

ANNUAL
REPORT
2023



Bouncing Forward



International Child
Development Initiatives



International Child
Development Initiatives

**ICDI (2023) Annual Report:
Bouncing Forward. Leiden.**

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Executive Summary

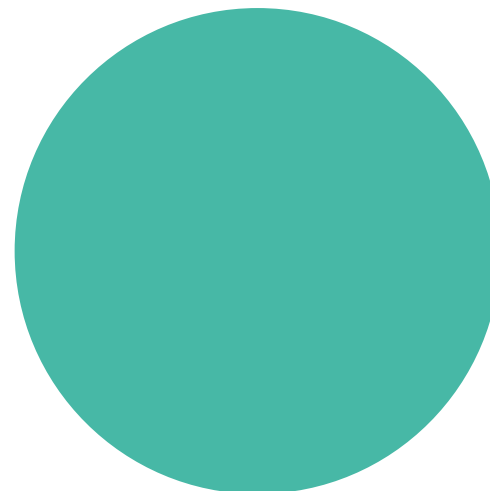
'Bouncing Forward' is the theme of this year's Annual Report. 'Bouncing Forward' is a way to think about resilience, it's about finding how you might progress based on developing new tools and skills. Throughout 2023, ICDI and its partners have continued to foster resilience and empower children and families to overcome challenges and move forward with strength.

In this Annual Report, you can read about how our projects helped people 'bounce forward' in the face of adversity. This annualreport highlights two projects and their achievements. You will also find links to descriptions of all our other projects.

You will learn about our 'From Waste to Work' project in Kenya, which has transformed vulnerable communities by supporting young green entrepreneurs. Moving from Kenya to Ukraine, you will read about our 'A TOY for Inclusion Play Hub for internally displaced children in Ukraine' project. You will learn how it has provided a safe inclusive space for internally displaced and war-affected children and their families.

During 2023, ICDI focused on several key themes: community-based inclusive early childhood education and care, child protection and children's rights, youth participation, inclusive education, resilience, prevention of violence against women and girls, and responsive parenting and caregiving. These themes guided our initiatives and reinforced our commitment to building a better future for children worldwide.

Other features of this report include consultancies, publications and lobby and advocacy initiatives. As ICDI approaches its 30th anniversary in 2024, we celebrate our journey and the impact we have made over the years. We remain committed to our mission of promoting the psychosocial well-being of children growing up in difficult circumstances. Our focus on resilience, innovation, and empowerment will guide us as we continue to create meaningful change in the lives of children and families worldwide. When reading this report, you will see once again that ICDI is a small organisation that achieves big things!



Foreword from the Board

Reflecting on 2023, the theme, “Bouncing Forward” captures the resilience and growth that defined the year at ICDI. The board is proud to see ICDI not only recover but advance, becoming a stronger and more dynamic organisation. This transformation is a testament to the challenges faced and the new skills acquired.

And this is very much needed, as the world in which ICDI operates hasn’t become easier for many of its children. They are threatened by turmoil and conflict, most notably the wars in Ukraine and Gaza. At times we are overcome by feelings of despair, but it strengthens our hearts to see that ICDI and its partners continue to reach vulnerable children, offering them meaningful support and equipping them with the resources for a brighter, more hopeful future.

We welcome **Margaret Kernan’s return** to the team! This time as Head of Programmes and Learning. She brings in renewed energy and expertise, enriching ICDI’s programmes and playing a crucial role in mentoring and developing ICDI’s young staff and interns.

In 2023, two standout projects exemplified ICDI’s vision and mission. The **“From Waste to Work”** project in Kenya transforms vulnerable communities by supporting young green

entrepreneurs in Kisumu, Mombasa, and Nairobi through Youth Business Clubs, technical and entrepreneurship training, and market linkages. This initiative has created decent green jobs and contributed significantly to the green economy. Meanwhile, the **“TOY for Inclusion Play Hub” in Kyiv**, Ukraine, provides a safe, inclusive space for internally displaced and war-affected children and their families. In collaboration with longstanding partner Labour and Health Social Initiatives (LHSI), this Play Hub offers playful learning experiences, psychosocial support, parenting advice, and specialised services, impacting many families and increasing staff capacity. These projects highlight ICDI’s commitment to **resilience, innovation, and empowerment**.

In 2024, ICDI will celebrate its 30th anniversary! Now in its adulthood, ICDI continues to operate with the joy, curiosity, and resilience of youth. As the board, we congratulate ICDI on its birthday, and the remarkable work and encourage it to keep building a world where children can happily and freely hop around, occasionally stumble, but get back up and **bounce forward**.

Rutger van Oudenhoven
Board Member





What we do?

As a knowledge organisation we develop meaningful, effective solutions so that all children can grow up in safe, loving and nurturing environments and lead happy lives. We care for their social and emotional well-being and rights. We support children, families and communities to strengthen their relationships, and help them to jointly explore, learn and develop.

As we focus on a wide spectrum of ages and on various issues. We are able to build bridges between new science and practical implementation, making connections across different developmental stages in childhood, from infancy to adolescence, and thus improve the quality and impact of programmes addressing the problems children and young people face.

Our Vision and Mission

At ICDI, our **vision** is a world where all children grow up in loving, safe and supportive environments. A world where every child has the opportunity to be and become the best version of themselves, with ample opportunities to learn and develop, surrounded by people who care.

Our **mission** is to promote the psychosocial well-being of children growing up in difficult circumstances by working in the field of early childhood education and development, child protection, and special initiatives.

Social inclusion

We strive to improve the inclusion of marginalized groups by facilitating access and the ability for everyone to participate in society and by providing them with the opportunities and skills required to succeed.

Equity

We strive to ensure equity among everyone regardless of their identity, by considering how structural inequality, discrimination and social norms shape an individual or group's experience.

Participation

We strive to involve communities and other stakeholders in our work, by fostering an environment in which everyone involved feels encouraged and comfortable to participate.

Climate action

We strive to incorporate climate action into our work by giving a voice to children who are and will be affected by climate change, and by advocating for their involvement in decisions being made about their future.

Our overarching thematic focus is on **building strong relationships**, among children, families, communities, the environment, and society as a whole. We approach child development holistically by considering how a child is influenced by their immediate surrounding as well as their indirect environment. By doing so, we address the relationships among different levels of a child's environment to make deep and long-lasting differences. This includes strengthening the capacity of staff from local services, teachers, parents, community members, NGO staff and policymakers.

ICDI and our partners continue to execute our mission by developing and providing training, tools, and effective strategies that promote healthy child development and improve the lives of children at risk.

OUR IMPACT

All children and young people grow up healthy, strong and happy in communities that care



OUTCOMES



OUTPUTS



THEMES



KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE AND DEVELOPMENT

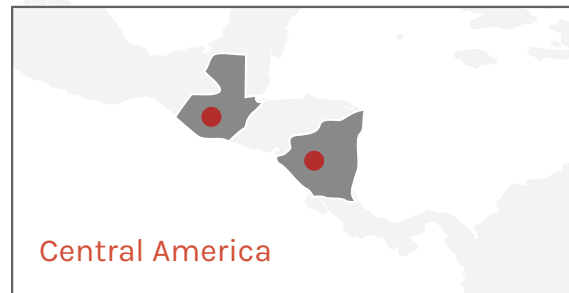
STRATEGIES



APPROACHES



ICDI's year at a glance



Central America

Promoting Child Protection in Central America

Protecting children's rights and end violence (physical, psychological and sexual) against children and adolescents.

Nicaragua, Guatemala

TOY for Inclusion: Mobile Play Hubs for Ukrainian Refugee Children

Bringing play-based activities to smaller and remote communities receiving Ukrainian refugee families.

Slovakia - Hungary

A Play Hub for internally displaced children in Ukraine

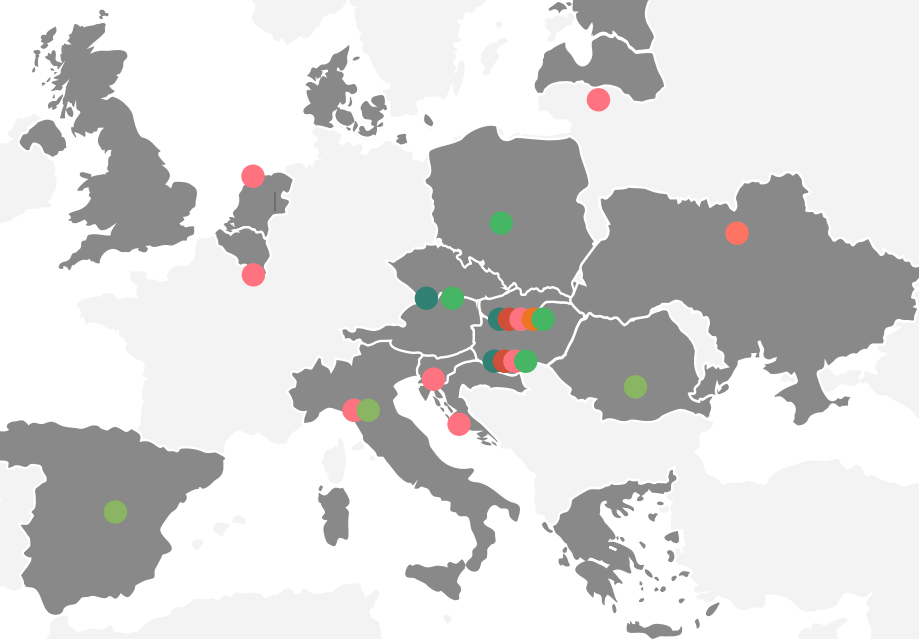
Establishing a Play Hub in Kyiv and provide psycho-social support, access to play and learning activities, healthcare, and protection services.

Ukraine

TOY for Inclusion:

Community Based Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC).

The Netherlands - Slovenia - Slovakia - Croatia
Latvia - Italy - Hungary



TOY for Inclusion: Access for all

Community Based Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) for children with special educational needs.

Slovakia

Play Hubs for cohesive local communities

Expanding the TOY for Inclusion network to Poland and Czech Republic through regional learning and exchange.

Slovakia - Hungary - Czech Republic - Poland

C.L.A.P.

Children's rights, Awareness, and Participation. Addressing emerging needs in COVID-19 pandemic.

Italy - Spain - Romania

Education Matters, now more than ever

Promoting inclusive education for girls in Ethiopia.

Ethiopia

From Waste to Work

Strengthening green youth-led startups and creating decent jobs through waste recovery and value addition.

Kenya

Places to Grow

Interagency cooperation between early years services: a capacity building trajectory using the TOY for Inclusion approach.

Czech Republic - Hungary - Slovakia

Making the first 1000 days count! Ethiopia Scaling up

Nurturing babies and toddlers for a better future through play, early stimulation and responsive parenting.

Ethiopia

Her Choice: building child marriage free communities in Nepal

Supporting the creation of child marriage-free communities.

Nepal

Joint Learning Lab (JLL)

International Charter for Non-formal ECEC: Drive advocacy for policy support for non-formal ECEC and to ensure quality of non-formal ECEC.

Europe, Central Asia

Our year in numbers



+/- 30.000
children reached



+/- 7.000
families reached



+/- 13.000
professionals reached

Themes in 2023

- Community-based inclusive early childhood education and care
- Child protection and children's rights
- Youth participation
- Inclusive education
- Resilience
- Prevention of violence against women and girls.
- Responsive parenting and caregiving.



Highlights

HIGHLIGHT

From Waste to Work in Kenya

Vulnerable communities disproportionately bear the brunt of environmental degradation caused by plastic pollution and other waste, and action is urgently needed. Research shows that the waste-picking community is a very entrepreneurial community and is mostly made up of young people and women (15 to 35 years old). In many cases, children as young as 8 years old also work as waste pickers. Waste pickers are organised in various shapes and forms. Some operate alone and collect rubbish on the dumping site, while most waste pickers work in semi-formal or informal groups. They collect waste from households and sell or upcycle it. A minority of the waste pickers operate community buyback centres and are, besides buying, involved in cleaning, sorting, and shredding waste.

The problem is that young green entrepreneurs are vulnerable and not well-organised. They have low social capital and entrepreneurship capacity resulting in an inability to start operating and grow waste businesses that generate revenue. This limits the potential for this group to contribute to the green economy and create decent jobs. Together with **VSO** and **Taka Taka Solutions**, we are piloting an innovative approach to create decent green jobs in the waste management sector for marginalised men, women, boys and girls in three counties in Kenya: Kisumu, Mombasa and Nairobi.

Results

Currently, we are halfway through the implementation of the project. So far, these are the results:

- **2.287 primary actors** are enrolled in the project
- **16 operational buyback centres** have been opened
- **1.131 tons of waste** have been collected
- **434 starter kits** have been distributed, which include jumbo sacks, hand carts, weighing scales, rakes, spades, dustbins and slashers
- **424 personal protective equipment (PPEs)** have been distributed
- **138 children aged five and below** are being supported by the project through access to childcare including child minding and a daycare near the dumpsites.

The project is based on **four strategic buckets**:

- The **Mobilize Bucket** is the foundation of the programme. During the first stage, grass-root green entrepreneurs are enrolled in the project and supported to self-organise in Youth Business Clubs to increase peer support, increase leadership skills, combine strengths, networks and assets and strengthen social capital.
- The **Spark Bucket** supports vulnerable young people in starting their waste businesses. This bucket contains technical and entrepreneurship training through a blended learning approach combined with starter kits to generate innovation.
- The **Nurture Bucket** is there for the front-runners that are ready for Business Development Services and provides access to business networks and seed investments.
- The **Link Bucket** functions across all the project and connects the young green entrepreneurs with market linkages. These actions enable them to expand their markets and develop their connections.



The Primary Actors have greatly benefited from capacity-building initiatives, including life skills training, financial literacy education, and technical training in waste management. These programmes have not only boosted their confidence and pride in their work but also equipped them to manage their earnings effectively and cultivate a savings mind-set.

Success Story:

Ana* had volunteered picking out waste and tidying out the village while she was unemployed. In the past year, she has learned that waste is wealth (in Swahili taka ni mali). She could make profit out of waste collection. While her earnings aren't yet sufficient for a decent income, they have allowed her pay for her daughter's school fees and keep her in school. She is eager to further develop her entrepreneurial skills. This gives her hope for growing her business and being a valued member of her community.

Building trust with Primary Actors is important, as it promotes their engagement and collaboration, fostering a sense of mutual respect. Frequent turnover of organisations conducting short-term projects can erode trust within communities, as people become wary of new initiatives due to past experiences of inconsistency. In the project, this has been tackled by facilitating open communication, encouraging active participation, and promoting ownership of the project by actively involving Primary Actors in decision-making processes. It has also helped gain insight into aspects that need improvements and where they wish to see changes. Concretely, **ICDI has been conducting Learning Spaces with Primary Actors, where participants assess the quality of the activities and provide feedback for the implementing partners of the Consortium.**

*Ana is a member of the AECC and name has been changed to protect her privacy.

Learning Spaces

ICDI supports the implementing partners, stakeholders, and Primary Actors in the waste management industry. They do this by helping to develop a common vision, assess the quality of the activities, plan for improvements and innovations as well as imagine possible upscaling pathways. To reach that goal, ICDI is employing a Research and Learning Agenda and setting up Learning Spaces with Primary Actors and with staff across all the Consortium.

The Learning Spaces have provided valuable insights, leading to recommendations aimed at strengthening trust-building efforts, enhancing communication within the Consortium, and fostering inclusivity, especially regarding the participation of older individuals and women.

“Overall, the Learning Spaces have been excellent in providing platforms to stop, review, reflect and course, correct. The Spaces have also served well in strengthening the team spirit and embodiment of Consortium values.” (VSO)

Donor: **IKEA Foundation**

Partners:
Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO)
Taka Taka Solutions (TTS)



HIGHLIGHT

TOY for Inclusion Play Hub for internally displaced children in Ukraine

What are the Play Hubs?

Play Hubs are safe, non-formal, high-quality, Early Childhood Education and Care spaces where relationships between young children (0 to 10 years) and families from all backgrounds are built.

They are inclusive spaces where:

- children and adults of all ages meet,
- children and families spend quality time together and play with each other;
- children can borrow toys and educational materials to bring home;
- parents, grandparents, and practitioners can informally learn and exchange information about child health, early learning, and development.

The TOY for Inclusion programme and its Play Hubs are coordinated internationally by ICDI since 2017, and have been very successful in:

- Increasing access of vulnerable children (0-8) to inclusive and quality ECEC settings and improving transition experience to school
- Increasing knowledge and skills of practitioners and local policy makers to work together with and for all children and families
- Embedding non-formal inclusive community-based ECEC in local educational policies
- Improving parental skills and increasing trust of vulnerable communities in the local services
- Increasing trust between families of different cultural and ethnic backgrounds.

From 2017, ICDI and partners in 9 countries have opened 37 Play Hubs and 3 Mobile Play Hubs, reaching more than 40.000 children (30% from vulnerable groups), 18.000 adults and 2.000 practitioners.

In 2022 and 2023 Play Hubs were adapted to respond to the needs of Ukrainian refugee and internally displaced children and caregivers. 10 new Play Hubs were opened in Slovakia, 12 in Hungary and one in Kyiv (Ukraine).



A TOY for Inclusion Play Hub for internally displaced children in Ukraine

In 2024, ICDI and our partner Labour and Health Social Initiatives (LHSI) opened Kyiv's first Play Hub at the Rodinny Dim Centre. The Play Hub offers a safe and inclusive space for internally displaced and war-affected children and their families. Open four days a week, it provides playful learning experiences for children and parenting advice. Notably, the Play Hub provides psychosocial support to families, including consultations by a psychologist and support groups for parents. For additional support, a child physiotherapist and speech therapist come to the Play Hub on a voluntary basis.

In the language of resilience research, the Play Hub represents a valuable protective factor:

- It gives resettled children hope that good adults can look out for them,
- It lets children control their confusing situation by allowing them to play and learn.
- Through the interaction with trusted adults (Play Hub staff) and their everyday actions, as small as they might be, the Play Hub helps children overcome fear, and begin to trust that the world is safe again.

The Play Hub in Kyiv offers children and families:

- Opportunities to socialise and make new friends
- Express emotions and process experiences
- Get to know their new community
- Be introduced to education and other services in their new community
- Get specialised support in different areas through direct referral: education, health, housing, employment, etc.

Activities

- Adaptation and translation of TOY for Inclusion materials into Ukrainian
- Delivery of training to LHSI and Play Hub staff on the TOY for Inclusion approach, the importance of the early years on children's development, and how to set up a Play Hub in their community
- Grand opening of the first Play Hub in Kyiv
- Study visit for the Play Hub staff and LAT members to Škola dokorán's Play Hubs in Slovakia.

Results

- Engagement of 228 families, including 247 children
 - 148 families were considered internally displaced persons
 - 14 adults and 2 children were identified as having a disability
- Increased capacity of Play Hub Staff via training and the study visit to Play Hubs in Slovakia
- Increased access of internally displaced children and their families to high-quality playful learning opportunities, psychosocial services, and peer support.

Products

In 2022, ICDI and Škola dokorán developed the Handbook for Non-formal Services Supporting Young Refugee Children and Families. The handbook offers support and practical tools to ECD practitioners, particularly those working in Play Hubs, and anyone engaged in play-based learning activities with war-affected children. The handbook provides advice and activities tailored to promote play, with a focus on social integration and the psychosocial well-being of children displaced due to war.

[Download PDF](#)

Partners:

LHSI - Labor and Health Social Initiatives, Rodinny Dim Centre

Research and advice

ICDI is a knowledge organisation in children’s psychosocial development and well-being. In most of our projects we embed a research and innovation development agenda. Every year, this results in several publications and presentations at international conferences. Many of them are open source and can be used by other organisations to be inspired and start initiatives based on methodologies and tools developed by ICDI. Our expertise is also contracted by other organisations who require our support in their programmes through short term assignments. Information about these activities is listed below.



Publications

Ó Síoráin, C. A., Kernan, M., McArdle, F. (2023) [Disrupting the Aistear hour: working towards a play-based curriculum in early childhood classrooms in Irish primary schools](#), [International Journal of Early Years Education](#). DOI: 10.1080/09669760.2023.2271503.

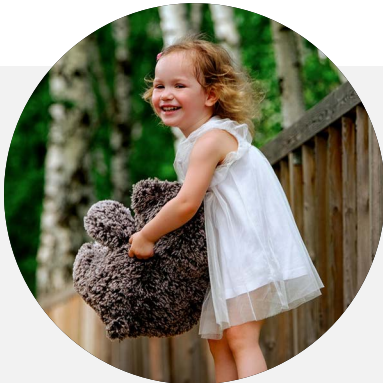
McLean, E. (2023) [Climate action: Talking to Children about climate change. How Children’s Lives are Being Affected by Climate Change Series](#). Leiden: ICDI.

Marchetti, L. & Tesch, L. (2023) [Protecting the future: UN launches General Comment on Children’s Rights and Climate Change, How Children’s Lives are Being Affected by Climate Change Series](#), Leiden: ICDI.

ICDI (2023) [Mobile Play Hubs: Operating Guidelines](#). Leiden: ICDI.

ICDI (2023) [Mobile Play Hubs: Activity Cards](#). Leiden: ICDI.

ICDI (2023) [Toolkit on Inclusive Community-based ECEC. TOY for Inclusion: Access for all](#). Leiden: ICDI.



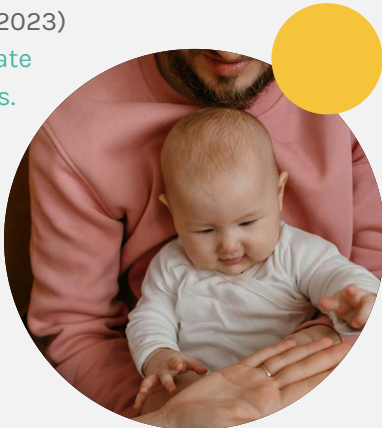
ICDI (2023) [Activity Cards - Toolkit on Inclusive Community-based ECEC. TOY for Inclusion: Access for all](#). Leiden: ICDI.

van Oudenhoven, N. (2023) [Lessons Born in Pain: Lessons for All of Us. Mahabahu - Online Magazine](#). November 2023. Assam, India.

van Oudenhoven, N. (2023) [NGOs and the Law of Detrimental Effects. Mahabahu - Online Magazine](#). November 2023. Assam, India.

van Oudenhoven, N. (2023) [How to Build Bridges or Ford Rivers between People who Harbour Diametrically Opposing Views. Mahabahu - Online Magazine](#). December 2023. Assam, India.

Tesch, L & Palazuelos, M. (2023) [COP27: ICDI’s take on climate change and children’s lives](#). Leiden: ICDI



Conferences

[Playful Parenting in Emergencies: the TOY for Inclusion Play Hubs in Slovakia, Hungary and Ukraine](#). Thematic Meeting organised by ISSA, UNICEF and the LEGO Foundation on 22 June 2023. Presenter: Giulia Cortellesi (ICDI)

[Conceptualising a quality framework for non-formal ECEC services: Launching workshop of ISSA Joint Learning Lab, at Connects for Learning](#), 27 September 2023, Opatija, Croatia. Facilitators: Giulia Cortellesi & Margaret Kernan (ICDI) and Carmen Lica (Centrul Step-by-Step)



Consultancies

Compendium of African Initiatives to Support Parents & Caregivers, World Health Organization Regional Office for Africa (WHO AFRO), UNICEF Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Office, the African Early Childhood Network (AfECN), Parenting for Lifelong Health, and the Early Childhood Development Action Network.

Curriculum Package for community-based early learning playgroups in Uzbekistan. Agency of Preschool Education, Ministry of Education, Uzbekistan.

Adaptation of the ECD QUAT for kindergartens in Bulgaria. Trust for Social Achievement.

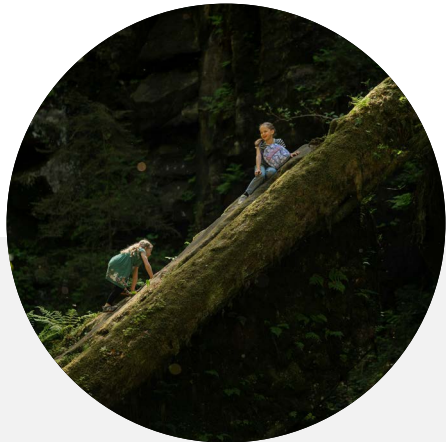
Training on the Integration of Early Years Services for Hungarian professionals, Partners Hungary Foundation.

Training on the TOY for Inclusion Approach for Community Educational Foundation ‘School for All’ in Kazakhstan.

[The Power of Play and its Impact on Early Childhood Learning and Development Training to Play Hub staff in Enschede, the Netherlands](#).

Learning Exchange Play Hub in Kyiv, Ukraine. [Members from the first Play Hub in Kyiv, participated in a 3-day learning exchange in Slovakia. This event allowed Ukrainian specialists to explore and learn from the TOY for Inclusion approach. The exchange included a quality assessment discussion using the Quality Assessment Tool for Early Childhood.](#)

Development Services for Young Children (ECD-QUAT).



Lobby and advocacy

To ensure children’s right worldwide, one must address the underlying causes of the problems they face, which often are related to economic, social, and political conditions. In this context, the knowledge ICDI gained during years of working within the field of children’s psychosocial development and well-being is an important input to improve policies and laws. This year, we have included some of the actions in where ICDI pursued lobbying and advocacy to urge politicians and government agencies to better address children and adolescents needs and desires. Information about all these activities is listed below.

Protect the Planet and Our Future! In line with our dedication to climate action, ICDI joined forces with Save the Children, SOS Kinderdorpen, Defence for Children, Right to Play, Liliane Fonds, and a crowd of 85,000 other passionate protesters in the Climate Change March in November 2023. Our collective aim was to spotlight children as the focal point of climate action, not only in the Netherlands but globally.

The Climate Crisis is a Children’s Crisis. ICDI joined five other organisations to call on the government to enable active participation of children in climate policy, integrate children’s rights into all climate-related policies and advocate for commitments at COP28.

#CeasefireNow: Open Call for an Immediate Ceasefire in the Gaza Strip and Israel. ICDI joined War Child and +700 other organisations to call for an immediate cease-fire. The severe suffering of young children and their caregivers must STOP.

Global Joint Statement on Supporting Children and Their Families During the Ongoing Crises in Syria and Türkiye. Together with more than 30 international organisations, ICDI signed the Global Joint Statement promoted by the Early Childhood Development Action Network (ECDAN). Initiated by International Child Development Initiatives, Defence for Children-ECPAT and CoMensHa.

Joint Statement on the Forcible Transfer, Deportation, and Adoption of Children from Ukraine by Russia. ICDI, along with 43 organisations, co-signed the Joint Statement promoted by Better Care Network.



ICDI continued advocating for a permanent ban on intercountry adoptions and for adoptee rights in the Netherlands in 2023: <https://icdi.nl/interlandelijke-adoptie-idealiter-terug-naar-nul-zegt-minister/>
Separating children from their families, countries and cultures through intercountry adoption represents one of the most far-reaching and definitive decisions that could be made about the future of any child. It is irreversible and the child, and often also the parents, do not have a say in it. Moreover, serious structural abuses have been observed for decades in all sending countries, despite many attempts to reform the adoption system. The global intercountry adoption system is demand-driven, fails to address root-causes of family separation and is disempowering to local child protection systems. Therefore, **ICDI actively advocates for a permanent ban on intercountry adoptions. ICDI does this together with other child rights’ organisations, experts, as well as with organisations led by adult adoptees. ICDI believes that the voices of people with lived experience need to be heard in the adoption debate.**



Supporters

We are really grateful for the inspiring and fruitful collaborations we had in 2023 with all our partner organisations around the globe and the donors that made our work possible.

Thank you to our partners!

AHEAD - Association of Human Rights Educators (Spain) • Asociación Inhiambia (Nicaragua) • Associazione 21 luglio (Italy) • Bedari (Pakistan) • Better Care Network - BCNN (Netherlands) • Blum (Hungary) • Carpathian Foundation (Hungary) • Carpathian Foundation (Slovakia) • Centre for Education Initiatives (Latvia) • Cesta Von (Slovakia) • Child Workers in Nepal • CISS - International South South Cooperation (Italy) • CoMensHa (Netherlands) • CONACMI (Guatemala) • Defence for Children-ECPAT (Netherlands) • Early Childhood Research Centre (ECRC) at Dublin City University (Ireland) • Education for Sustainable Development (Ethiopia) • Educational Research Institute (Slovenia) • El Refugio de la Niñez (Guatemala) • EuroChild (EU) • Fundación Nitca (Nicaragua) • Fundatia Judeteana Pentru Tineret Timis (Romania) • Hiwot Ethiopia (Ethiopia) • Holis (operates internationally) • I Sicaliani (Italy) • Imago Mundi (Romania) • Inex - Sdruzeni Dobrovolnych Aktivit (Czech Republic) • International Step-by-Step Association - ISSA (Netherlands) •

Thank you to our donors!

Dioraphte Foundation • EC Erasmus+ KA3 • EPIM • Erasmus Plus programme • European Commission • European Commission, through its Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values (CERV) Programme • IKEA Foundation • Kahane Foundation • Kinderpostzegels • Open Society Foundations • Porticus Foundation • Schonewolf • Stichting Zijn • Visegrad Fund • Weeshuis Haarlem • Community Educational Foundation 'School for All' • Trust for Social Achievement • Other foundations in The Netherlands who wish to remain anonymous

Kinderpostzegels (Netherlands) • KROS - Coalitie kinderrechten in ontwikkelingssamenwerking (Netherlands) • La Amistad (Nicaragua) • Labour and Health Social Initiatives - LHSI (Ukraine) • Leger des Heils (Netherlands) • Milan Simecka Foundation (Slovakia) • Northern Ireland Rape Crisis Association (UK) • Oltalom Sportegyesulet (Hungary) • Open Academy Step by Step (Croatia) • Open Society Fund Praha (Czech Republic) • Partners Hungary Foundation (Hungary) • Prevention and Early Intervention Network (Ireland) • Proyecto Miriam (Guatemala) • Puntos de Encuentro (Nicaragua) • Replika Centre for Educational Theatre (Romania) • Schola Empirica (Czech Republic) • Socia Foundation (Slovakia) • Taka Taka Solutions (Kenya) • Union of Women Associations of Heraklion Prefecture (Greece) • University of Coimbra (Portugal) • University of Ljubljana (Slovenia) • University of Tartu (Estonia) • University of Tromso (Norway) • VSO Voluntary Services Overseas (Netherlands and Kenya) • Wide Open School (Slovakia) • Women's Support and Information Centre (Estonia)

We also thank our [Committee of Recommendation](#) for their precious support to ICDI's vision and mission:

Prof. Dr. David Lancy, Emeritus Professor of Anthropology, University of Utah
Dr. H.J.J. (Henri) Lenferink, Former Mayor of Leiden
Prof. Dr. Ton Liefwaard, UNICEF Chair in Children's Rights at Leiden Law School, Leiden University
† **Dr. Elly Singer**, Associate Professor Developmental Psychology and Education at the University of Utrecht and University of Amsterdam

“ICDI implements programmes supporting psychosocial development, not only of the children themselves, but of communities as a whole”

Dr. Elly Singer

† [In memorium](#)

Dr. Elly Singer

10 September 1948 - 7 September 2023

It was with great sadness that we heard of the death of Dr. Elly Singer on 7th September 2023. Elly was a valued friend of ICDI and esteemed member of our Committee of Recommendation. Her pioneering research about children's social relationships and friendships in group settings was and continues to be an important source of inspiration for ICDI. She was a true advocate for young children - for their right to be heard, to be understood, and just to be children. Elly touched the hearts and minds of many Dutch and international early childhood researchers and practitioners. Her fearlessness, positive 'can do' attitude and dedication to communicating research to practitioners will be missed. Her work and insights will live on in her many and [varied publications](#).





Financial statement

In 2023, ICDI's total income from project subsidies was € 1.322.845. Of this, 85% was directly spent on ICDI's mission and objectives. Total expenditures in 2023 were € 1.291.918, leaving a positive result of € 30.927. 15% of income was spent on overhead and fundraising costs. This latter figure falls well below the maximum of 25% for such costs as set by regular Dutch standards for Non-Governmental Organisations. For the full financial statement and independent auditor's report, please visit [our website](#).

Staff and Board

Staff (31 December 2023):

Asia Koerten, Co-Director
Giulia Cortellesi, Co-Director
Nico van Oudenhoven, Senior Associate
Sarah de Vos, Senior Programme Manager
Ketevan Sulava, Senior Programme Manager
Mariana Palazuelos, Programme Manager
Catarina Alves, Junior Programme Manager
Luisa Tesch, Junior Programme Manager
Enid McLean, Programme Assistant since July 2023
Rekha Wazir, Senior Associate
Margaret Kernan, Head of Programmes and Learning since May 2023

Board

Mathijs Euwema (chair)
Esha van der Hulst (treasurer)
Sumnima Tuladhar (board member)
Rutger van Oudenhoven (board member)

Incident Report on Integrity Issues

For over twenty-nine years ICDI has stringent ethical guidelines and organisational policies in place that guide behaviour of its employees and partners. We aim to be completely transparent about these and therefore all policies are available on [our website](#). In the year 2023 (nor in any of the years previous, there have been no incidence reports regarding possible breaches of ICDI's safeguarding and child protection policies, Code of Conduct or fraud.

International Child Development Initiatives (ICDI) is a knowledge organization in psychosocial development of children and young people growing up in difficult circumstances.

ICDI believes in the power of children and young people, supporting their rights and addressing the underlying causes for the problems they face.

We aim to improve policies and practices by building the skills of: children, mothers, fathers, families, communities, local organizations, and authorities. ICDI also works with and for bigger international child rights organizations, supporting knowledge transfer through training, research and advice.

From Nepal to Nicaragua, and from Kiev to Katwijk, our dream is 'a happy life for all children'. Serious and sincere, academic and practical, small and with major impact, ICDI has been promoting psychosocial well-being of children and young people for more than twenty years.

