

## ICDI's Children & Youth Team

ICDI's Children & Youth Team develops and delivers tailor made training, provides advice, conducts research, and designs and implements projects, concerning boys and girls - roughly 8-18- years of age, that are growing up in difficult circumstances.

The overall aim of our work is to create safe, enriching social and professional environments, to help facilitate the smooth transition from middle childhood (8-12) to adolescence (12-18), and from adolescence to adulthood, so that children can fulfill their potential and become happy, well-balanced grown-ups. We focus on children and young people most at risk, with specific attention for those living in or coming from situations of violence. We partner with other international and local organizations, to jointly combat the problems children and young people face.

We specialize in three focal areas:

### **Protecting children and youth from violence**

Too many children and young people still grow up in situations of abuse, neglect and violence. By strengthening protection systems and services, we help to create safe, nurturing social and professional environments. We especially focus on children and youth who lost parental care (or are at risk of doing so) and on war-affected children and youth. Recent examples of this are: **Nest**, an after school programme for refugee children, and our work on strengthening parental skills within abusive families in **Belarus**.

### **Child and youth participation**

Participation is not only a right as laid down in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, it is also of vital importance for the well-being and psychosocial development of children and youth. Our team has developed innovative projects and tools to this end. Examples include our training on **children as researchers** and a recent European project that sought out children's opinions in how to best fight **bullying**.

### **Girls**

Sadly, girls are often most at risk. Therefore we pay special attention to their rights and needs in our work. Besides investing in girls themselves, much can be achieved by engaging their families and communities. The **Girls-QUAT** is a participatory tool developed by ICDI which can be used to measure and monitor the quality of services for girls. A prime example of our efforts with and for girls is the 2016-2021 **HER CHOICE** project, in which we tackle the widespread problem of child marriage.

For more information, please contact Rutger van Oudenhoven

([rutger@icdi.nl](mailto:rutger@icdi.nl)).

