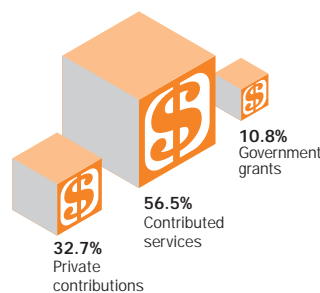


Revenues and expenses

Financial statements 2006-2007

The budget of the International Bureau for Children's Rights for the period 2006-2007 was CAD 815,066 \$. The surplus of expenditures over revenues as of 31 March 2007 was CAD 77,193 \$.



Revenues

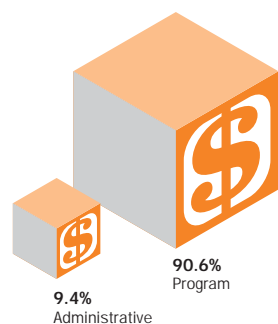
April 1st 2006 to March 31st 2007

During the period 2006-2007, activities were made possible through private contributions (32.7%), contributed services (56.5%) and government grants (10.8%), for a total revenue of CAD \$737,813.

Expenditures

April 1st 2006 to March 31st 2007

Governance and administrative expenditures amounted to CAD \$76,817 and CAD \$738,189 was invested in program development. Total expenditures amounted to CAD \$815,066.



S. Sullivan cnd

Sheila Sullivan, c.n.d. Treasurer

Auditor:
Rocheleau Labranche and Associates
Chartered Accountants

Note: The Financial Statements and Auditors' Reports can be obtained from the International Bureau for Children's Rights.

Acknowledgments

The work of the International Bureau for Children's Rights is made possible thanks to the generous contribution of the following donors, partners and institutional collaborators:

Association des centres jeunesse du Québec

Canadian Council for Refugees

Canadian Peacebuilding

Coordinating Committee

Centres jeunesse de Montréal – Institut universitaire

Centre international pour la prévention de la criminalité

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Fondation nationale pour la Promotion de la Santé et le Développement de la Recherche (Algérie)

Forum on Children and Armed Conflict, Canada

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Government of Canada – Citizenship and Immigration Canada

Government of Québec – Ministère de la Justice

Government of Québec – Ministère de l'Immigration et des Communautés culturelles

Government of Québec – Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux

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Les Œuvres Le Royer

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Moniales Carmélites Déchaussées

Native Women's Association of Canada

Oblates Franciscaines de St-Joseph

Observatoire d'information, de Formation, de Documentation et d'Étude pour la Protection des Droits de l'enfant (Tunisie)

Petites Franciscaines de Marie

Petites Sœurs de Sainte-Famille

Programme régional d'accueil et d'intégration des demandeurs d'asile

Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law

Religieuses de Jésus-Marie

Royal Canadian Mounted Police

Separated Children Intervention and Orientation Network

Servantes de Notre-Dame Reine du Clergé

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Sisters of Charity of the Immaculate Conception

Sisters of Mercy of Newfoundland

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Sisters of Providence of Saint-Vincent-de-Paul

Sisters of the Order of St Benedict

Society of Sacred Heart

Sœurs de l'Assomption de la Sainte Vierge

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Sœurs de la Congrégation Notre-Dame, Montréal

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Sœurs de Saint-Joseph, Toronto

Sœurs des Saints Noms de Jésus et de Marie, Longueuil

Sœurs des Saints Noms de Jésus et de Marie, Winnipeg

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IBCR wishes to thank the numerous professionals, interns and students who graciously provide their time and services. Thanks to them, and to the IBCR's simple and efficient organization, administrative costs are kept to a minimum. Special thanks also to the numerous individuals who accepted to be interviewed, who participated in discussion groups or who shared with us their written comments in relation to one or more of our projects.



Report 2006/2007

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Governor General

A Message from Her Excellency the Right Honourable Michaëlle Jean, Governor General of Canada and Patron of the International Bureau for Children's Rights (IBCR)



For a number of years now, members of the International Bureau for Children's Rights (IBCR) have applied all their knowledge and expertise to help children fully enjoy all the rights they have been given.

I think one of today's greatest tragedies is the abuse of children and young people. All over the world—even in an egalitarian and progressive country like ours—society's most vulnerable citizens are not always protected from negligence and violence. It is our duty to shelter them from all forms of abuse. We need more dialogue between experts and policy makers, and between young people and those working to help them. There is no doubt in my mind that this situation is urgent.

The IBCR and its partners play a significant role in improving the quality of life of children and young people here in Canada and abroad. Their research in this area is invaluable and helps shed light on the nature of a problem to which concrete solutions must be found. Through their efforts, they give hope to those most in need and enable them to realize their dreams.

I would like to recognize the will and commitment of the women and men who work tirelessly to stop all forms of violence against young people. They are true champions and I am so proud of their accomplishments.

Michaëlle Jean
2007

The President

Message from the President



Full Speed Ahead for the Bureau

Twelve years after being founded the Bureau has, without a doubt, reached its cruising speed or the least we can say is that it's now smooth sailing.

Through the efforts of its Director and by following the guidelines set forth by its Board of Directors the Bureau has managed to transform from a symbolic Tribunal to a recognized international place of expertise. The guidelines developed by IBCR in favour of children who are victims of and/or witnesses to criminal acts have, in large part, inspired the new standards adopted by the United Nations on this matter. Moving forward we will now have to work on finalising the legislative and other tools to contribute to the implementation of the Guidelines. The development of country profiles on

the analysis of the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child is also going ahead, particularly in North Africa and soon in other part of the world. Meanwhile, the Bureau in Canada continues to work for the protection of children. The Report from the Strategic Action Plan for the Protection of Victims of Child Trafficking in Quebec is an excellent example of the IBCR's implication in Canada.

This strong work ethic is also evident in the strength of the team structure. Able to rely upon the support of the Canadian authorities and having the unconditional support and respect of the religious communities, the Bureau's management has been very well established. The IBCR counts on invaluable team members with vast knowledge and expertise.

The patronage this year from Her Excellency the Right Honourable Michaëlle Jean, Governor General of Canada is another consecration and without a doubt a huge honour. The Board of Directors is absolutely delighted that Her Excellency Michaëlle Jean accepted the honorary presidency and would like to express their gratitude once again.

Conditions are now perfect for future advancements into the promotion of the rights of children worldwide.

We have to thank all those who have helped us reach this international level of recognition. I would particularly like to thank our Director, Mr. Jean-François Noël, his team of employees and interns as well as our directors for making it all possible.

With the upcoming inauguration of our new offices, another hurdle will soon be overcome. I have no doubt that the success of IBCR will continue in large part due to its solid foundation. Our new offices will bring with them new horizons and a bright future for the Bureau.

Jean Pierre Rosenczveig
IBCR President
President of the *Bobigny's children tribunal* (France)

International Bureau for Children's Rights

Board of directors 2005-2006

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- | | |
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The Director General

Message from the Director General



This report contains information on IBCR's activities and key achievements for the period from April 1st, 2006 to March 31st, 2007.

To begin with, IBCR's 2006-2007 efforts on the reporting and analysis of the implementation of the *Convention on the Rights of the Child* at the national level produced not one but two publications, with Country Profiles on selected countries of South-East Asia and on countries of North Africa, respectively. See page 10 for more details.

Following last year's adoption of the *Guidelines on Justice in Matters Involving Child Victims and Witnesses of Crime* by the United Nations (ECOSOC

resolution 2005/20), IBCR focused its efforts on raising awareness about this new instrument and on developing tools in order to provide technical assistance to Members States in the implementation of the Guidelines. Members of the IBCR team also took part in various UN Experts Group Meetings, including one which served to formulate recommendations on criminal justice responses to violence against children and to ensure that the Guidelines were integrated into the Final Report of the UN Study on Violence Against Children. Please see page 7 for more on our activities and results pertaining to the protection of child victims and witnesses of crime.

In 2006-2007 saw the completion of the first phase of IBCR's vigorous research project entitled Strategic Action Plan for the Protection of Victims of Child Trafficking in Quebec. As is explained on pages 8-9, our team of experts and professionals conducted an empirical study on the phenomenon in Canada and particularly in Quebec. The results of this study gave rise to a series of recommendations which in turn will form the foundation of the IBCR's action plan in response to child trafficking.

In addition to these activities, the reader will find information on, the mission and objectives of the IBCR, personal contributions from some of our professionals, interns and board members, and finally, a summary of IBCR's financial results for the year.

I would like to thank the IBCR's Board of Directors for their support and advice and to express our gratitude to the donors, in particular the religious congregations of Quebec and Canada for their unwavering support. We are also thankful to the governments of Canada and Sweden for their support of our projects. Finally, special thanks to the 40 or so dedicated interns and volunteers for so generously contributing their knowledge and time to the IBCR and the cause.

Jean-François Noël
Director General

Mission and objectives

The International Bureau for Children's Rights (IBCR) is an international non-governmental organization which was established in 1994 at the initiative of Andrée Ruffo (Canada) and Bernard Kouchner (France). It is based in Montreal, Canada. Its primary mission is to promote and protect children's rights in conformity with the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and its Optional Protocols, while taking into account the targets set by the international community, such as the MDGs.

IBCR exists because...

... children are trafficked, including for the purpose of sexual exploitation

No country is excluded from this plague. Because of the clandestine nature of the phenomenon, few reliable statistics are available. There is an evident lack of data and a poor understanding of the issues and challenges associated with trafficking.

... children are victims and witnesses of crime

Millions of children throughout the world have suffered trauma as a result of crime and abuse of power. These children are young and vulnerable and require special protection.

... children are separated from their families

Separated children are removed from everything that they know and are accustomed to. Many suffer from emotional, education and economical deficiencies. They are particularly vulnerable to trafficking, sexual exploitation and forced labour.

In response to these challenges, IBCR intervenes so that the rights of these children remain at the center of the preoccupations of both governmental and nongovernmental organizations. IBCR is convinced that there will be a positive impact on the implementation of the rights of children from sharing knowledge and good practices as well as developing strategic partnerships.

From Austria to North Africa, 2006-2007 highlights ...

On the 18th of April 2006, IBCR participated in the **UN Expert Group Meeting on Criminal Justice Responses to Violence against Children: Best Practices and Innovative Solutions**.

From the 24th to the 28th of April 2006, IBCR took part in the **Fifteenth Session of the United Nations Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice**, held in Vienna, Austria.

In July 2006, thanks to the financial support of the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), IBCR published its first regional report on the status of the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, titled: "**Making Children's Rights Work: Country Profiles on Cambodia, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Timor Leste and Viet Nam**".

In August 2006, IBCR took part in the **World Society of Victimology's 12th International Symposium on Victimology**, held in Orlando, FL, USA.

During the Autumn of 2006, IBCR conducted a **fact-finding mission to North Africa** in support of the preparation of country profiles in the region.

On October 16th 2006, **Her Excellency the Right Honourable Michaëlle Jean, Governor General of Canada** by agreeing to become **IBCR's Patron**.

From November 27th to 29th of 2006, IBCR took part in the **Intergovernmental Experts Group Meeting to develop a questionnaire on UN standards and norms related primarily to victim issues**, held in Vienna, Austria.

In February 2007, IBCR presented the results from the first part of the project *Strategic Action Plan for the Protection of Victims of Child Trafficking in Quebec*.

Finally, in March 2007, IBCR launched its second regional report titled: "**Making Children's Rights Work in North Africa: Country Profiles in Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia**."

IL MANQUE LE MOT "profiles" APRÈS "country"

REEMPLACER "agreeing" par "agreed"

Child victims and witnesses of crime

IBCR and you...

Without you the Bureau wouldn't be what it is. You are all contributing on your own level, according to your expertise and availability. You are all key figures in the Bureau's activities as well as an integral part of its future...



Guillaume Landry, Program Manager in Charge of the Country Profiles, since 2006

"I joined IBCR last September after spending many years overseas. I often have to travel to Africa to meet with our partners as part of my work here at the Bureau. I also make regular business trips to Ottawa to participate in meetings. There are 3 to 4 interns that work with me here at IBCR. Without their energy and contributions it would be impossible to do what we do."



Mélanie Gagnon, Associate Researcher for the Trafficking Program, since 2005

"The Bureau defends the same values that are dear to me, and that is the major reason why I first decided to become involved as a volunteer.

My work involves research on various projects. I enjoy my work here at the Bureau, and as a psychologist, it gives me a more objective side to my daily work with children."



Sister Sheila Sullivan, IBCR Board Member and Treasurer, since 2002

"Defending the rights of children is part of our heritage and is an important part of our values as a society. Since 2001, religious

communities around the world have come together to fight against the trafficking of women and children. The Bureau is helping us as it promotes our values. I am a member of the IBCR Board of Directors and the Treasurer, and try hard to attend all the meetings. I helped in the search for new offices and I also act as the liaison between the Bureau and the religious community."



Louise Gagné, Volunteer - Community Relations Coordinator, since 1999

"I originally started with the Bureau as a volunteer, and in 2001 I was able to convince IBCR to work with a group of volunteers made up of

professionals that would work directly on respecting the rights of unaccompanied children arriving at our border. It then evolved to include work on fighting against the trafficking of children. Nowadays, I am an employee of the Immigration Ministry of Quebec and give up one paid day per week to volunteer with IBCR in order fulfill my commitment. It is a question of balance in life. I also volunteer because I believe that the Bureau has credibility and can play an important role in eliminating the trafficking of children forever."



Nawel Smoun, intern for the Country Profiles program from February to May 2007

"The IBCR is not a very big place, but their projects are huge and that is why the Bureau relies heavily on the contribution of its interns. When I

first got here, the Bureau was working on the study of Children's Rights in North Africa and they appreciated my ability to speak Arabic."



Dominique LaRoche, volunteer for the trafficking program since autumn 2006

"I try and help out the team whenever they need me. Personally, I find it essential to make sure that the rights of children are respected, that their needs

are met and that the Canadian population is aware of this ever increasing problem. It truly is a pleasure to be able to work with the employees, interns and volunteers that make up the Bureau."



Håkan Friman, IBCR Board Member, Vice-president - fundraising (international)

"My collaboration with IBCR started in 2001 as a member of the steering committee for the guidelines on child victims. From

this very fruitful and rewarding project followed involvement as a Board member and more recently in the project on country profiles. Being a director in the Swedish Ministry of Justice, and a former judge, I am benefiting from these experiences and hopefully making some contributions as well."

IL MANQUE TOUJOURS UNE PHOTO ICI OU DU MOINS EST NE PARAÎT PAS SUR LE PDF...

S.V.P. AJOUTER LE MOT "to" ENTRE "order" ET "fulfill"

Me Cyril Laucchi
Gestionnaire de programme

Millions of children throughout the world suffer harm as a result of crime and abuse of power. The rights of those children have not been adequately recognized and they may suffer additional hardship when assisting in the justice process. Children are vulnerable and require special protection appropriate to their age, level of maturity and individual special needs. Girls are particularly vulnerable and may face discrimination at all stages of the justice system. Children who are victims and witnesses may suffer additional hardship if mistakenly viewed as offenders when they are in fact victims and witnesses. Improved responses to child victims and witnesses of crime can make children and their families more willing to disclose instances of victimization and more supportive of the justice process.

It is in this context and in response to the need expressed by governments and professionals for guidance in this field that IBCR set up its program on child victims and witnesses of crime. We began in the late 90's by conducting research on existing norms and standards such as the *Convention on the Rights of the Child* which sets forth requirements and principles to secure effective recognition of the rights of children, and the *Declaration of Basic Principles of Justice for Victims of Crime and Abuse of Power* which sets forth principles to provide victims with the right to information, participation, protection, reparation and assistance. Research was also conducted on existing best practices in this field, bearing in mind the variety of legal systems and traditions.

Considering that crime is increasingly transnational in nature and in light of the need to ensure that child victims and witnesses of crime receive equivalent protection in all countries, IBCR has developed a set of Guidelines that offer a practical and user-friendly framework to support and guide professionals working with child victims and witnesses of crime in their day-to-day practice and to assist in the design, review and implementation of national and domestic laws, procedures, and practices in this field.

Determined to see its Guidelines implemented in practice and to raise awareness about the situation of child victims and witnesses worldwide, IBCR decided to lobby States for the adoption of its Guidelines by the United Nations. On 22 July 2005, ECOSOC adopted the UN Guidelines on Justice in Matters Involving Child Victims and Witnesses of Crime (Resolution 2005/20), while recognising IBCR's contribution to the travaux préparatoires.



Results obtained in 2006-2007

In 2006-2007, IBCR participated in various events and activities to promote the Guidelines, including an experts meeting held in Vienna in April 2006 which served to formulate recommendations on criminal justice responses to

violence against children. As a result, the Guidelines were reflected into the Final Report of the UN Study on Violence Against Children. IBCR also took part in the Intergovernmental Experts Group Meeting to develop an information gathering instrument on UN standards and norms related primarily to victim issues, such as the Guidelines.

To ensure that children are made aware of the Guidelines, thus being informed of their rights and how to protect themselves, IBCR and its partners – namely the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), UNICEF and the INNOCENTI Research Center – recently finalized a child-friendly version of the Guidelines. The latter were published simultaneously in all six official UN languages (Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Spanish and Russian), both in electronic format (CD-ROM) and in hard copy (colour pamphlets).

Finally, IBCR and its partners are in the process of designing tools to assist policy-makers and professionals in their efforts to implement the Guidelines and to adapt their practice and legislation accordingly. More specifically, IBCR, UNODC and UNICEF are developing a draft handbook as well as model legislative provisions to assist in the implementation of the Guidelines. These tools will be finalized during international experts group meetings to be held in May 2007.

Child trafficking and sexual exploitation of children



Me Catherine Gauvreau,
Programme Manager

The research paper

In 2006, the International Bureau for Children's Rights (IBCR) conducted a detailed study on child trafficking in Quebec. This study is part of an action research that aims to develop a better understanding of child trafficking and improve the efficiency of intervention practices.

The project began by collecting data on current knowledge regarding children who are victims of trafficking and on the preventative, protective, reintegration and prosecution measures. Then, concerned parties at the local, regional and provincial levels were given the opportunity to share information about their practices and experiences as well as express their concerns and needs.

This study on child trafficking is the first to address the situation in Quebec and to identify the needs of its victims. Furthermore, a multidisciplinary committee of experts was formed to assist the research team and to periodically assess the work that has been done. This committee forms a link with people and groups concerned with different aspects of child trafficking in Quebec, and it provides viable support by guiding the project through subsequent steps and making sure the information that is collected is relevant.

In February 2007, IBCR is pleased to present the results from the first part of the *Strategic Action Plan for the Protection of Victims of Child Trafficking in Quebec* project which comprises of three general objectives: (1) to improve the protection of child victims of trafficking, (2) to prevent child trafficking and (3) to reduce crime by gaining a better understanding of this problem.

The principal results

The analysis of results highlights the varying degrees of awareness and knowledge concerning human trafficking, as well as the absence of a common definition of the phenomenon. The actors we met insisted on the importance of raising awareness on human trafficking for the general public, as well as for both governmental and non governmental actors that may encounter cases of trafficking through an effective public educational campaign.

Professionals that intervene directly with child victims of trafficking or children who are at risk must receive training. Most respondents admitted not being aware of the laws relevant to the trafficking in persons including the definition of trafficking, the laws and possible recourses, as well as the parameters governing stakeholders' work.

The use of a common definition of human trafficking which is relevant to the realities of the Quebec and Canadian context will permit a better understanding between stakeholders, as well as facilitate the identification of victims and the gathering of more accurate data on this phenomenon.

Despite the absence of accurate statistics, the persons consulted believe that the phenomenon of trafficking is expanding. In order to truly understand the gravity of the problem, it is necessary to gather accurate data regarding child trafficking.



The phenomenon of child trafficking is described as a clandestine problem that is difficult to detect, even for a professional that is well informed on the subject. Several respondents expressed their need for further support in order to create and maintain partnership against child trafficking. In order to ensure the protection of victims and to minimise the risks of revictimisation, the cooperation between different partnerships is essential. Better systems of information exchange should be developed in order to intervene and to ensure an appropriate follow up of victims of trafficking, while ensuring the respect of their right to confidentiality.

Prospects for the future

Following the results obtained, recommendations relating to the fighting against child trafficking in Quebec were proposed. In the intent to validate them, this fall we organised focus groups and gathered written comments and suggestions.

During the spring 2007, IBCR will issue recommendations addressed to the federal inter departmental group on trafficking in persons and the Quebec inter departmental group on trafficking in migrant women.

In the next months, IBCR will circulate information relating to child trafficking in Quebec to stakeholders and develop a training programme. Additionally, IBCR will encourage present and future initiatives that are taken in respect of the rights of child victims of trafficking or children that are at risk. This will be done, by encouraging better relations between governmental, inter-governmental and non-governmental agencies. For example, IBCR will create and coordinate a working group composed of government as well as non-government representatives whose mandate will be to find specific solutions as to ensure a better protection of child victims of external trafficking.

IBCR's recommendations will serve as the foundation of an action plan that will be elaborated and implemented in close collaboration with its partners in the course of 2007.

The project on separated children

Since IBCR published in 2003 the *Best Practice Statement on Separated Children in Canada*, it has been presented to the concerned Federal and Provincial authorities to sensitise them to the situation of separated children.

This year, IBCR and other non-governmental organisations participate actively on the advisory committee to study questions concerning separated children, created by the Department of Citizenship and Immigration of Canada. The committee addresses different subjects such as family reunification, appointment of a legal guardian and guidelines for immigration officers or board members.

IBCR contributes to maintaining separated children's rights at the center of the preoccupations of governmental and non governmental actors.



Country profiles



Guillaume Landry,
Programme Manager

Analysing the status of the implementing the CRC between countries of a same region

The programme on Country Profiles on the Status of the Implementation of the *Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)*

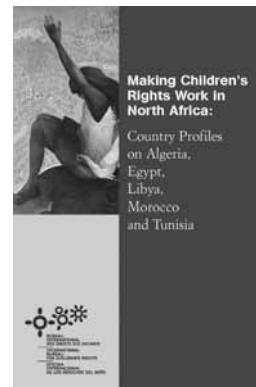
is one of the core IBCR activities. It involves analysing and reporting on the status of implementation of the CRC and its Optional Protocols. The overall objective is to fill the disparities in monitoring children's rights at the national and regional level, and facilitate the implementation of the CRC and its Optional Protocols globally by providing governments with successful international practices that could be implemented in their respective countries. The programme particularly aims to detect the existing challenges and gaps, to highlight the progress made and to identify the commendable practices that are developed in the area of children's rights by state parties, based on the Concluding Observations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child. Moreover, the preparation and publication of the country profiles also allow a comparative analysis and enhance knowledge of the situation of children's rights at both national and regional levels, highlighting achievements, variations and remaining challenges particular to a regional ensemble.

Focusing on South-East Asia and North Africa



In July 2006, with funding from the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), IBCR published its first regional report on South-East Asia, "Making Children's Rights Work: Country Profiles on Cambodia, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Timor Leste and Viet Nam". The launch of this report was the result

of last year's efforts in documenting the experience of South-East Asian countries in implementing the CRC and its Optional Protocols. So far, the report has attracted much interest on the part of Canadian agencies as well as international partners worldwide.



The second phase of the programme began in early 2006 when the Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs provided funding for the completion of profiles for North African countries, namely Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia. IBCR's country profiles team used the same research and verification

techniques piloted in the first report on South-East Asia, while also increasing the participation of local stakeholders in drafting the report and disseminating the findings. In order to validate the preliminary results of the IBCR's in-house research and analysis, IBCR sent its Programme Manager to some of the selected countries on a fact-finding mission. Moreover, IBCR's country profile team continued to liaise with actors from the examined countries to verify and develop the content of the reports. Experts on children's rights from Morocco and Egypt were also asked to contribute information and analysis.

Finally, in March 2007, IBCR launched its second report entitled "Making Children's Rights Work in North Africa: Country Profiles on Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia".

Introducing a Regional Analysis

A new feature in this second publication is the inclusion of a regional analysis. Indeed, lessons learned from the first regional report on South-East Asia as well as consultations with local stakeholders indicated the need for a regional perspective and analysis of the situation of children's rights in order to facilitate the understanding and henceforth sharing of good practices between countries. This second regional report on North Africa therefore introduces a chapter at the end of the report to compare accomplishments and remaining challenges in the promotion and protection of children's rights in Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia.

Accomplishments and challenges in North Africa

The report on North Africa highlights that there have been significant accomplishments in these countries, particularly in the area of national legislation reform to ensure compatibility with the CRC and also the enjoyment by children of their rights to health and education – although there are still disparities between girls and boys and between urban and rural areas. The constitutions of almost all the countries make references to the rights of children. There has also been good progress in the establishment at country level of an appropriate government structure to coordinate actions for the realisation of children's rights.

The report also underlines that there has been little progress in creating at country level an independent institution to monitor compliance with the CRC's principles, to promote and protect the children's rights, although Morocco and Egypt have taken steps in that direction. Progress is somewhat limited in relation to the application of the best interests of the child and child participation principles, to listening to the child views and concerns and also in the area of protecting the child from all forms of discrimination. The study also underscores the serious efforts being made to promote a change of attitudes, including cultural and traditional practices for ensuring the full respect of children's rights.

Overall, the report shows that there have been some advances in the area of child protection but far more rigorous actions are needed to address factors

that impede progress, including negative social attitudes, stigma, discrimination, taboo and cultural and traditional practices and beliefs. The enforcement of some of the new laws that protect children's rights is also a significant challenge, according to the study. The report notes that committed political leadership in all five States give high priority to children in national agendas, although the level of commitment may vary. This commitment, combined with a heightened awareness of children's rights both within government and civil society is a good foundation for progress in the effective implementation of the CRC through further legislative reforms and enactment of laws adopted, further and better policies and programmes that specifically target the realisation of children's rights, and, most importantly, an increased allocation of resources to address the remaining challenges identified.

Based on the findings of the study, IBCR concludes that the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child in the five North African countries is a work in progress with some challenges ahead that require further and more vigorous actions in some areas and also an enhanced partnership with civil society and the children themselves.

Perspectives

In order to facilitate the dissemination and cross-referencing between actors of the five examined countries in North Africa, IBCR has undertaken the translation of the report in Arabic. It is hoped that this version will be launched in the region in the next year to ensure greater impact.

In the meantime, IBCR continues seeking partners and funding in order to accelerate the pace of the implementation of the programme covering other regions of the world, with a particular interest on the remaining countries of Africa. Ultimately, this programme aims at covering all the countries which have ratified the CRC and presenting a global country-based analysis of the situation of children's rights along the benchmarks of the CRC.

