Coordinating Unit staff
Tom Hewitt, Coordinator (until December 2005)
Veronica Yates, Information and Communications Officer
Isabelle Guitard, Communications Assistant

Volunteers and Interns
We are thankful to the volunteers and interns who worked with CRIN during 2005 and who contributed many hours of work. This includes Jennifer Thomas, Natalia Streuli, Javier Herrera, Rosa Sanz, Mounir Kanoubi, Vénus Maroun, Joy Namayanja, Nick Curley, Airlie Taylor, Ibrahim Shiakh Ali, Camino Garcia, Alina Mehdiyeva and Andy Opong.

CRIN Management Team
Andres Guerrero, UNICEF, Office of Public Partnerships
Bill Bell, Save the Children UK
Guy Cave, Save the Children UK (August - December 2005)
Peter Crowley, UNICEF, Office of Public Partnerships
Sven Winberg, Save the Children Sweden
Youssef Hajjar, Arab Resource Collective

Please send letters, comments and suggestions to:

Child Rights Information Network
c/o Save the Children UK
1 St. John’s Lane
London EC1M 4AR
United Kingdom
Phone: +44 (0)20 7012 6865
Fax: +44 (0)20 7012 6963
Email: info@crin.org
Website: www.crin.org

CRIN Annual Report 2005
Child Rights Information Network
© The Save the Children UK
Registered Charity No. 213890
Published December 2005
On the inside:

3 CRIN’s Objectives 2003 - 2005

5 CRIN Activities

5 CRIN and its Membership

6 The Website

7 CRINMAIL

8 CRIN Newsletter

8 Other Publications

9 Events

10 Public Enquiries

10 Rights Based Programming project

11 The UN Study on Violence Against Children

11. Financial Information

Introduction

The Child Rights Information Network (CRIN) celebrated its tenth anniversary in 2005. In the last decade, awareness of the importance of the rights of children has rapidly risen on the international development agenda. Not only has the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) been ratified by virtually all the world’s governments but there has also been a huge international effort by NGOs and international organisations to persuade governments to take this commitment seriously through following up on the implementation of the CRC and through monitoring and advocacy in order to assess and promote real change in the lives of children.

Notwithstanding these efforts - and some real improvements in children’s lives as a result - there is little room for complacency. The rights of millions of children continue to be ignored, their plight exacerbated by unforeseen disasters.

2005, for example, opened with the Tsunami disaster which disproportionately affected children. However, the greater part of children’s suffering is avoidable. Through the last decade, more and more of these violations of rights have been exposed and addressed. Indeed, one of the impacts of the CRC has been to broaden the focus of attention to many different aspects of children’s rights and lives.

Information - researching, disseminating, sharing - is critical in the process of making visible such violations of children’s rights in all their guises. In its ten years of operation, CRIN has established itself as one of the key information providers on child rights globally. We are proud of that role and recognise that it would not be possible to perform it without the participation of many individuals and organisations across the world, nor without the financial support of a small number of sponsoring organisations (see the financial statement at the end of the report). Thank you!

CRIN has become one of the largest networks within the global child rights community. As of December 2005, 1547 child rights organisations in 137 countries have joined CRIN as members. About 86 per cent of those organisations are NGOs and 60 per cent are located in Africa, Asia, and Latin America. CRIN services the needs of another 2,200 organisations and individuals who have joined its mailing lists without becoming members. Subscriptions to CRIN’s email news and information bulletins (CRINMAILs) exceed 8000 addresses.

2005 has been an important year for CRIN through diversification into new project areas. Attention has been focused on four main activities: the consolidation and improvement of existing information products and services; the launch of a new information service on rights based programming; the creation of a civil society gateway that accompanies the UN Study on Violence against Children; and planning for the redesign and modernisation of the CRIN website.
CRIN’s Objectives 2003 - 2005

In late 2003, CRIN underwent a review of its core values and of its activities. It involved a range of stakeholders past and present and resulted in a Business Plan for the period 2004 to 2006. The main outcomes of the review are presented here.

The review confirmed that CRIN is an independent forum for the exchange of information about child rights. We assist the work of all those people and organisations committed to the implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC).

CRIN aims to democratisate information on child rights and to encourage information sharing between different parts of the world and different actors in the implementation of the CRC. CRIN seeks to empower the child rights community and to accelerate implementation of the Convention. It does this by providing a central clearinghouse for such information and by making information available in a variety of formats and media.

CRIN strives:

- To meet the information needs of organisations and individuals working for children’s rights;
- To support and promote the implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child;
- To support organisations in gathering, handling, producing and disseminating child rights information.

These objectives are expressed in CRIN’s core values, namely:

- Children have rights as laid down in the Convention on the Rights of the Child. CRIN plays a part in the international effort to implement the CRC
- The CRC is the central focus of our work as reflected in both the content of our products and in the criteria for membership of CRIN. The implementation of the CRC remains a huge challenge facing governments and civil society, including more specific targets as reflected in ‘A World Fit for Children’ and, more generally, the Millennium Development Goals.

Information is an important tool for empowering children and the organisations that work directly with children
CRIN acts as a clearinghouse for information on child rights. Improving and increasing global and regional access to good quality, dispassionate and accurate information on child rights is a central concern of CRIN’s work.

CRIN is product oriented. The product is information
CRIN has gained its good reputation by establishing a strong set of core services. Maintaining our quality products and services for members and others interested in child rights will ensure our usefulness and continuity.

CRIN has a bias towards meeting the information needs of the ‘resource poor’
Whilst CRIN members are spread across the world, we maintain a particular focus on redistributing from the “information rich” to the “information poor”. In this sense CRIN democratises information. This focus also puts an onus on CRIN to translate information such that it is useful to the widest possible audience in Asia, Africa and Latin America.

Because of inequalities in access to information media, especially electronic, CRIN uses mixed media and multiple formats
There are still many barriers to access to ICTs, despite a growth in Internet use. Slow connection speeds, limited access time, expense and other negative features of the digital divide make it essential to continue to provide a choice of media to our members wherever practicable. Print media is still the preferred alternative to electronic communication.

CRIN is responsive to members’ needs but strikes a balance between listening and leading CRIN is responsive to the expressed
needs of members and plans its activities accordingly. CRIN also seeks to take a lead in information provision and sees the translation of information into knowledge and learning as an important role.

**CRIN Activities 2005**

1. **CRIN and its Membership**

CRIN is a membership organisation that links children’s organisations around the world who are committed to promoting child rights and the full implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. To become a member of CRIN, organisations must be able to demonstrate that they support the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, that they work on children’s rights issues, and that they are committed to sharing information.

As can be seen from the graph above, membership of CRIN continues to grow. By the end of 2005, 1547 organisations in 137 countries were registered with CRIN, representing a growth of 9 per cent over the previous year, the highest growth rate since 2001. During 2005 steps have been taken to increase membership in: the Arabic speaking region, in Latin America and in the former Soviet states.

Members of CRIN include non-governmental organisations (NGOs), United Nations agencies, intergovernmental organisations, government agencies, educational institutions and other child rights practitioners.

In order to facilitate information exchange and networking among members, a **directory of child rights organisations** has been made available to the CRIN network both in hard copy format and on the website. This directory of child rights organisations is a key resource for organisations wishing to link up with others that are working in the same country or region or that want to make contact with organisations further afield. It provides a means for child rights organisations to share information, document good practice and to network. Inclusion in the directory also helps organisations to position themselves within the child rights community at large.

The last hard copy edition of the Directory was published in 2003. Planning is underway for the next edition which will be published in 2006. The online directory includes information about members’ activities and lists of their resources and can be searched according to: Region in which CRIN members work | Country where the office is located and countries in which the organisation works | Areas of expertise such as child labour, sexual exploitation, etc. | Organisational mandate | Contact details including a “main CRIN Contact”.

Alongside the forthcoming re-design of the CRIN website, new options will be given to update their own details and submit their own resources.
For more detailed information about members you can consult the on-line Directory of Child Rights Organisations on the website. ([www.crin.org/organisations/](http://www.crin.org/organisations/)).

2. The Website

The website ([www.crin.org](http://www.crin.org)) is at the heart of CRIN’s work. Updated daily, it is a leading resource on child rights issues. It contains references to thousands of reports, recent news and upcoming events, as well as an online directory of child rights organisations. The site also includes the NGO alternative reports submitted to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child.

The importance of the website is reflected in the increase in its use over the last three years. Whilst web statistics need to be interpreted with caution, the overall trend of growth of use is clearly illustrated in the graph of visits and pageviews between 2003 and 2005 below.

Some of the main sections of the website include:

1. The Directory of CRIN Members: as mentioned above, this section contains links to all CRIN Members and is searchable by country, theme, mandate, etc.
2. A Publications Catalogue: containing links to thousands of documents and reports on child rights and related topics
3. An events calendar: links to upcoming events around the world relevant to children’s rights issues, including international and national events and conferences as well as UN events.
4. A database of Alternative Reports: in collaboration with the NGO Group for the Convention on the Rights of the Child, CRIN hosts all the reports submitted to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child by NGOs. This section also contains links to sessions of the Committee and States party reports.
5. Webhosting: CRIN has also been hosting the website of the NGO Group for the CRC, including the NGO Group’s thematic subgroups’ pages.
6. Furthermore, the website offers information on themes, links to news stories, information about the UN Commission on Human Rights, the Committee on the Rights of the Child’s General Discussion Days and submissions to these by NGOs and much more.

New introductions to the website in 2005 have included:

- Frequently Asked Question (FAQ) pages in English, French, Spanish and Arabic;
- The launch of the Rights Based Programming and Children and Violence sites (see below);
- Specialised news pages including: Members news, Disability news, MDG news, CHR coverage, and CRC news
- A page covering the 15th anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child;
- Additional pages in French and Spanish, and a set of pilot pages in Arabic. All can be accessed from the home page.

Thematic websites

Two completely new areas of the website were made live in 2005 representing a new direction in the treatment of thematic topics in child rights. These thematic sites, referred to as ‘microsites’ are linked to the main CRIN website but have a completely new design and offer more in-depth
information and advanced search tools on each specific themes.

The first such microsite is on rights based programming and the second one is on violence against children, as part of the UN Secretary-General’s Study on Violence Against Children.

*Further details about these two new projects are described in more details later on.*

**Website redesign**

On the basis of the experience gained in the above additions to the CRIN website, the whole of the site is undergoing an overhaul in the course of 2005/06. The administrative system (Content Management System) is being redesigned to facilitate the greater volume of work and to increase the efficiency of data inputting. For instance, CRINMAILs will in the future be integrated into the CRIN database, rather than hosted by an external site. This site will also offer interactive tools for members, including a members’ section.

The presentation of the site is also being redesigned to offer improved navigation, a clean design, a new search engine, rapidly loading pages and other many other new features. The new site will be available in early 2006.

3. **CRINMAIL**

A regular e-mail news and information service, produced in different languages and covering both general and specialised topics. CRINMAILs provide news bulletins about child rights issues, new publications and upcoming events, courses and job announcements. Anyone can join the mailing list for free from the CRIN website. There are currently over 8000 subscriptions to CRINMAIL.

There are currently seven different email lists:

1. **CRINMAIL English**: sent out twice a week, this is the most frequent and most subscribed email list. It includes news, reports, events, jobs, calls for information on relevant children’s rights issues. This email list is the primary list through which members of CRIN and other child rights practitioners can exchange information.

2. **CRINMAIL Español**: monthly

3. **CRINMAIL Français**: monthly

4. **CRINMAIL Children and Armed Conflict**: monthly, covering issues such as discussions of the Security Council debate on children and armed conflict and other relevant campaigns

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Version</th>
<th>Subscribers</th>
<th>Issues</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>3667</td>
<td>739</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Armed conflict</td>
<td>1535</td>
<td>92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rights</td>
<td>1032</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CR Caucus</td>
<td>972</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Violence</td>
<td>531</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spanish</td>
<td>381</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>French</td>
<td>293</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Three new CRINMAILs were launched this year:

5. **Child rights at the UN Commission on Human Rights (CHR)**: sent out during the annual session of the CHR, in collaboration with the NGO Group Subgroup for the Commission on Human Rights. Sent out daily during the child rights week of the CHR session.

6. **Rights CRINMAIL**: sent out once a month, in relation to the rights based programming project, it provides updates on new information added to the website, as well as relevant courses and events.

7. **CRINMAIL Children and Violence**: Initially set up as an email list from of the NGO Group subgroup on Violence Against Children, this list provides update on the UN Study on Violence Against Children, with a special focus on civil society activities around the Study and child participation. This list is sent out on average, once a month, or as required (see section on VAC).
Changes to CRINMAIL in 2005

In addition to three new email lists being launched this year, some specific improvements were also introduced to the existing lists, such as:

- Regular special editions of CRINMAIL English examining a specific issue or event in more details. Special CRINMAILs were sent out on: the Asian Tsunami, the Millennium Development Goals, WTO talks, Children and HIV and AIDS, drafting of the new UN Disability Convention, the World Congress on Children and Adolescents and the DCI juvenile justice conference in Palestine.
- In conjunction with the NGO Group for the CRC and the Secretariat of the Committee on the Rights of the Child in Geneva, coverage of the sessions of the CRC has been made more thorough. CRINMAILs now cover the preparations for each session (including all details of the resources submitted to each session), the sessions as they are taking place, and information on the outcomes of each session.
- A shift of focus of French and Spanish CRINMAILs to include more relevant international news and information; with a particular focus on providing information on issues or topics where a gap has been identified, this has meant translating more items from English into the respective languages and approaching members on a more regular basis for contributions.
- Owing to a high growth in the amount of information submitted to CRIN by members and other individuals, not all items can now be included in CRINMAILs. Instead, new specialist areas of the website have been set up to carry such items, such as a Members’ News section.

To contribute to any of the above, write to info@crin.org. To subscribe visit www.crin.org/email.

4. Newsletter

Newsletters are published in English, French and Spanish, and examine a specific theme in depth as well as summarising news, events, campaigns and publications. It is distributed in hard copy to all members plus another 2200 organisations and individual subscribers. The Newsletter is the most popular download from the website.

In 2005, Newsletter 18, “Rights Based Programming with Children: an introduction”, was published (available at www.crin.org/about/newsletter.asp). Accompanying the new web area on the topic, the newsletter is written by experts in the field and is aimed at an audience of practitioners new to the area who wish to incorporate child rights programming into their work.

In addition to the hard copy newsletter, a CD ROM was produced and sent out with the newsletter. The CD contained much of the information available on the Rights Based Programming website, including:
- The Guide, an introduction to rights based programming for those new to the area. The Guide is available in English, French and Spanish.
- A catalogue of over 100 documents with extended summaries and catalogued according to document types (training and “how to”; analysis and discussion; reviews and evaluations; human rights references; links) and themes (overviews; budgets; children; education; emergencies; gender; health; HIV/AIDS; monitoring and evaluation; participation; poverty and livelihoods; water).
- French and Spanish resources on the CD are presented on separate pages, and several parts of the CD are translated into French and Spanish to aid a wider usefulness.

5. Other Publications

Since 2001 when CRIN’s current website was launched, details of 5000 full text and bibliographic materials on child rights have been collected and posted on the website. This includes books, working papers, conference proceedings, journal articles and more, on a range of issues relating to children and their rights. It also covers the latest research on emerging areas. Most of
these resources are available to download as full text.

Owing to an increase in requests on specialised areas, CRIN is continuing to produce readers on aspects of child rights. These are short annotated bibliographies with a selection of the best resources freely available on the topic. In 2005, three new readers have been produced on: Children and Armed Conflict; Child Rights Based Programming and Children and HIV and AIDS. See http://www.crin.org/about.

6. Events

Increasingly in the last year, CRIN was invited to take part in international conferences and events, both to report and to do presentations about CRIN’s work. Some of the key events where CRIN was present included:

**General Day of Discussion of the Committee on the Rights of the Child:**

As well as publicising the event and the call for submissions in advance of the day, CRIN hosts information on its website about the day, opportunities for participation, as well as all submissions to the Day. This year, CRIN was also reporting from the day in Geneva.

**UN Commission on Human Rights: 61st Session**

CRIN offered extensive coverage of the 61st Session of the Commission on Human Rights (14 March - 22 April 2005). Working closely with the convener of the NGO Group for the CRC subgroup for the CHR, CRIN assembled a package of materials on the CHR and, for a period of two weeks, daily updates on the CHR. The package included:

1. A web page for the CHR carrying resources and links relevant to child rights in English, French and Spanish (see www.crin.org/chr);
2. Daily reports on morning briefings, side events and plenary sessions at the CHR in English, French and Spanish (see www.crin.org/chr/reports.htm).
3. CRIN produced daily reports of the CHR drawing on different sources and providing a readable summary of events each day, sent as a CRINMAIL to nearly 600 subscribers, posted on the CRIN website, and distributed in Geneva in hard copy. See http://www.crin.org/CHR/news/index.asp. This update was also translated into Spanish, courtesy of Save the Children Sweden’s Latin America Regional Office.

**UN Study on Violence Against Children: Regional Consultations**

As part of the Children and Violence project, CRIN reported from six of the nine regional consultations for the Violence Study, offering daily updates on the children’s forums and their contributions, information about NGO participation, discussions, debates, outcomes, and question and answer sessions between the Independent Expert leading the Study, Paulo Sergio Pinheiro, and the child and youth participants.

Other events and conferences CRIN participated in included:

- The Oslo ‘Childhoods’ Conference 2005
- An international conference on juvenile justice organised by DCI – Palestine Section in Bethlehem
- The Second World Congress on Children and Young People’s Rights in Lima, Peru
- A hearing at the Inter American Commission on Human Rights on corporal punishment
- The annual meeting of the European Network of Ombudspersons for Children (ENOC)

7. Public enquiries

The CRIN Coordinating Unit processes an average of 70 emails per day, as well as enquiries by telephone, post and fax. These are from members, the media, other organisations or individuals working on child rights, and members of the public including a growing number of children and young people. Some emails are specific requests for information and others are submissions of information for wider circulation. Responding to information
requests from members and public enquiries is an important and time consuming aspect of the work of the CRIN Coordinating Unit.

The subject of enquiries includes general information about child rights, specific enquiries about child rights in different countries, membership enquiries, legal assistance for custody issues, complaints about child rights abuses, child abuse, etc, financial assistance, and membership information.

Coordinating Unit staff have produced a set of standard responses to common queries. These can be sent as emails or by post and are in three languages (English, French and Spanish). They have also been posted on the website as FAQs (in English, French, Spanish and Arabic). See www.crin.org/faqs.

8. Rights based programming project

The rights based programming project consisted of a thematic newsletter, a CD ROM, and a new email list, as described in previous sections. The core new project for CRIN was developing a new specialised section on the website dedicated to rights based programming for development. The aim of this website was to offer a central place for information on rights based programming for organisations and individuals working in this area.

Funding for this project was mostly provided by DFID through UNICEF, but smaller contributions were also received from Save the Children UK and Care International. The new website contains sections on:

- **Documents**: a library of key documents, each with an introduction that is regularly updated.
- **Information**: announcements, events, courses and links.
- **The Guide**: a set of introductory pages on rights based programming for those new to the area. Links to further readings are provided for each page. The Guide is available in English, French and Spanish.

- **Themes**: all the information on the site is sorted by different themes for quick and easy access. Current themes include: Budgets | Children | Education | Emergencies | Gender | Health | HIV and AIDS | Monitoring and Evaluation | Overviews of Rights Based Approaches | Participation | Poverty and Livelihoods | Water
- **Search**: by author, title and summary text. Advanced search adds other variables to help locate the exact resource you want.

The website is available at: www.therightsapproach.org

9. Children and Violence Project

In 2004, CRIN started preparing work on the UN Secretary-General’s Study on Violence Against Children. In collaboration with the NGO Group for the CRC subgroup on children and violence and the NGO Advisory Panel for the UN Study, CRIN put forward a proposal to develop a specialised website to become the gateway for civil society participation to the Study.

Funding was received from the Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, with smaller contributions from Save the Children Norway, Sweden and UK, and World Vision Canada and WV International. The project included setting up a new microsite, a specialised email list to report from the Regional Consultations and a special CRIN Newsletter on Children and Violence (to be published in 2006). This second microsite was launched in early 2005.

The aim of the website is to offer up to date information on civil society participation in the Study process, including coverage of Regional Consultations (see section on Events) and a resource section containing NGO submissions to the Study and other relevant thematic publications. Integrated with resources on the rest of the CRIN website, the violence site already carries several hundred reports, news items and events. It contains the following features:
- A home page updated daily with news and resources relevant to the study, including an events calendar;
- Regional coverage of the study with detailed information from the nine regional consultations that took place in 2005 (six of which were attended by a CRIN staff member);
- A questions and answers page on the study;
- A page for children interested in the study, holding child friendly resources;
- An indexing system and advanced search facility to allow easy location of resources by subject, keyword, region, etc.

Funding received was for a period of three years or until the final Study is presented at the General Assembly and Commission on Human Rights in 2006/07.

The website is available at: www.childrenandviolence.org

Financial Information: Income and Expenditure April 2004 to March 2005

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Income</th>
<th>Amount (£)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Save the Children Sweden</td>
<td>32,721</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Save the Children Alliance</td>
<td>10,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plan International</td>
<td>25,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNICEF, Office of Public Partnerships</td>
<td>16,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNICEF/Department for International Development</td>
<td>29,173</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department for International Development</td>
<td>4,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Care International</td>
<td>3,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WorldVision International</td>
<td>2,119</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WorldVision Canada</td>
<td>2,690</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs</td>
<td>4,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Save the Children Norway</td>
<td>2,762</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NGO Group for the CRC</td>
<td>2,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Save the Children UK (*)</td>
<td>in kind</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total | £134,465 |

* Save the Children UK hosts the CRIN Coordinating Unit providing it with office space and facilities, IT and Human Resources support

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expenditure</th>
<th>Amount (£)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Salaries</td>
<td>85,705</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volunteer expenses</td>
<td>571</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Web development</td>
<td>14,290</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consultants</td>
<td>6,512</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Web Content</td>
<td>1,995</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travel and subsistence</td>
<td>2,623</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Management team</td>
<td>728</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Editing</td>
<td>5,905</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Printing</td>
<td>6,735</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office Supplies</td>
<td>832</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hardware and software</td>
<td>1,475</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Translations</td>
<td>7,094</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total | £134,465 |
The Child Rights Information Network (CRIN) is an independent, non-partisan forum for the exchange of information that assists the work of all those committed to the implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. CRIN aims to democratise information on child rights and to encourage information sharing between different parts of the world and different actors in the implementation of the UNCRC. CRIN was formally established in 1995 but has a history dating back to 1991. Information is disseminated to thousands of individuals and organisations around the world, including over 1,500 organisations that have formally joined as members of the Child Rights Information Network.