problems:

- loss of temporal-spatial reference points: the notion of time and space is gradually lost;
- cold, hunger, fear of roundups and the need for solidarity become their only reference points;
- loss of self-esteem; loss of self-confidence and of confidence in others;
- rejection of any form of institutionalization;
- rootlessness: they move from squat to squat and from town to town according to their mood and needs. They can no longer bear to settle in one place.
- physical, verbal and sexual violence becomes a way of life, leading to crime in some cases;
- behavioural instability;
- delinquency: theft, armed robbery, rape. These youngsters are often caught up in a vicious circle: street – prison – street.

Drug and alcohol dependency

95% sniff glue or thinners (*tshamkin*). The effects of sniffing are:

- loss of conscience: no longer responsible for their acts;
- courage: ability to confront others, beg and bear humiliation;
- means of survival: no longer feel hungry or cold and sink into a deep sleep;
- escape, access to a fantasy world of fiction, incoherence, delirium;
- mental sluggishness (neurological effect of inhaling glue);
- acting out: fights, self-mutilation, suicide attempts.

They become dependent very quickly. Some sniff as many as ten tins of glue a day. Some young people take other types of drugs: cough mixture, antidepressants, hashish. They are relatively few in number because of the cost. A great many are dependent on tobacco. Fewer use alcohol, which is mainly the preserve of young adults.

In addition, because of the living conditions on the street (lack of hygiene, malnutrition, deficiencies, violence) many youngsters have health problems: tuberculosis, stunted growth, sexually transmitted diseases.

Analysis of responses to the problem

The legal response

Morocco ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1993. In order to bring national law in line with the various international conventions and protocols ratified, the New Code of Criminal Procedure was introduced in 2002.



ISPCAN President
Danya Glaser

Greetings to fellow current and new members of ISPCAN. I took over the Presidency of ISPCAN after the 16th ISPCAN International Congress in York, at which the 7th Edition of our World Perspectives on Child Abuse was

launched. This important document edited ably once again by Deborah Daro provides a survey of the state of child protection systems, policies and services in 72 countries, some country specific research studies and innovative initiatives to build capacity.

The most important external event has been the launch of the Secretary General of the UN's Study on Violence Against Children (www.unicef.ca/childprotection/

violencestudy). The UN Study has found that child maltreatment is a worldwide phenomenon, cutting across ethnic, social, economic and geographic lines and affecting many children most often by their primary carers but also in schools, in the community and in institutions. The Study makes a number of recommendations for action, including the banning of corporal punishment of children. We await the response of member countries.

ISPCAN, through the work of Professor Desmond Runyan (USA) and Professor Michael Dunne (Australia) contributed towards the study, by developing the Child Abuse Screening tools for interviews with children, older adolescents and young adults, and with parents. These screening tools are available to registered users on the ISPCAN website (www.ispcan.org/questionnaires.htm)

There has also been much internal ISPCAN activity in the short period since September, joining forces with the new Council and with Executive Director Kimberly Svevo and the staff in Chicago. We are currently undertaking an Organisational Capacity Development exercise for which we met in Chicago in October. The purpose of this important process is to examine our structure and programmatic priorities in anticipation of the future growth and expansion of the organization, to provide increased support to our members and the children they serve. We continue to plan training, conferences and publications and I look forward to meeting many of you over the coming two years.

Best wishes,
Danya Glaser
ISPCAN President

2006 ISPCAN Councillor and Officer Election

The 2006 ISPCAN election process began in September of 2005 with a call for nominations. In accordance with the ISPCAN Standing Orders, since nineteen (19) candidates were nominated, a short list of fourteen (14) was selected by the ISPCAN Executive Council. The election period commenced February 1, 2006 and closed April 30, 2006. The vast majority of votes cast were completed by email vote, although some votes were cast by fax as well as postal vote. A total of 169 votes were cast by the ISPCAN membership from 67 countries. The ISPCAN listserv and Website were used to provide the nomination forms and information to the membership, which significantly reduced the time required to obtain responses and provide greater access for all members to participate in the voting process.

ISPCAN Standing Orders require that complete election results, including vote totals, are published to the membership in the Link. The Election results are as follows:

NOMINEE	Vote Totals	Top 7 Selected
Kim Oates	116	X
Jenny Gray	84	X
Des Runyan	83	X
Tufail Muhammad	81	X
Gaby Taub	79	X
Irene Cheah	79	X
Joan van Niekerk	77	X
PREFERENCE FOR FILLING VACANCIES ON ISPCAN COUNCIL		
Ruth Soonets	75	(1)
Lisa Fontes	71	(2)
Francien Lamers- Winkelman	69	(3)
Isabel Cuadros	67	(4)
Adib Essali	55	(5)
Raisa Lounamaa	51	(6)
Adam Tomison	39	(7)

Although seven individuals receiving the most votes assumed their new position for a six year term on the ISPCAN Executive Council beginning September 2006, candidates not selected are still eligible to fill vacant positions that become available on the Executive Council. This year, during the International Congress in York, two councillors: Professor Deborah Daro (USA) and Dr. Tilman Furniss (Germany) submitted their resignations to the ISPCAN Executive Council. As a result, the next two candidates on the list for filling vacancies agreed to serve on the ISPCAN Council to complete the vacated terms. Dr. Ruth Soonets (Estonia) will serve the four year term of Professor Deborah Daro and Dr. Lisa Fontes (USA) will serve the remaining two year term for Dr. Tilman Furniss.

It is important to acknowledge the significant contributions that the outgoing councillors Professor Deborah Daro, Dr. Tilman Furniss and Dr. Daniel Mbassa Menick (Cameroon) have made to ISPCAN during their tenure on the ISPCAN Council.

It is also important to acknowledge the assistance of the ISPCAN office in the election process. Their assistance in vote verification and sending out notices was extremely helpful to streamline the process.

ISPCAN OFFICER ELECTION RESULTS

With the completion of the 2006 York Congress, the new ISPCAN officers elected by the Executive Council assumed their responsibilities for the next two-year term. Dr. Danya Glaser assumed the role of ISPCAN President. The other officers elected for the 2006 – 2008 term include: Sanphasit Koompraphant (Thailand) elected as President Elect; Gaby Taub (France) elected for a second term office as Secretary and Dr. Kim Oates (Australia) elected as Treasurer.

It is important to acknowledge the contributions that the officers who completed their terms of office have made to ISPCAN. Dr. Barbara Bonner completed her term of office as the ISPCAN President, Gaby Taub completed her term as Secretary but will continue for another term of office and Professor Deborah Daro completed her term as Treasurer. Dr. Danya Glaser completed her responsibilities as President Elect and now assumes the role as the current ISPCAN President.

It is expected that the elections for 2008 will again go smoothly. If members have any questions or suggestions to improve the election process, their comments are certainly welcome.

Henry J. Plum J.D.
ISPCAN Parliamentarian/Legal Advisor

XVith ISPCAN International Congress on Child Abuse and Neglect

The XVith ISPCAN International Congress on Child Abuse and Neglect, entitled "Children in a Changing World: Getting It Right," took place from 3 to 6 of September 2006 in York, United Kingdom. The congress was organized in cooperation with the British Association for the Study and Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (BASPCAN). Nearly 1000 delegates from 88 countries attended.

The Congress's plenary speakers were as internationally diverse as its attendees. Dr. Jaap Doek (Netherlands), the chairperson of the UN Committee on the Convention on the Rights of the Child and this year's ISPCAN Kempe Lecturer, delivered the opening plenary on professionals' responsibility to protect children's rights supported by the CRC. Prof. Harendra de Silva (Sri Lanka) presented his research and personal experiences on handling child protection issues during natural disasters. Prof. Hedy Cleaver (England) followed Prof. De Silva with her talk on the impact of domestic violence and parental substance misuse on children. A representative of the British parliament, the Right Honorable Beverley Hughes, Minister for Children, Young People and Families, spoke on

safeguarding children. She was followed by a presentation by Dr. Howard Dubowitz (US) on child neglect and by Mr. Philip Noyes (UK) on public responsibility in child protection. Dr. Assefa Bequele (Ethiopia) closed out the Congress with his impassioned research and presentation on promoting child rights in the context of poverty.

Delegates were given many opportunities this year to tailor the congress program to their specific needs. The congress offered two-part CAN training sessions in the disciplines of mental health, medicine, law enforcement, social work and essentials for new professionals. Experts in the field also led symposia on topics such as domestic violence, substance misuse, disability, neglect, working with families of marginalized children, enhancing professional competence and confidence, effective interventions, children's voices and rights, children in war, challenges in conducting evidence based research and internet crimes against children.

For additional training, delegates had the opportunity to register and participate in two pre-Congress events:

ISPCAN offered the **Developing**

Countries Forum "Building Child Protection Systems in the Developing World." Trish Hiddleston, the UNICEF Regional Protection Advisor for the Middle East and North Africa delivered the opening remarks. Speakers from South Africa, Serbia, Morocco, Colombia, Philippines, Brazil and Pakistan created a well-received program based on a series of presentations followed by interactive workshops. Delegates also were able to register for the **Master Class**, for which Prof. David Wolfe, Director of CAMH Centre for Prevention Science at the University of Toronto served as the keynote and facilitator.

The congress organizers are proud of the record number of CAN professionals who submitted abstracts to be presented in 2006. Almost 700 abstracts were included in the Congress program. ISPCAN has received positive feedback on the scientific program and valuable recommendations they will consider as they look forward to the 17th International Congress, scheduled to take place in September 2008 in Hong Kong.

Leah Misbin, MA
2006 Congresses/Conferences Manager

Please Welcome New ISPCAN National Partner: Belarus

ISPCAN is very pleased to welcome *Ponimanie* ('Understanding') of Belarus to the ISPCAN National Partner program.

Mission

Ponimanie's mission is "building a world fit for children through our professional contribution". The organization's core values involve 'family', 'freedom', 'trust', and 'responsibility'.

Background

Ponimanie was founded in 2000 by graduates (of the Psychology Department, Academy of Postgraduate Study, Republic of Belarus) and other persons interested in the needs of children. One of the main aims of *Ponimanie* is psychological prevention work with youth and families at risk, and with inmates and ex-inmates of orphanages. The organization is a non-government organization (NGO) working in Eastern Europe/CIS/CA.

Programs

One of the main activities of *Ponimanie* is psychological prevention work with youth and families 'at risk', and children in orphanages. *Ponimanie*

organizes summer camps and adaptation seminars for children, families and professionals. More than 620 children have directly benefited from their work.

The organization conducts local research (utilizing these research findings to create local solutions) as well as adopting techniques from abroad, publishes books for professionals working with children, and disseminates materials to other local countries still in transition from the former USSR.

Ponimanie contributed to the UN Study on Violence Against Children 2005-06, and to other international research projects. *Ponimanie* partnered with UNICEF in 2001-03 and 2005-06: co-founding the national network "NGO-UNICEF For and With Children". It has organized national and international events in the area of child protection within the region.

Four books and a monograph have been published and distributed by *Ponimanie* to professionals. *Ponimanie's* work has been incorporated into the system of state support for children who

grew up in orphanages which have been implemented by the Ministry of Labour & Social Protection, Republic of Belarus.

Ponimanie provides a structure to unite national and international experts on the de-institutionalization of children in orphanages, and the prevention of child abuse and neglect; members of ISPCAN; members of the Belarusian Society of Psychologists; professors; medical practitioners; parents; and children.

Organizational Structure

Ponimanie staff includes the Chairperson of the Board **Andrey Makhanko**, an Executive Director, a Program Director, a Councilor, a Scientist-in-chief, and a Program Assistant. Each position carries a renewable term of five years. *Ponimanie* also has a branch in the Ukraine, and a branch in Lithuania is presently being formed.

For more information:
International NGO "Ponimanie"
Website: www.ponimanie.org

Richard Roylance
ISPCAN National Partner Liaison

Training of Trainers in providing Foundation Training for Protection of Children from Abuse and Neglect in Serbia

A training package and Training of Trainers (ToT) programme was developed in Serbia to provide Foundation training on Child abuse and Neglect (CAN) prevention and management for all those working with children. The initiative was part of a wider UNICEF project designed to build skills and competencies of professionals in seven municipalities to recognize, manage and refer cases of CAN among children with whom they work. The project was implemented jointly by the Child Protection Programme of UNICEF office in Belgrade, the Institute of Mental Health in Belgrade and the NGO DamaD from Novi Pazar. Supported by UNICEF international consultant, child protection expert, Prof. Lynch, UNICEF local experts and key stakeholders from the municipalities.

Timetable

- Oct. 2003 – project commenced with the first of a series of local training workshops for professionals.
- 2003/04 – through events, sensitized representatives of the public and NGO sector to the importance of protection of children from CAN.
- May 2004 – regional conference held for decision makers and service managers.
- Core group formed of 20 professionals who had attended the workshops and who were committed to working together to develop the training materials.
 - *Foundation training for everyone who works with children and families: "Do You Know How to Respond to CAN?"* developed to inform and make professionals meeting children in their everyday work, confident to recognise and respond to potential CAN.
- Aug. 2004 - ToT in Foundation Training for core group held over 3 days.
 - Undertook qualitative research with children and youth to obtain their views on CAN.
 - In the first part, participants were introduced to presentation and facilitation skills, and practiced interactive techniques; in the second, PowerPoint presentations and Notes for trainers were discussed and feedback given.
 - Revised materials in light of the feedback.
- Sept.-Nov. 2004 - trainers (in pairs) undertook an average of three pilot training events in each of 7 municipalities with professionals from kindergartens, schools, centres for social work, police and health services. They used the materials, adapting them for their own circumstances.
- Dec. 2004 - Debriefing meeting for trainers to exchange experiences on lessons learned and challenges for future work
 - In parallel, developed activity plan for awareness raising of professionals and general public; designed information/ education leaflets and posters for general and professional public.
 - 31 Dec. 2004 – 1st phase ended

- Jan.-March 2005 – supported trainers to undertake another round of Foundation training events
- Feb. 2006 - 2nd phase of the project commenced, in response to demand, to support a further round of Foundation training events.
 - Planned supervision meeting(s) for both the trainers' work and management of individual cases.
 - Planned further capacity building in advocacy, networking and fundraising, to ensure sustainability of the project.

Results

The enormous effort from all those involved in the development of Foundation training, the ToT and continuous follow up and support ensured the whole process was an outstanding success. The involvement of UNICEF gave strong credibility and support to the project. Preparatory advocacy with, and ongoing sensitization of, local government and institutions was essential.

At the ToT, agreement was reached on target audience, training objectives, length of session, etc. The participants' feedback on draft materials as well as that received during subsequent "debriefing" meetings was used to refine the draft materials. Final versions, relevant to local need, were produced after piloting and revision.

Today, the Training Package, available for country-wide use, contains:

1. Foundation training (Alternative: PowerPoint slides/Posters)
2. Trainers' notes – explanation for trainers on content and message of the Foundation training
3. Introductory letter for Service Manager
4. Leaflet with local referral information (child protection services)
5. Evaluation sheets for participants and trainers
6. Responses to Difficult Questions
7. Additional recommended reading
8. Selection of Case studies
9. Trainer's guide – presentation, facilitation, interactive techniques, training organisation

The commitment of the local trainers, UNICEF office and local and international consultants ensured that the project is still ongoing. Only a multi-sectorial approach and the constant reminding of the problem of child abuse and neglect can create an environment in which children can be protected from violence, or receive proper care and support, should they sadly fall victims to it.

Prof Dr Margaret Lynch
Emeritus Professor in Community Paediatrics
Kings College, London and UNICEF Consultant

Dr Silvia Koso, MPH Medical School University of Belgrade
UNICEF Consultant

For ISPCAN Training Tools, visit:
<http://www.ispcan.org/itpi/materials.htm>

Time to Renew Your ISPCAN Membership!

Did you utilize the benefits of being linked into an international community of professionals working to prevent child abuse and neglect as an ISPCAN member in 2006? Did you find the articles in the International Journal helpful? Did you utilize ISPCAN resources, publications and training tools on the job? If you answered yes to any of these questions, it is time to renew your ISPCAN membership!

Membership fees are due to increase in 2008, so why not consider renewing for 2008 as well for a greater saving! To renew, please visit www.ispcan.org/joinispcan.htm or send a check or money order to ISPCAN at P.O. Box 809343, Chicago, IL USA 60680. If you have any questions, please contact the ISPCAN Membership Manager at membership@ispcan.org.

Interview with ISPCAN Secretary: Gaby Taub



Q: How did you initially get interested in child abuse and neglect?

Actually, it was through ISPCAN that I became interested in child abuse and neglect. In 1978, I began working at Oeuvre de Secours aux Enfants, a child protection services agency in Paris, France. My previous professional experience had been in psychiatric social work and in social work education, but I was a newcomer to child

protection services. When I heard that ISPCAN was having an International Congress in London, it seemed like the perfect opportunity to learn more about my new center of interest.

It turned out to be a very significant experience because I realized that other professionals in the field of child protection were beginning to conceptualize and theorize their practice. At that time, the term "child abuse and neglect" was virtually unknown in France, but the French delegates who met at the London Congress were motivated to continue meeting after returning to France. As a result of this fortuitous encounter, the French association for the prevention of child abuse and neglect, AFIREM, was founded in 1979.

Q: Have you noticed any major changes since you first got involved in the field, and if so, what is one example?

There have been numerous changes since I first got involved in the field. As a result of a steadily growing body of knowledge, our approach to child abuse & neglect has gradually become more professional and more effective. Public awareness has also been raised enormously.

However, if I were to cite one major change it would be our growing recognition of the extent of the problem. From a narrow definition centered on intra-familial violence, we have come to consider institutional violence, sexual abuse, child labor, child slavery, and war as forms of child abuse and neglect, thus paving the way for more comprehensive efforts with regard to detection, treatment, and prevention.

Q: What are some of the key problems facing children in France in regards to child protection?

Children in France are currently faced with a numerous problems in regards to child protection. Not only do children in France continue to be the direct victims of family violence, they are also subjected to child abuse and neglect within the school system and within their communities. Public powers are often reluctant to recognize and to deal with these more insidious forms of abuse and neglect.

Over the years, France has made progress in terms of improving detection, treatment, and prevention of child abuse and neglect. Nevertheless, much still remains to be done to provide all children in France, regardless of their place of residence and regardless of their administrative status, with equal access to services.

Q: What do you think the major challenges are that professionals face in addressing problems of child

abuse and neglect in France versus other countries?

France is a country that is relatively sophisticated in terms of raising awareness on child abuse. At present, in large part thanks to the media, the vast majority of people in France have at least some theoretical knowledge of child abuse and neglect and the appropriate measures for reporting alleged cases. However, media coverage is not necessarily a reliable source of information and people tend to have either a very dramatic, sensationalistic view of child abuse and neglect or a very superficial view lacking in depth and scope.

I would say that one of the major challenges professionals face is to ensure that both the general public and the media approach child abuse and neglect realistically and with empathy for child victims and their families. This entails increasing general access to data-based information and working with the media in the best interests of children.

Q: If you could improve upon one aspect of child protection policy or practice in France, what change would you make?

In my capacity as Territorial Correspondent for Paris with the Children's Ombudsman of France, I have tried to draw attention to the fact that not all children in France are provided with equal access to child protection services. In a country with the knowledge, skills, and financial resources available, it is unacceptable that a child's administrative status or place of residence should determine his/her right to adequate protection.

Q: As Secretary, what direction do you see ISPCAN educational programs moving in the next 5 years?

I see ISPCAN educational programs progressively expanding and reaching more people in more places. ISPCAN's continued efforts to train trainers in numerous regions of the world are essential in helping developing countries train their own professionals on the basis of their own needs.

Q: What is one of the key strengths you see in ISPCAN as a whole?

The key strength I see in ISPCAN as a whole is its multidisciplinary, multi-faceted approach to preventing child abuse and neglect. Common commitment and teamwork are our major resources.

Q: What is ISPCAN's greatest educational accomplishment in 2006?

In my estimation, ISPCAN's greatest educational accomplishment in 2006 is the diversity of its educational accomplishments: congresses, regional conferences, training events throughout the world, master classes and developing country forums, professional faculty, website, Listserv, and publications. By providing such a broad spectrum of possibilities we are responding to professional needs as they arise and on many levels.

I would like to thank the ISPCAN membership for providing me with the opportunity to serve this exceptional organization.

**Gaby TAUB, MSW, ISPCAN Secretary
Territorial Correspondent, Children's Ombudsman of France**

ISPCAN Honorary Membership Awards - Call for Nominations

ISPCAN is currently accepting applications and nominations for Developing Country Honorary Memberships for 2008-2009. These ISPCAN memberships are extended to leading professionals who are active in child abuse and neglect prevention in developing countries. Twenty-five professionals are selected to receive this award each year. Awardees will receive all ISPCAN benefits for two years, including a subscription to Child Abuse & Neglect: The International Journal. The deadline for submission for the 2008-2009 award is 15 June 2007. Applications are available online at: <http://www.ispcan.org/awards.htm>

Please visit www.ispcan.org/awards.htm or contact membership@ispcan.org for more information.

ISPCAN Develops Research Tools for UN Study on Violence Against Children

With assistance from UNICEF and the Oak Foundation, the International Society for Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (ISPCAN) has developed questionnaires and interview guides for collecting data on the extent and depth of child abuse. The project was undertaken in conjunction with the UN Secretary General's Study on Violence against Children and has been a joint project with UN HCHR, WHO, and UNICEF, conducted with NGOs, governments and professionals internationally.

The tools are developed for gathering information in three areas:

- parent interview that will ask about the child's exposure to violence in the home;
- young adult version for adults who have recently become independent;
- a complementary child instrument for children over 11 years of age;

These instruments provide a method to make reported incidence of all forms of violence against children more accurate and more representative of the true scope of the problem. The development of research instruments, which will measure child maltreatment, is a significant tool in preventing child abuse and neglect globally that it will result in policies and programs promoting child protection and curricula adaptation for general and continuing professional education.

The tools are available on the ISPCAN Web (www.ispcan.org) for review. One may receive a copy of any tool by completing a simple form available on the web. Professionals may use these tools with the understanding that they agree to:

- use the tools in a culturally appropriate way that is also sensitive to the needs of children.
- submit the questionnaire for ethical review by a professionally approved entity in the country/countries where the survey is conducted
- share with ISPCAN a summary report of findings

The development of the child self-assessment questionnaire regarding maltreatment is controversial. Children may not have the perspective needed to categorize events as abusive. Child participation in research usually involves parental consent, while younger children may not have the experience or education needed to give truly informed consent. Assessing the consequence of consent is significant, as the disclosure of information about child abuse could result in the child's removal

from his or her home and criminal prosecution of the parents. It is difficult for a child to assess the potential benefits and quality of research that is being conducted by researchers. While the collection of data from children has limitations and ethical boundaries, children are an incomparable source of data about abuse in the home, institutional or school settings.

Key components of the questionnaire development process consisted of questionnaire design, Delphi process involving expert review of the tools by more than 100 professionals from different countries, field testing of the questionnaires in nine countries, data analysis and final refinement of questionnaires and research guides.

The parent and young adult questionnaires were field tested in Colombia, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Egypt, India, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Malaysia and Russia. The children's questionnaire was field tested in Colombia, India and Russia and in Iceland to be completed in October 2006.

The questionnaires were translated into multiple languages, and refinements based on feedback from translators and back-translators were made. At present, the instrument has been translated in Arabic, French, Hindi, Malay, Marathi, Russian and Spanish. At a later stage the instruments will be made available in other local languages.

A preliminary report on the instrument is published in *Child Abuse & Neglect: The International Journal*. This project was led by Dr. Desmond Runyan of the University of North Carolina in the USA as the Special Representative to the NGO Subgroup on the UN Study on Violence Against Children, with the assistance of Dr. Adam Zolotor from the University of North Carolina. The project was coordinated by Dr. Michael Dunne of Queensland University of Technology in Australia. Mr. Gopalan Balagopal, Senior Adviser, Child Protection, UNICEF and staff provided continued support from the time the UNICEF grant for the project was initiated. Clemencia Ramirez of Colombia, Dipty Jain of India, Randa Youssef of Egypt, Marcel Tshibangu of DR Congo, Helga Rúná Péturs of Iceland, Nurgul Mamyrova and Inna Andreeva of Kyrgyzstan, Bernard Gerbaka of Lebanon, Sham Kasim of Malaysia and Elena Volkova of Russia have coordinated the field tests in each of these countries. Kimberly Svevo and George Palamattam provided ISPCAN support for the project.

George Palamattam, MSW, Ed.D.
ISPCAN Training Projects Officer

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This revision of the law included the reform and reorganization of juvenile justice. In the context of this reform, particular emphasis was placed on the protection of:

- young offenders (Articles 512 to 517)
- young victims of crime (Articles 510 to 511)
- minors in difficulty exposed to offending (Articles 512 to 517).

Street children are considered children in difficulty and are therefore at risk. Under Article 513, "A child under 16 shall be considered in difficulty where his/her physical, mental, psychological or moral security or education is at risk if:

- he/she associates with offenders, persons of ill-repute or persons with criminal records;
- he/she rebels against the authority of his/her parents guardian, family council guardian, or the person or institution in

whose care he/she has been placed;

- he/she habitually runs away from the place where he/she is being educated or trained;
- where he/she leaves his/her home or has no adequate shelter".

The juvenile judge of the first instance court may, at the public prosecutor's request, apply one of the following measures to minors:

- hand them over to their parents, guardian, family-council appointed guardian or the person who cares for or has custody of them;
- hand them over to the reception section of a public or private institution authorized for this purpose;
- hand them over to a public service or a public institution re-

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sponsible for assisting children or to a hospital, in particular, where treatment for drug dependency is required;

- hand them over to a government vocational training or care facility or an appropriate public department or registered institution;
- hand them over to a government-approved association authorized for this purpose.

If the juvenile judge considers that the child's state of health, psychological state or behavior requires thorough examination, he may order him/her to be placed in a registered, recognized centre for a maximum period of three months. These measures are applied under the probation system and a probation officer is appointed.

The juvenile judge may at any time order the cancellation or modification of measures in accordance with the child's interests. He will make this decision either of his own motion or at the request of the public prosecutor or the person or institution that has custody of the child. If it is not the prosecutor who has made the request, his opinion must be sought.

Measures, taken with respect to a minor, end on the date provided for in the decision and in all cases when the child reaches the age of 16. In exceptional cases, where the child's interest so requires, the judge may decide to extend the measures until the child is 18.

Under the New Code of Criminal Procedure, the age of criminal responsibility is 18. In the criminal sense of the term, a minor is any person under the age of 18.

Minors under 12 years of age are considered to have no responsibility whatsoever for their actions. No sentence may be imposed on them. Only protective and rehabilitative measures may be taken in their regard.

Between 12 and 16 years of age, minors are considered partially responsible. Protective and rehabilitative measures may be taken in their regard and, in exceptional cases, a mitigated sentence may be imposed.

Public policy

Essentially three ministries have powers with respect to children: the Ministry of Social Development, Family and Solidarity, of which the State Secretariat for the Protection of Children, Family and the Disabled is part; the Ministry of Justice; and the State Secretariat for Youth.

Other ministerial departments are also involved: the Interior Ministry (police), which has replaced the young offenders squad with police officers responsible for the protection of minors; the Ministry of Health responsible for the care of child victims of violence and forensics (examination and description); the Ministry of Education responsible for the compulsory schooling and non-formal education; and the Ministry of Employment and Vocational Training responsible for combating child labour (labour inspectorate).

At present, government reception centres and institutions caring for street children are managed by the State Secretariat for Youth. There are 16 such centres scattered throughout the Kingdom. In January 2002, King Mohammed VI established the Mohammed VI Foundation for the rehabilitation and reintegration of adult and young offenders. Its mission is:

- to equip centres to care for children well and humanely;
- to control the cycle of prevention, protection, rehabilitation and reintegration of minors;
- to develop follow-up methods in order to prevent repeat offenses and to consolidate reintegration.

A decree on the opening of social protection establishments is currently being voted by the Government Secretariat-General. It

concerns ways and means of managing and supervising social protection establishments; it also refers to standards and norms on reception structures, with respect to infrastructure, capacity, target population, quality of programmes and staffing, evaluation and follow-up.

Five years ago, the National Rights of the Child Observatory introduced a telephone hot-line and a children's parliament; ten medical units were set up in hospitals for child victims of violence.

A mobile emergency medical service for the homeless has just been launched in Casablanca for action in the street, initially for children and women.

Training programmes for judges, police officers and others working with children have been introduced since the introduction of the New Code of Criminal Procedure.

A draft law on the status of social workers is currently under examination.

With respect to promoting and protecting the rights of the child, the responsibilities of the Consultative Council for Human Rights include "examining, on its own initiative or at the request of the party concerned, of the cases of human rights violations referred to it, and making the necessary recommendations to the relevant authority" (Article 2 of the Royal Decree regulating it). The Council can therefore intervene whenever a violation of the rights of the child is referred to it.

NGOs

NGOs initiated programmes for street children as early as 1995: street workshops, "streetscreening", reception centres, education and training and family support programmes, etc. They are present in Casablanca, Safi, Mohammedia, Tanger, Tetouan, Fes, Marrakech, Salé, Meknès and Essaouira.

Public-NGO partnerships are proliferating with a view to strengthening actions and synergies. For example, BAYTI, the first Moroccan NGO to work in the streets of Casablanca, Meknès and Essaouira, has cared for 17,000 children over a ten-year period (1995-2005).

The best interests of the child

Not all methods of receiving and caring for street children take the best interests of the child into account. While national child protection legislation has advanced considerably, its implementation is still piecemeal and suffers from lack of:

- human resources
- conceptual tools (methodology, approach, programmes)
- rigorous follow-up and supervisory mechanisms
- coordination and clarification of the roles of the various agencies involved.

Dr. Najat M'JID

Human Development National Initiative, Morocco

ISPCAN Inviting Good Practice Models

ISPCAN is interested in collecting good practice models in the areas of Policy, System and Service Critical Components, and related documentation, manuals, procedures and protocols. We encourage you to share any of the following materials on your country with other ISPCAN professionals around the world:

- Situational Analysis / Baseline Studies on Child Abuse and Neglect;
- CAN related Policy and Legislation;
- Systems (Identification, Reporting, Assessment and Tracking of Child Abuse);
- National Frameworks/Plans of Action

For information/submissions, contact: exec@ispcan.org

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ISPCAN Hosts VID on Child/Youth Participation

Initiated in 2002, VIDs offer ISPCAN Members from around the world the opportunity to participate in on-line discussions on a current child abuse and neglect issue.

In November 2006, participants from 29 countries, including several ISPCAN National Partners, have joined the discussion on Youth Participation, with 98 posts in total.

Some of the topics covered during the discussion included: Child participation in the UN Study on Violence Against Children; youth participation in research and decision-making; and child-led advocacy.

ISPCAN thanks the VID Facilitator Stuart Hart (USA) and the panelists, Gillian Calvert (Australia), Clare Feinstein (Sweden), Ravi Karkara (Nepal), Lena Karlsson (Sweden), Shehriyar Khan (Pakistan), Des Runyan (USA), Rasa Sekulovic (Serbia), Robin Sullivan (Australia), Gaby Taub (France), and Joan van Niekerk (South Africa) for sharing their experience and insight during the discussion.

The discussion points will be included in the upcoming Special Report on Youth Participation.

Alexander Poleshchuk
Membership Services Manager

NEW ISPCAN MEMBERS

ISPCAN warmly welcomes new members joining
from August - December 2006

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Bao Er
Anna Stachurska

CANADA

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Stephanie Callaghan
Peter M. Dudding
Lavana Heel

CHILE

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CHINA

Margot Fitzpatrick
Deng HongQin

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Lei Tao

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ISPCAN's National and Regional Partners (24)

- African Network for the Prevention and Protection Against Child Abuse and Neglect (ANPPCAN), Ethiopia
- African Network for the Prevention and Protection Against Child Abuse and Neglect (ANPPCAN), Nigeria
- African Network for the Prevention and Protection Against Child Abuse and Neglect (ANPPCAN), Uganda
- Against Child Abuse (ACA), Hong Kong
- American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children (APSAC), United States of America
- Asian Regional Network, Philippines
- Asociación Contra El Maltrato Infantil (AFECTO), Colombia
- Association Française d'Information et de Recherche sur l'Enfance Maltraitée (AFIREM), France
- British Association for the Study and Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (BASPCAN), United Kingdom
- Cameroon Society for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (CASPCAN), Cameroon
- Danish Society for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (DASPCAN), Denmark
- Enfants Solidaires d'Afrique et du Monde (ESAM), Benin
- German Society for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (GESPCAN), Germany
- INGO "Ponimanie" ("Understanding"), Belarus
- Italian Network of Services for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (CISMAI), Italy
- IUS et VITA (I.E.V. - Justice and Life), Congo
- Japanese Society for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (JaSPCAN), Japan
- Malaysian Association for the Protection of Children (PPKM), Malaysia
- National Association for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (NAPCAN), Australia
- National Society for Child Abuse and Neglect (NS-CAN), Romania
- Nordic Association for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (NASPCAN), Denmark, Greenland, Iceland, Finland, Norway, and Sweden
- Singapore Children's Society, Singapore
- South African Society for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (SASPCAN), South Africa.
- Turkish Society for Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (TSPCAN), Turkey

ISPCAN Global Institute

Theme: The Impact of Cultural Practices on Protecting Children from Abuse & Neglect: Positive & Negative Factors

Dates: 22 January 2007 **Venue:** San Diego, CA, USA

Contact: Angela Koffenberger, events@ispcan.org

5th African Regional Conference on Child Abuse & Neglect

Theme: HIV/AIDS and Children: The Challenges of Care for and Protection of Children in Africa

Dates: 27-29 March 2007 **Venue:** Kampala, Uganda

Contact: ANPPCAN Uganda Chapter, anppcan@infocom.co.ug or conference@anppcanug.org. **Website address:** www.anppcan.org/new/news/conference%20announcement.htm

2nd Arab ISPCAN Regional Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect

Theme: Working Together to Protect the Arab Child

Dates: 28-30 May 2007 **Venue:** Sana'a, Yemen

Contact: Hassan Kassim Khan, kassim6@yahoo.com

Website: www.arabispcan.org/

7th ISPCAN Asian Regional Conference on Child Abuse & Neglect

Theme: I Am For The Child

Dates: 23-26 September 2007 **Venue:** Manila, Philippines

Contact: Julia De Leon, research.publication@cpu-net.org.ph

Website: www.ispcanmanila.org.ph

11th ISPCAN European Regional Conference on Child Abuse & Neglect

Theme: Supporting Prevention and Recovery from Child Abuse and Neglect: Role of Professionals, Communities and Families

Dates: 18-21 November 2007 **Venue:** Lisbon, Portugal

Contact: English - ISPCAN Congress & Conference Manager, eventmanager@ispcan.org;

Portuguese - Cristina Severiano, euroconf2007@mail.telepac.pt

Website: www.ispcan.org/euroconf2007

Latin American Regional Conference 2007

Theme: Homes Free of Violence

Dates: 16-20 July 2007 **Venue:** Bogota, Colombia

Contact: Isabel Cuadros, afecto@afecto.org.co

ISPCAN Training Events 2007

Venue: BELARUS, **Date:** March, April, May 2007

Contact: Andrey Makhanko, amakhanko@ponimanie.org

Venue: ESTONIA **Date:** 16-17 March 2007

Contact: Ruth Soonets, ch.abuse@online.ee

Venue: GEORGIA, **Date:** March, May, September 2007

Contact: Lia Saralidze, LSaralidze@childabuse.ge

Venue: ESTONIA **Date:** 19-20 October 2007

Contact: Ruth Soonets, ch.abuse@online.ee

Further events information available at www.ispcan.org.

Street Children in Egypt

In Egypt, government legislation and policy relating to street children remains primarily punitive – street children are seen as law offenders and a threat to the social order. Generally, the society looks at delinquents and street children as a plague that should be treated with detention or jailing.

General information

- Egypt's population - about 78.9 million in 2006, with one-third of its population under 15 years old and 45% under 19 years old.
- 23% had insufficient means to meet the locally defined cost of even the basic minimum for food and other basic needs. 53% lived on less than \$2 US per day.
- Net Enrollment rate in the first primary school in 2002/2003 was 85.73 male and 85.69 female. Several studies have pointed out that the low level of teaching quality is the primary cause for dropping out of school, and in addition, it is the primary cause behind child labor.
- total number of working children ages 6-14 is 2,768,165 representing 20.52% of that age group. 83.9% of working children are enrolled in schools (*we have to be careful with this high percentage; they might be registered in schools but not actually attending*). Only 27% of working children are girls.

Article 94 of the Child Law 12/1996 stipulates: "criminal liability cannot be claimed if a child has not reached seven years of age". This age is a very early age for criminal liability and facing delinquent courts. Many countries set the age much higher: Tunisia - 13 years, Colombia - 12 years.

Despite the lack of information about street children, many socio-economic indicators show that the phenomenon of street children is growing, especially in large cities. It is estimated that 25% of street children are less than 12 years old and 66% are between 13 and 16 years old. The United Nations Office on Drugs

and Crime (UNODC) conducted a Rapid Situation Assessment of street children in the two biggest cities in Egypt: Greater Cairo and Alexandria. Poverty, family breakdown, and child abuse and neglect, seem to be the leading causes of the problem of street children. "Eighty percent of the children are exposed to real or constant threat of violence from employers, hostile-abusive community members, and their peers. Ignorant about health, hygiene, and nutrition and deprived of services to protect them, street children are a malnourished sub-population subsisting on an inadequate diet. Functionally illiterate (70 percent of the sample were school drop-outs, 30 percent had never attended schools in the first place), economic survival means working at the most menial tasks, or worse, begging, or thieving". These types of "work" are in practice criminalized under the child law 12/1996, which raises the concern of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child.

In a study conducted by the American University in Egypt "more than 80% of the estimated 93,000 street children in Egypt are exploited sexually, mainly through prostitution and pornography."

There is a great need to discuss the role of the police dealing with street children and identify a mechanism for monitoring and penalizing those who may abuse this role. In this respect we only would like to cite, without comment, what the street children themselves said during the NGO Coalition on Child Rights conference describing their suffering "we are very badly treated in police stations with constant and endless movement from one police station to another until we are finally released".

This problem cannot be addressed without the development of a comprehensive social and political policy addressing the social and economic problems faced by children at risk, and their families. At the same time, there is an urgent need to create an independent mechanism to monitor and protect child rights and to deal seriously with any violation.

Essam Ali
Child Rights Consultant, Egypt

ISPCAN Announces 2006 Award Recipients

Every two years, at each ISPCAN International Congress, ISPCAN recognizes individuals and organizations that have made a substantial contribution to child maltreatment. The specific awards and 2006 recipients are noted below.

C. Henry Kempe Lecturer - Dr. Jaap Doek (Netherlands). The Kempe Lecture Award was established in 1986 as a major feature of ISPCAN's international congresses. Following the example of Dr. Kempe, the individual selected to deliver the Kempe Memorial Lecture must be someone who has made significant contributions to the welfare of children, and demonstrate teaching experience. Dr. Doek's keynote lecture at the 2006 ISPCAN International Congress was "*Professionals' Responsibility to Protect Children's Rights Supported by the CRC.*"

C. Henry Kempe Awardee - Dr. Fu-Yong Jiao (China). The C. Henry Kempe Award, established in 1986, is intended to bring international visibility to the accomplishments of young professionals or organizations, working in the field of child abuse and neglect, to assist their work, and to inspire others to follow their lead. The award was presented to Dr. Jiao for his leadership in design and establishment of the first child abuse and neglect prevention center in Xi'an, China.

Multidisciplinary Team Awardee - Dr. Naeem Zafar (Pakistan) and Dr. Bragi Gudbrandsson (Iceland). Since 2004, this award is given to recognize a multidisciplinary team which has made substantial progress in the treatment or prevention of child abuse and neglect in its local community. Dr. Zafar presented on the "*Hospital Child Protection Committee Initiative in Pakistan*" and "*Vulnerability of Children to HIV/AIDS in Lahore, Pakistan*". Dr. Gudbrandsson presented on "*Building Bridges: The Icelandic Children's House and the CAC model in Europe*" and "*Children In Residential Institutions In Europe and Children's Rights*"

Distinguished Career Awardee - Dr. Harendra de Silva (Sri Lanka). This award recognizes an outstanding professional for dedication, expertise, and contributions to the field of child abuse and neglect. Dr. Harendra de Silva is the founder and chairman of the Sri Lanka National Child Protection Authority. He pioneered much of the original research on the problem of child abuse in Sri Lanka. Dr. de Silva's presentation was titled "*Why Are Children and Youth Recruited in Preference to Adults?*"

Distinguished Service Awardee - Dr. Priscilla Lui (Hong Kong). The Distinguished Service Award is given to recognize an individual for commitment and dedication

to ISPCAN or an ISPCAN National Partner organization. Ms. Priscilla Lui is the Director of Against Child Abuse (ACA), ISPCAN's National Partner in Hong Kong involved with counseling and case work, public education, professional training and advocacy, government consultations and work with media.

Presidential Scholar Awardee - Dr. Jingqi Chen (China). The 2006 Presidential Award went to Dr. Jingqi Chen who conducted ground-breaking research on child maltreatment in China and brought official recognition to this problem. Dr. Chen's work provides an excellent example of the kind of dedication and effort that is needed to protect children and provide them with the opportunity to grow up safe and strong. At the 2006 International Congress, Dr. Chen presented on "*A Retrospective Survey of Childhood Corporal Punishment by School Teachers in China*" and "*The Impact of Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Education On Knowledge and Skills of Grade 3 Elementary School Pupils In Fuxin City, China*".

The first recipient of the ISPCAN Presidential Scholar Award (2004) was **Dr. Sarah Asad Ullah** (Pakistan).

Alexander Poleshchuk
ISPCAN Membership Services Manager

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Mission: To support individuals and organizations working to protect children from abuse and neglect worldwide.

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