

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

Activities of the  
Caribbean Child Development  
Centre, 2011:  
Report to the Planning Institute of  
Jamaica

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## *Abbreviations*

CCDC	Caribbean Child Development Centre
CCRC	Caribbean Child Research Conference
CRRC	Child Rights and Responsibilities Course
CG	Consultative Group on Early Childhood Care and Development
CHIC	Children's Issues Coalition
CWI	Childwatch International
CRUN	Child Rights Universities Network
DCS	Department of Correctional Services
ECD	Early Childhood Development
EFJ	Environmental Foundation of Jamaica
GAIN	Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition
GCDG	Global Child Development Group
CGC	Campus Grants Committee
UN	United Nations
UNICEF	United Nations' Children's Fund
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. A specialized unit of the then University of the West Indies Extra-Mural Department, the CCDC has undergone various organizational changes, and since 2008 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 covering the birth to 18 years age group. Over the past 4 years, issues of children's rights have also been an important aspect of the Centre's work. During 2011 the areas of focus were:

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

Our *research* efforts concentrated on Childhood Development and HIV. The year was spent completing papers from concluded projects and writing proposals for new research initiatives. Details are presented in section 5: '*Development of New and Ongoing Projects*'.

Our *teaching/ training* programme included Child Rights and Responsibilities training and post-graduate supervision, as well as specialized training sessions which form part of our outreach programme. Work continued on the use of internet-based technologies for teaching and training as well as for general communication. Details of the work carried out are presented below in section 5.

Our *networking* activities included hosting multiple websites, managing various information databases, and the use of satellite technology to host teleconferences across the Caribbean. The Centre continued to be represented on several national, regional and international groups; this has facilitated linkages, and increased communication and collaboration among individuals and organizations.

*Public service* is encouraged among all members of staff, and CCDC is represented on multiple boards and committees.

## 2. Budget and expenditure for calendar year 2011

Activity	Budget J\$	Expenditure J\$	Variance/Balance J\$
<b>STAFF COSTS</b>			
UWI-Campus Grants Committee	15,375,093.04	7,940,111.87	7,434,981.17
GoJ Subvention	1,647,872.00	1,647,872.00	-
<b>TOTAL STAFF COSTS</b>	<b>17,022,965.04</b>	<b>9,587,983.87</b>	<b>7,434,981.17</b>
<b>OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES</b>			
<b>STAFF COSTS - Non-regular</b>			
Consultancy	89,583.33	100,846.29	(11,262.96)
Professional fees	-	103,001.13	(103,001.13)
<b>Total Non-regular Staff Costs</b>	<b>89,583.33</b>	<b>203,847.42</b>	<b>(114,264.09)</b>
<b>NON-STAFF COSTS</b>			
Office and General Expenses	371,008.77	406,147.85	(35,139.08)
Utilities (Water, elec., phone)	994,375.00	1,121,418.39	(127,043.39)
Other Activities (Freight, Fire, Marketing)	-	119,638.00	(119,638.00)
Foreign Travel	447,916.67	587,967.13	(140,050.46)
Books and periodicals	-	20,191.49	(20,191.49)
Bank charges	2,687.50	-	2,687.50
<b>Total Non-Staff Costs</b>	<b>1,815,987.94</b>	<b>2,255,362.86</b>	<b>(439,374.92)</b>
<b>REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE</b>			
Building and Grounds Maintenance	197,083.33	405,818.09	(208,734.76)
Vehicle repairs & supplies	-	-	-
Equipment and Furniture repairs	53,750.00	129,843.53	(76,093.53)
<b>Total Repairs and Maintenance</b>	<b>250,833.33</b>	<b>535,661.62</b>	<b>(284,828.29)</b>
<b>CAPITAL EXPENDITURE</b>			
Computer and peripherals	-	154,800.68	(154,800.68)
Furniture and fittings	-	372,196.93	(372,196.93)
<b>Total Capital Expenditure</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>526,997.61</b>	<b>(526,997.61)</b>
<b>TOTAL OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>\$ 2,156,404.60</b>	<b>\$ 3,521,869.51</b>	<b>\$ (1,365,464.91)</b>
<b>PROJECT DISBURSEMENTS IN 2011</b>			
Strengthening Caribbean ECD -UNESCO	773,350.00	906,397.96	(133,047.96)
Child Rights Training - UNICEF	4,580,268.00	3,752,004.10	828,263.90
Global Child Dev. Group - BVLF	2,534,290.00	2,612,256.73	(77,966.73)
<b>Total Special Projects</b>	<b>7,887,908.00</b>	<b>7,270,658.79</b>	<b>617,249.21</b>
<b>OTHER PROJECT SUPPORT</b>			
Publication Printing - EFJ	200,000.00	334,745.00	(134,745.00)
<b>Total Other Project Support</b>	<b>200,000.00</b>	<b>334,745.00</b>	<b>(134,745.00)</b>
<b>TOTAL PROJECT ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>\$ 8,087,908.00</b>	<b>\$ 7,605,403.79</b>	<b>\$ 482,504.21</b>

### **3. Problems encountered and attempts to solve them**

The CCDC continues to be challenged in sourcing funding for its programme of activities. All projects are funded by local and or International Development Partners hence proposal writing consumes a large portion of staff time. The University of the West Indies Open Campus covered most staff and operating cost in 2011, however the Centre was forced to curtail its operating expenses as the budget was affected by cash flow challenges. The Government of Jamaica through the Early Childhood Commission continued to provide a small subvention towards support staff cost for the years 2010-11 and 2011-12.

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”). This allowed us to undertake staff welfare/recognition activities.

The building continues to age and we have had to carry out increasing repairs to fixtures and plumbing. Most areas are in need of painting however this was postponed due to budgetary constraints. Plans are in place to carry out painting in phases and utilizing staff to reduce the labour cost associated with external contractors. The roof over the kitchen, library and day care developed cracks; estimate of repairs are being sought.

The Mona Maintenance Department has been slow to respond to needed retrenching to avert the flooding which occurred in 2010 however lobbying efforts continue to have this done. We had anticipated that work would also have been carried out to connect the Centre’s sewerage system to the central sewerage network; this remains pending due to the scarcity of funds.

## 4. Achievements as against targets

The Centre's targets for 2011 are shown in the table below, with achievements in the right hand column.

<b>Target</b>	<b>Achievement</b>
<p>1. <b><u>RESEARCH:</u></b> Source funding for the programme areas - children and violence; children and HIV; child rights issues.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Completed HIV Stigma and Education Outcomes (UNESCO)</li> <li>• Compiled information on Early Childhood Training opportunities across UWI Open Campus (Internal Project)</li> <li>• A proposal for an HIV Stigma study and an intervention submitted to funders.</li> </ul>
<p>2. <b><u>TEACHING/TRAINING:</u></b> Complete ongoing sponsored Child Rights and Responsibilities Course. Pursue sponsorship for child rights training. Incorporate Child Rights module in existing Open Campus programme.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Completed Child Rights and Responsibilities training – CISOCA &amp; DCS; Training of Trainers – Min. of Education (UNICEF)</li> <li>• Commenced Child Rights training of DCS staff at Metcalfe Street and recruits at Carl Rattray Staff College under Child Rights Sustainability Initiative (UNICEF)</li> <li>• Conducted pre-conference workshops in Research Methods and Child Rights for CCRC.</li> <li>• Collaborated with APAD to develop a Bachelors of Early Childhood and Family Studies Programme <del>Education</del>.</li> <li>• Successfully incorporated a Child Rights Course in the B. Ed. of ECDFS programme.</li> <li>• Efforts are continuing to have the CRR course offered as a professional development course via distance education.</li> <li>• Post-graduate supervisions.</li> </ul>
<p>3. <b><u>Networking</u></b> Carry out a series of activities aimed at Strengthening Caribbean Early Childhood Development</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hosted a series of 4 regional ECD teleconferences.</li> <li>• Upgraded and relaunched the CaribECD Website <a href="http://www.open.uwi.edu/caricecd/welcome">www.open.uwi.edu/caricecd/welcome</a></li> <li>• Produced and disseminated an electronic Newsletter – CaribECD Link</li> </ul>
<p>4. <b><u>STRATEGIC PLANNING:</u></b> The facilitation of 2 strategic planning retreats.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Two strategic planning retreats were held, with a focus on grant seeking, collaboration and outcomes for planned activities.</li> </ul>
<p>5. <b><u>LIBRARY SERVICE:</u></b> Dissemination of information Promotion of programme outputs</p>	<p>Continued:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Management of CCDC websites</li> <li>• Production of an end of year newsletter</li> <li>• Operation of a resource room</li> <li>• Participation in Research Day, Early Childhood Expo and other events</li> </ul>
<p>6. <b><u>PUBLIC SERVICE:</u></b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public service within Jamaica continued through 2011 with CCDC representation on several boards, organizations and committees.</li> </ul>
<p>7. <b><u>SUPPORT TO CARIBBEAN AND INTERNATIONAL CHILD DEVELOPMENT AND RIGHTS ISSUES:</u></b></p>	<p>This continued with CCDC representation on multiple organizations and committees nationally and internationally. CCDC also continued to host the Global Child Development Group secretariat.</p>

## **5. Developments with new and ongoing projects/ programmes**

During the reporting period, the Head of the CCDC, Professor Julie Meeks Gardner, proceeded on one year Sabbatical leave effective August 1, 2011. The Acting Head, Ceceile Minott continued with the existing programme of activities as well as spear-headed the centre's early childhood training initiative.

### **5.1 Research**

#### **5.1.1 Research Theme: Aggression and Violence among Children**

- a) *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.

#### **5.1.2 Research Theme: HIV and Child Development**

- a) *HIV Stigma and Discrimination Among School Children in St. Lucia and Guyana*  
This UNESCO-supported project which described the experiences and perceptions of children who were either HIV positive, or were affected by HIV through having an infected family member was completed early 2011. A research paper has been written and awaiting publication. A proposal has been prepared to replicate the study in Jamaica and compare the findings across the three Caribbean countries.
- b) *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, commissioned by UNICEF and led by UWI Consulting, was completed in 2011 and the findings presented at the Regional Consultation on Teacher Preparation Sexuality Education, CARICOM Working Group on Health and Family Life Education meeting in St. Lucia, April 11- 12, 2011.
- c) *Interventions to promote the development of children affected by HIV*  
A research study to develop and pilot interventions to improve the development of children living with HIV was written and awaiting funding.

#### **5.1.3 Research Theme: Early Childhood Training**

- a) Early childhood education, care and development (ECECD) programmes and courses offered throughout the English-speaking Caribbean were identified and a registry created to provide information to prospective students. Gaps were observed such as difficulties in moving from a certificate to a bachelors' degree when no bachelors' programmes were offered in that country. This created the opportunity to expand the levels and types of early childhood programmes offered in the Caribbean. The findings from this study was provided the background for the development of a Bachelors of Education in Early Childhood Development and Family Studies.



#### 5.1.4 Research Theme: International Child Development

a) The Global Child Development Group

The CCDC has hosted the secretariat of the Global Child Development Group (GCDG) since its inception, and assisted with two international meetings which were convened in Jamaica for the development of a second series of papers on Child Development. The secretariat has been supported by the Bernard van Leer Foundation, GAIN and UNICEF. This small group, includes CCDC's Julie Meeks. The second series was published in the *Lancet* and was launched in Washington in September 2011.

b) 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 remains active in the regional network of the Caribbean and Latin America.

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

#### PUBLICATIONS

##### **Journal Articles**

1. Thomas J., Lipps, G. (2011). Subjective well-being of adults with homozygous sickle cell disease in Jamaica. *West Indian Medical Journal*, 60: 181-187.
2. Meeks Gardner, J., Williams, K.R., Guerra, N.G., Walker, I. (2011) The Jamaica Youth Survey: Assessing core competencies and risk for aggression among Jamaican youth. *Caribbean Quarterly*. 47 (1): 35-53.

##### **Invited presentations**

##### Meeks Gardner, J.

1. Social Literacy Training: Examples from Jamaica. Presentation with K. Dodge, N. Guerra: How to develop behavioral skills for the labor market. HDN Forum, World Bank, Washington, D.C., USA. 28 February – 2 March, 2011.
2. Regional Consultation on Teacher Preparation Sexuality Education, CARICOM Working Group on Health and Family Life Education meeting. St. Lucia, April 11- 12, 2011.

##### Academic conferences

1. **Campbell, M.** A Situational Analysis of Child Rights in Jamaica: Independent Monitoring Systems, CSDR Research Teleconference, June 15, 2011.
2. **Thomas J,** Meeks Gardner J, Guerra Nancy, Williams K & Walker I. Reducing Youth Violence in Jamaica: The Case of the YMCA Youth Development Programme. Presented at the Annual Research Day of The University of the West Indies, Mona, January 27-28, 2011. (poster presentation)
3. **Thomas J,** Wright A & Meeks Gardner J. HIV-related Stigma and Children's School Outcomes in the Caribbean. Presented at the Annual Research Day of The University of the West Indies, Mona, January 27-28, 2011. (poster presentation)

4. **Thomas J**, Wright A, Hicks A, Babb J & Boafo K & Meeks Gardner J. HIV stigma school outcomes in Guyana. Consortium for Social Development and Research, Open Campus, Teleconference, June 15, 2011.
5. **Thomas J**, Wright A, Hicks A, Babb J & Boafo K & Meeks Gardner J. HIV stigma and children's education in Guyana. Caribbean Child Research Conference, Kingston, Jamaica, October 19-20, 2011.
6. **Thomas J**, Meeks Gardner J, Guerra N, Williams K & Walker I. Social competence among Jamaican adolescent mothers. Caribbean Child Research Conference, Kingston, Jamaica, October 19-20, 2011.
7. **Thomas J**, Wright A, Simon, V, Hicks A, Babb J, Boafo K & Meeks Gardner J. HIV-related stigma and discrimination and school outcomes in 2 Caribbean countries. Caribbean HIV Conference, Nassau, Bahamas, November 18-20, 2011.
8. **Meeks Gardner J**. Early Child Development in Developing Countries: Recent Evidence for Risk and Protective Factors. Caribbean Regional Conference of Psychology, Nassau, Bahamas, November 15-18, 2011.
9. **Minott C**, Campbell M, Gallimore H, Meek J, Moncrieffe J. A Situational Analysis of Child Rights in Jamaica: Public Policies which Promote Child Rights in Jamaica. Caribbean Child Research Conference, Kingston, Jamaica, October 19-20, 2011.
10. **Minott C**. Early Childhood Development Training Opportunities across the Caribbean. Caribbean Child Research Conference, Kingston, Jamaica, October 19-20, 2011.

## 5.2 *Teaching/ Training*

- 5.2.1 Continuing from 2010 UNICEF Jamaica supported a 40 hour face to face training of trainers' course on Child Rights and Responsibilities in 2011. The course was offered to 18 members of the Ministry of Education (Jamaica) Guidance and Counselling Department however only 13 persons completed the course. Under UNICEF's Child Rights Sustainability Initiative, support was forthcoming for the institutionalization of child rights training and child rights practices within the Department of Correctional Services (DCS).

At the end of the project, which commenced in November 2011, it expected that 10 DCS staff will be trained as Master Trainers; 150 recruits at the Carl Rattray Staff College will be equipped with child rights knowledge and tools; 220 members of the Metcalfe Street Remand Centre for juveniles will be equipped with child rights knowledge and tools to apply a rights-based approach to their duties; 208 boys at Metcalfe Street Remand Centre will be sensitized to the CRC, its application in Jamaica and relevance to them; and Child Rights training will be infused into the programme for Correctional and Probation Officers at the Carl Rattray Staff College.

- 5.2.2 The staff of the CCDC continued supervision of UWI graduate students in the MA of Communication for Social & Behaviour Change, and undergraduate students pursuing the BSc in Psychology.

- 5.2.3 Two one-day workshops on Child Rights and Research Methods were jointly hosted by CCDC and SALISES for 103 students and teachers from 47 urban and rural secondary schools, and 226 students and teachers from 67 urban and rural primary school. The workshops were carried out in April and May 2011.

### 5.3 *Networking and Information Dissemination*

#### 5.3.1 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 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Caribbean Child Research Conference from October 19 to 20, 2011. There were 40 presentations representing research across a range of disciplines, as well as 10 student presentations. Over 800 participants attended the two day event.

- 5.3.2 CCDC collaborated with other units of the UWI Open Campus to participate in the 2011 Research Days hosted by the Mona Campus on January 27 and 28, 2011.

#### 5.3.3 Websites

The CCDC through the kind support of UNESCO updated and re-launched the CaribECD website: (<http://www.open.uwi.edu/caribecd/welcome>). The CCDC website (<http://www.open.uwi.edu/ccdc/welcome>) is maintained by the Librarian and provides information on the Centre's activities, along with serving as a portal for the databases we have created for documents and programmes.

#### 5.3.4 Electronic Forums, E-Newsletter and Teleconferences

UNESCO provided support to CCDC to embark on a project to strengthen Caribbean Early Childhood Development through information sharing and discussion forums. An electronic forum was established on the CaribECD Website to facilitate discussion on various topics relating to early childhood development. The forums preceded four teleconferences held with regional colleagues in 13 countries with up to 105 persons in attendance. The project culminated with the dissemination of an electronic newsletter "*CaribECD Link*."

<http://www.open.uwi.edu/sites/default/files/CaribECD%20Link%20Newsletter%20Issue%2014.pdf>

- 5.3.5 CCDC continued to be involved in networks at the national, regional and international level as follows:

*Children's Issues Coalition* - 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. The group produces an annual journal *Caribbean Childhood*. The upcoming issue aims to focus on psychosocial research related to children and HIV.

*UNESCO Cooperating Centre for Early Childhood-*

*CARICOM Working Group on Early Childhood* - UWI's representative on the reconvened CARICOM Working Group on Early Childhood.

*Childwatch International Network of child research institutions.* A Key Institution of this network and an active member of the CWI Latin American and Caribbean regional network.

*Child Rights University Network:* 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.

*Consultative Group on Early Childhood Education, Care and Development.* Represented on the HIV Network

#### **5.4 Public Service**

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

##### **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.

##### **J. Thomas:**

1. Representative, Violence Prevention Alliance
2. Member, Jamaica Psychological Society

##### **H Gallimore (Child Rights Associate):**

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

## **6. Projections and Plans for the Future**

The major plans for the forthcoming year are to:

- 6.1 Expand work in the programme areas through grants for research and teaching
- 6.2 Actively pursue opportunities to collaborate in cross-border research
- 6.3 Continue networking activities and public service
- 6.4 Undertake infrastructural upgrading
- 6.5 Update and maintain websites and databases and seek opportunities to disseminate information