

CARIBBEAN CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTRE
CONSORTIUM FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND RESEARCH
UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES, OPEN CAMPUS

Activities of the
Caribbean Child Development
Centre, 2010:
Report to the Planning Institute of
Jamaica

3 February 2011

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Abbreviations

CCDC	Caribbean Child Development Centre
CG	Consultative Group on Early Childhood Care and Development
CHNRI	Child Health and Nutrition Research Initiative
CHIC	Children's Issues Coalition
CWI	Childwatch International
CRUN	Child Rights Universities Network
ECD	Early Childhood Development
GAIN	Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition
GCDG	Global Child Development Group
IADB	Inter-American Development Bank
MHIRT	Minority Health International Research Training Program
OAS	Organization of American States
UGC	University Grants Committee
UN	United Nations
UTech	University of Technology
UWI	The University of the West Indies

1. Content of Programme

The Caribbean Child Development Centre (CCDC) was established in 1973 with funding from UNICEF as a regional centre for research and training in early childhood education and care. It was a specialized unit of the University of the West Indies Extra-Mural Department, later the School of Continuing Studies. Since 2008, the Centre has been a part of the Consortium for Social Development and Research, a division of the University of the West Indies, Open Campus. Over the years, the range of activities has varied while maintaining a focus on issues of child development, and the entire spectrum of childhood to age 18 years is now included. Since the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child was adopted in 1989, issues of children's rights have also been an important aspect of the Centre's work. Current activities are in the following areas:

- 1. Research**
- 2. Teaching/ training**
- 3. Networking and information dissemination**
- 4. Public service**

Details of each area for the 2010 year are presented in section 5 (page 8). A brief summary follows.

Our research is concentrated in four theme areas: children and violence, HIV and child development, child rights, and international child development. Research is ongoing in all these areas, and the output in terms of conference presentations and published papers and reports are given below.

Our teaching/ training programme includes both ongoing courses and post-graduate supervision, as well as occasional training sessions which form part of our outreach programme. Details of the work carried out in during 2010 are presented below in section 5: 'Development of New and Ongoing Projects'. Distance teaching communication technology has been utilized by CCDC for decades. Satellite technology continues to be used especially to share teleconferences across the Caribbean. The use of internet-based technologies has increased greatly, for general communications as well as for teaching and training. Both have been facilitated by the UWI Open Campus Communications and Technology Systems division.

Our networking activities include hosting multiple websites, managing various information databases, and participation and leadership in several national, regional and international groups to facilitate linkages, and increase communication and collaboration among individuals and organizations.

Public service is encouraged among all members of staff, and CCDC is represented as the institution as well as individually on multiple boards and committees.

2. Budget and expenditure for calendar year 2010

Activity	Budget	Expenditure	Variance/Balance
	J\$	J\$	J\$
STAFF COSTS			
Supported by the UWI-UGC			
OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES			
STAFF COSTS - Non-regular			
Consultancy	2,248,808.56	185,050.00	2,063,758.56
Professional fees - Audit	102,049.95	60,006.45	42,043.50
Total Non-regular Staff Costs	2,350,858.51	245,056.45	2,105,802.06
NON-STAFF COSTS			
Office and General Expenses	909,809.76	347,299.07	562,510.69
Utilities (Water, elec., phone)	665,690.18	551,820.38	113,869.80
Local Travel	117,814.08	52,910.00	64,904.08
Foreign Travel	259,104.21	73,588.00	185,516.21
Books and periodicals	-	5,000.00	(5,000.00)
Bank charges	9,281.61	2,300.00	6,981.61
Total Non-Staff Costs	1,961,699.84	1,032,917.45	928,782.39
REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE			
Building and Grounds Maintenance	165,699.73	133,493.14	32,206.59
Vehicle repairs & supplies	14,310.45	-	
Equipment and Furniture repairs	79,093.15	108,345.00	(29,251.85)
Total Repairs and Maintenance	259,103.33	241,838.14	17,265.19
CAPITAL EXPENDITURE			
Computer and peripherals	-	45,515.76	(45,515.76)
Furniture and fittings	-	19,000.00	(19,000.00)
Total Capital Expenditure	-	64,515.76	(64,515.76)
TOTAL OPERATING ACTIVITIES	\$ 4,571,661.68	\$ 1,584,327.80	\$ 2,987,333.88
PROJECT DISBURSEMENTS IN 2010			
HIV Stigma Discrimination in Children -UNESCO	1,663,629.23	1,833,771.28	(170,142.05)
Child Rights Baseline Study - OAS	3,046,249.00	2,649,712.05	396,536.95
Child Rights Training - UNICEF	1,256,000.00	1,243,817.19	12,182.81
Total Special Projects	5,965,878.23	5,727,300.52	238,577.71
OTHER PROJECT SUPPORT			
Collections Development - CHASE	500,000.00	208,725.60	291,274.40
Student Internship - MHIRT	653,102.85	247,145.91	405,956.94
Total Other Project Support	1,153,102.85	455,871.51	697,231.34
TOTAL PROJECT ACTIVITIES	\$ 7,118,981.08	\$ 6,183,172.03	\$ 935,809.05

3. Problems encountered and attempts to solve them

A chronic problem exists of limited funds for programme development. In general, programme activity is supported largely through external funding sources, which limits the activities to those which further the aims of other agencies, and grant proposal writing consumes a large portion of academic time. As well, only half of the expected income from a small subvention from the Ministry of Education for the year 2009-10 was received, and none has been received for 2010-11. The Centre was forced to curtail its operating expenses as the budget was affected by cash flow challenges.

The Centre continues to generate a portion of its own resources through rental/ lease of sections of the premises to a day care/early childhood institution (“Kids on Campus”). Small overhead costs are also collected for project administration.

Communication problems have hampered activities. There has been no service to four of our 5 telephone lines (2 independent lines, and 2 lines connected to the UWI PBX system) since October, 2010. It was reported that telephone cables were cut during a tree-trimming exercise, and repairs have not yet been undertaken. To receive our calls, the two external lines have been forwarded to the single operating line, and a cellular line has been shared to extend our external contact. Increasing use of Voice Over Internet Protocol (VoIP) telephony has also helped the situation.

The building experienced flooding in October, for the first time in over 30 years of existence. Experts from the Mona Maintenance Department suggested that this was a result of nearby building and earthworks which caused storm water to be channelled through the compound. The UWI has promised to undertake retrenching on the compound.

During heavy rainfall, foul odours from the septic tank have caused for an unpleasant working environment. The UWI has elaborated its central sewerage network and efforts will be made to connect the Centre's sewerage system to this network. Upon completion, the septic tank will be condemned, eliminating the odour problem.

4. Achievements as against targets

The Centre's targets for 2010 shown in the table below, with achievements in the right hand column.

Target	Achievement
1. <u>RESEARCH</u> : Continue and develop research activities in programme areas of children and violence; children and HIV; child rights issues.	Research Projects included: Youth Crime and Violence: Community Diagnostics (World Bank). HIV Stigma and Education Outcomes (UNESCO) Sexuality Education in the Caribbean (UNICEF) Situation Analysis of Child Rights in Jamaica (OAS/IIN)
2. <u>TEACHING/TRAINING</u> : Continue and develop teaching/training activities	Course in Child Rights and Responsibilities, phase two undertaken (UNICEF) Ad hoc training courses carried out. Continued post-graduate supervision continued.
3. <u>STRATEGIC PLANNING</u> :	The series of small strategic planning retreats continued this year, with a focus on resourcing, leadership and outcomes for planned activities.
4. <u>INFRASTRUCTURAL UPGRADING</u> :	The funding request for major infrastructural upgrading was not successful to the agency first approached. The proposal has now been included for consideration along with wider Open Campus infrastructural development. Plans include expansion of office space, upgrading of landscaping and facilities for children's play areas, and disabled access.
5. <u>LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT</u> :	A grant was obtained from the CHASE Fund for development of the library collection.
6. <u>PUBLIC SERVICE</u> :	Public service within Jamaica continued through 2010 with CCDC representation on several boards, organizations and committees.
7. <u>SUPPORT TO CARIBBEAN AND INTERNATIONAL CHILD DEVELOPMENT AND RIGHTS ISSUES</u> :	This continued with CCDC representation on multiple organizations and committees nationally and internationally. CCDC also hosted the Global Child Development Group secretariat.

5. Developments with new and ongoing projects/ programmes

5.1 Research

5.1.1 Research Theme: Aggression and Violence among Children

1. *Analysis of Interventions against Youth Crime and Violence: Community Diagnostics.*
This World Bank supported project was completed in 2010. This project focused on four communities in Jamaica with consistent, declining crime and violence, and linked activities at the community level with these over time. Infrastructural development, projects and programmes focusing on developing social resources, especially the youth, and sustained social and private investments were some of the interventions identified.
2. *Involvement in gangs and related socio-emotional and cognitive development.*
Data have been collected to more clearly describe youth involved in gangs across Jamaica, including both boys and girls, as part of the study on the effect of individual level interventions on youth crime and violence. Analysis is ongoing.

1.1.2 Research Theme: HIV and Child Development

1. *HIV Stigma and Discrimination Among School Children*
Under this UNESCO-supported project, experiences and perceptions of children who were either HIV positive, or were affected by HIV through having an infected family member, were described. The children's school experiences and school performance was also measured and linked to their experiences of stigma and discrimination. The study was undertaken in St. Lucia and Guyana. Plans are to replicate the study in Jamaica and compare across the findings across these three Caribbean countries.
2. *Sexuality Education in the Caribbean*
This project comprises a situation analysis of the legislation, policies, programmes and curricula related to sexuality education in 9 Caribbean countries, and experiences of educators and learners. The project was commissioned by UNICEF and is being led UWI Consulting. CCDC acts as academic advisors. Data collection is completed and reporting expected in early 2011.
3. *Interventions to promote the development of children affected by HIV*
A study to develop and pilot interventions to improve the development of HIV affected children is under consideration for funding.

5.1.3 Research Theme: Child Rights Issues

1. *Baseline Study on Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Children and Adolescents in the Inter-American System*
The Inter-American Children's Institute of the OAS commissioned this baseline situation analysis on the legislation, policies, programmes and experiences related to child rights in Jamaica, as the first phase of a programme to support children's rights issues. Jamaica is one of four countries in the Inter-American system which will be a part of this programme. The final report is presently being copyedited prior to wide distribution among stakeholders.

2. *MHIRT Trainees* (MHIRT/ University of Michigan)

Two students from the University of Michigan interned at the CCDC and carried out research on the nature of Jamaican police officers' engagement with children, and knowledge of child rights. This information was important prior to the development of training materials for police officers on the Child Rights and Responsibilities course. A paper is being written to share the findings.

5.1.4 Research Theme: International Child Development

1. The Global Child Development Group

A group of internationally renowned experts in child development prepared a series on child development in developing countries which was published by the prestigious medical journal, the Lancet in 2007. The series shows that more than 200 million children under 5 years fail to achieve their full potential in cognitive development because of poverty, poor health and nutrition and lack of early stimulation. The main causes of poor child development were identified as stunting, iodine and iron deficiencies, and inadequate cognitive and social-emotional stimulation. Other potential risk factors include maternal depression, exposure to lead and arsenic, and some infectious diseases. Interventions that address these causal factors include improving disadvantaged children's home environment through parental education and early childhood care and education programs. This small group, including CCDC's Meeks, became the International Early Child Development Committee (IECDC), which was later formalized into the Global Child Development Group. A second series of 2 papers was developed in 2009-2010, also for publication in the Lancet. The CCDC has hosted the secretariat of the GCDG since its inception, and assisted with the two international meetings which were convened in Jamaica for the development of the second series of paper. The secretariat has been supported by the Bernard van Leer Foundation, GAIN and UNICEF.

2. Childwatch International Research Network.

The CCDC has been a Key Institution of this international network since 1990. The CWI comprises research centres from over 40 countries. CCDC is very active in the regional network of the Caribbean and Latin America, and attended the annual conference and meeting in Mexico in November.

The following presentations and publications represented the output from the Centre's research activities:

PUBLICATIONS

Books

1. Gallimore, H. and Davies, R. (Eds.) (2010) *Learning Outcomes for Early Childhood Development in the Caribbean: A Handbook for Practitioners*. Chalkboard Press, Kingston.
2. Henry-Lee, A. & Meeks Gardner, J. (Eds.) (2010) *Promoting Child Rights Through Research Vol. 2*. Sir Arthur Lewis Institute of Social and Economic Studies, University of the West Indies: Kingston.

Refereed book chapters

1. Guerra, N.G., Williams, K.R., Meeks Gardner, J., Walker, I. (in press) Case study: The Kingston YMCA Youth Development Programme: An effective anti-violence intervention for inner-city youth. In: Knox, L. and Hoffman, J. (Eds.) Youth Violence Prevention Around the World. Praeger International Press.

CONFERENCES

- CCDC was a partner in the highly successful Caribbean Child Research Conference held October 20-21, 2010 in Kingston.
- The annual Research Day at UWI Mona included an Open Campus booth which included 6 posters by CCDC.
- CCDC staff members attended and presented papers at a number of venues as follows:

Invited presentations

1. Meeks Gardner, J. *Understanding Child Rights and the Inalienable Rights of Child Victims of Violence and Child Abuse: Jamaican Perspectives*. Children and Violence Workshop. Planning Institute of Jamaica and Child Development Agency. Kingston, 27-28 October, 2010.
2. Meeks Gardner, J. *Violence and youth: A diagnosis of four communities in Jamaica*. VII Conferencia Internacional – Red Childwatch Latinoamerica y el Caribe. Zapopan, Jalisco, Mexico. 18-20 November 2010.
3. Gallimore, H. *An Introduction to Child Rights*. Jamaica Police Academy, Twickenham Park, 30 June, 2010.

Academic conferences

1. Sawyers, K. (attended) Derrick Gordon Research Seminar, Mona Visitors Lodge, April 22, 2010
2. Thomas, J. *The YMCA youth program: Impact on current and past attenders*. 35th Caribbean Studies Association Conference, Barbados, May 24-28, 2010.
3. Sawyers, K. (attended) XL Association of Caribbean University, Research and Institutional Libraries (ACURIL), Santo Domingo, Dominica Republic, June 6–12, 2010
4. Meeks Gardner, J. *HIV-related stigma and discrimination among Caribbean children*. II Annual Consortium for Social Development and Research Teleconference, June 22, 2010.
5. Thomas, J. *Violence prevention success: the YMCA Youth Development Program*. II Annual Consortium for Social Development and Research Teleconference, June 22, 2010.
6. Campbell, M. (attended) 9th Annual Conference: Association of Caribbean Higher Education Administrators. Ocho Rios, Jamaica, July 8-10, 2010.
7. Meeks Gardner, J. *A situational analysis of child rights in Jamaica: Legislation*. Caribbean Child Research Conference, Kingston Jamaica, 20-21 October, 2010.
8. Thomas, J. *Participation in the YMCA programme predicted reduced aggression*. Caribbean Child Research Conference, Kingston Jamaica, 20-21 October, 2010.
9. Gallimore, H. *Child Rights Training: Lessons from a pilot study*. Caribbean Child Research Conference, Kingston Jamaica, 20-21 October, 2010.

10. Thomas, J. *Children infected and affected by HIV: school experiences and stigma and discrimination in St. Lucia*. Caribbean Child Research Conference, Kingston Jamaica, 20-21 October, 2010.
11. Gallimore, H. *Child Rights Training: Experience of course development and piloting in Jamaica*. IV World Congress on Child and Adolescent Rights, San Juan Puerto Rico, 15-18 November, 2010.
12. Campbell, M. *Participation in the YMCA Program predicted youth aggression*. Impact Evaluation of the National Youth Service Dissemination Meeting, Social Welfare Training Centre, December 17, 2010.

5.2 Teaching/ Training

UNICEF Jamaica supported a 40 hour face to face professional development course on Child Rights and Responsibilities. Two batches comprising 22 and 18 learners (correctional services officers and police officers) have completed the course in this phase, and a training of trainers course for 18 members of the Ministry of Education (Jamaica) Guidance and Counselling Department will commence February 2. The course is under consideration for development with APAD in online or blended format for wide offering.

The staff of the CCDC continued supervision of UWI graduate students in the MSc (Nutrition), MPhil (Social Sciences), M.Ed. (Leadership in Early Childhood), MA (Communication for Social & Behaviour Change) and PhD (Nutrition) programmes.

Two one-day workshops on Child Rights and Research Methods were jointly hosted by SALISES and CCDC for 64 secondary school teachers and 80 primary school teachers were carried out in May and June 2010.

CCDC continues to host students from the University of Michigan through the MHIRT research training programme. Two students participated in the programme in 2007 and worked on a project to ascertain the level of psychosocial programming available to Jamaican children infected or affected by HIV.

5.3 Networking and Information Dissemination

Caribbean Child Research Conference

The CCDC has partnered with the Sir Arthur Lewis Institute of Social and Economic Studies (UWI) and UNICEF, and other agencies to host the Caribbean Child Research Conference annually since October 2006. This highly successful conference was again held in 2010 with some 50 presentations representing research across a range of disciplines from 10 Caribbean countries, all focusing on children. Over 350 participants attended the two day event.

Websites

The CCDC maintains the Caribbean Early Childhood Development website project, CaribECD in association with the Dudley Grant Memorial Trust and the Institute of Education, UWI. The website (<http://www.uwi.edu/opencampus/caribecd/default.aspx>) remains popular among people from the region and beyond interested in early childhood issues.

The CCDC website (<http://www.open.uwi.edu/ccdc/welcome>) provides information on the Centre's activities, and serves as a portal for the databases we have created for documents and programmes.

Children's Issues Coalition

CCDC is the administrative centre of the Children's Issues Coalition (CHIC), a group of academics at UWI, Mona campus who aim to enable more integrated research and teaching as well as outreach services and dissemination of research findings, in areas of child health, education, welfare, development and behaviour. CHIC operates two major projects: an annual journal entitled *Caribbean Childhoods* and a database of research on children's issues. The fourth issue of *Caribbean Childhoods* published in 2009 focused on Children and Violence. The fifth issue aims to focus on psychosocial research related to children and HIV.

UNESCO Cooperating Centre for Early Childhood

CCDC continued to serve as a UNESCO Cooperating Centre for Early Childhood.

CARICOM Working Group on Early Childhood

CCDC was selected to serve as the UWI representative on the reconvened CARICOM Working Group on Early Childhood. In 2010, the group met in Georgetown discuss policy issues related to ECD in the Caribbean, and ways to coordinate regional activities in this area.

Electronic discussion forums

The network building activities, currently supported by UNESCO, include information sharing, facilitation of the exchange of proven practices and support for the Carib ECD web site, hosted by CCDC.

International Networking

CCDC continued participation in:

- Global Child Development Group. CCDC hosts the secretariat and shares coordination of the secretariat with the Child Development Research Group, Tropical Medicine Research Institute, UWI, Mona.
- Childwatch International Network of child research institutions. CCDC continues as a Key Institution of this network. An active member of the CWI Latin American and Caribbean regional network.
- CRUN: an international, interdisciplinary network of universities dedicated to the promotion of children's rights through education, research and provision of services within national and regional contexts.
- CG Consultative Group on Early Childhood Education, Care and Development. J Thomas represents CCDC on their HIV network..

5.5 Public Service

Members of staff continued to provide public service through representation on a range of boards and organizations locally and internationally.

National

J Meeks:

1. Board Member, Peace Management Initiative
2. Board Member, Children's Coalition of Jamaica
3. Member, Enhancement of Basic Schools Project Advisory Committee
4. Member, Early Childhood Commission subcommittee on research and data management
5. Member, Early Childhood Commission subcommittee on Early Childhood Policy
6. Member, Advisory Committee on the Child Care and Development Program of the University of Technology.

H Gallimore:

1. Member, Board of the Jamaica National Children's Home
2. Member, National Parenting Support Commission working group

International

CCDC:

1. Key Institution, Childwatch International Research Network

J Meeks:

1. UWI Representative, CARICOM Working Group on Early Childhood
2. Steering Committee Member, Global Child Development Group

H Gallimore:

1. CCDC Representative, Child Rights Universities Network
2. CCDC Representative, Consultative Group on Early Childhood Care and Development

6. Projections and Plans for the Future

The major plans for the forthcoming year are to:

1. Continue ongoing projects, networking activities and public service.
2. Expand work in the programme areas through grants for research and teaching.
3. Major infrastructural upgrading
4. Update and maintain websites and databases.