



**2007** | ANNUAL REPORT  
BERNARD VAN LEER FOUNDATION



Bernard van Leer  
Foundation  
Annual Report 2007

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**Cover:** The foundation supports a project in Guatemala helping young children of indigenous origin to enhance their chances to succeed in the formal primary school system.

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There is a growing appreciation that children whose early years fed their moral, social and intellectual development, and who were in a loving environment in which they were valued as individuals, are more likely to become valuable members of society as young people and adults.

*Photo: Peter de Ruiter*

# Increasing leverage through new connections

## Foreword by the Chair of the Board of Trustees

**The last year has been marked by concerns over the health of the global economy. As prices rise and food insecurity becomes a growing problem, the spectres of hunger and poverty loom larger over the world's most vulnerable young children. Nor are we at the Bernard van Leer Foundation immune from the effects of economic slowdown, as we derive our income from investment funds, and markets are performing sluggishly.**

We have double the responsibility, therefore, to respond to tough economic times by making sure we get the best possible value from the resources available to us. More than ever, we will have to find effective levers to generate impact on the lives of more young children than those we can benefit directly through the projects we support.

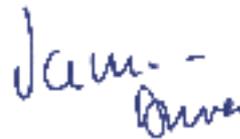
A growing body of evidence to assist us in this aim is arriving from the field of neuroscience. By showing how brain architecture is irreversibly shaped in early childhood, neuroscientists are confirming what the foundation has been saying for years: experiences in the early years profoundly affect a child's prospects of growing into a well-balanced adult.

Most people now accept that children should have clean water, vaccinations and education. But the significance of playing with parents and friends is by no means as widely realised. While nobody today would query the importance of public investment in maternity centres and primary schools, between the two is a critical gap that is often left entirely to families to fill without appropriate help and support. We must broaden recognition that experiences there impact not only children's present happiness but also their future selves.

How best to find leverage to drive the issue of early childhood development higher up the political and social agenda? The uncertain economic outlook is unlikely to change the fact that business leaders are among the most influential setters of agendas in the modern world. Indeed, in some of the countries where the foundation works, the business community often offers the only well-functioning infrastructure.

We have therefore been asking over the last year how the business community can help us to leverage the influence we are seeking to have on behalf of disadvantaged young children. As the foundation emerged from the dreams and ambitions of a family of industrialists, it is a natural and logical direction for us to explore, and in the coming years we will make concerted efforts to refine this idea through work with our local partners.

We will do this without the leadership and inspiration of Peter Laugharn. After nearly a decade with the foundation, including six years as Executive Director, Peter has decided to continue his career in the USA, where he will put his expertise as a voice for young children affected by AIDS in Africa to good use with a different foundation. We owe him a great debt for his efforts and energy and wish him every future success.



*Trude Maas-de Brouwer*  
Chair, Board of Trustees



Girls in the state of Sikkim, in the Indian Himalayas. One of the foundation's objectives is to strengthen the knowledge, skills and practices of caregivers in order to promote equity and equal opportunities for young boys and girls.

*Photo: Peter de Ruiter*

## Advancing essential values

# The report of the Executive Director

**This is my last report as the Executive Director of the Bernard van Leer Foundation: in the Summer of 2008, I will be moving on after six years at the helm. My own departure is not, however, the most symbolically resonant of the upcoming personnel changes at the foundation. This year will also see the retirement of Ivar Samrén, the longest-serving member of our Board of Trustees and the last serving Trustee to have been appointed personally by Oscar van Leer. Oscar in turn was the son of Bernard van Leer, and the long-time chair of both the Bernard van Leer Foundation and the Royal Packaging Industries Van Leer, the company through which Bernard van Leer made his fortune.**

Ivar's retirement is symbolic as it moves the Bernard van Leer Foundation beyond the direct influence of its founding family. This dawning of a new era intensifies the challenge to which I referred in my first report in this space as Executive Director, and which has been a defining theme of my leadership since then: the need to strike a balance between continuity and change.

A long-standing confidant of Oscar van Leer, Ivar Samrén has certainly represented continuity: he always shared Oscar van Leer's strong belief in the importance of investing in disadvantaged young children, both for their present-day rights and quality of life and for the contribution they will bring as tomorrow's adults. But he has also been a true guardian of the broader values that I believe must guide us as we change: innovation, reflection, respect and goal-oriented partnerships.

Change is necessary because we must not remain tied to the past when doing so would mean forgoing opportunities to do the most good. Continuity demands that we must be consciously determined, now more than ever, to embody the essential values with which the Bernard van Leer Foundation was created and set on its path.

I was fortunate to inherit all the strengths of the Bernard van Leer Foundation, and I have tried to further continuity as far as these are concerned. I leave a foundation that continues its commitment to a vision of early childhood balancing hope and pragmatism and building on the strengths inherent in children, families and communities; that continues its tradition of respectful, long-term partnerships with local organisations working on behalf of young children; and that continues to be highly thought of for its staff, who are expert in their work, articulate and passionate about doing good for children, and connected to many individuals and organisations working for young children's development.

I have also had the privilege of leading the foundation through a significant process of change, through which we have sought to become more systematic in identifying how we can most effectively realise our potential as an organisation which seeks to benefit young children. We have intensified our efforts to put early childhood on the international agenda, looking at "influence beyond the project area". That means pursuing twin goals – still focusing on bringing tangible benefits to the children, families and communities served by our partners, but also asking how we can leverage this work into greater change for more children.

As the feature article in this Annual Report discusses in greater depth, the foundation is now in the process of strengthening its potential as a supporter of advocacy. The decision to look more towards direct engagement with policymakers, in both governmental and influential funding agencies, represents continuity as well as change: in the 1960s, when Oscar van Leer set the foundation the mission of improving opportunities for disadvantaged young children – and chose for the foundation's grantmaking to be done in those countries where the Royal Packaging Industries Van Leer had its factories, which became our so-called 'eligible countries' – we set to work directly with national governments on developing their early childhood policies.

In the 1980s, in line with other foundations, we began to shift our work almost exclusively to grants to non-governmental organisations; their accountability lines were shorter and their delivery can be more reliable. Now that we are exploring once again the potential of more direct engagement with policymakers, we are essentially integrating these two broad epochs of our history.

As part of our advocacy agenda, we have reflected deeply during my time at the foundation on the two main arguments

that drive acceptance of early childhood today – the rights argument and the economic argument. In both cases I believe we have contributed significantly to developing and publishing ideas that have moved early childhood advocacy forward and helped to position us for further strides in the near future. On the rights argument, our main contribution has been our role in the drafting, adoption and promotion of the General Comment 7 to the United Nations' Convention on the Rights of the Child, which gives guidance on how the rights of the youngest children can be understood, supported and safeguarded. Our approach to the economic argument is detailed in this Annual Report's essay (see pp 9-12).

Our change agenda involved making our overall goals explicit in our Statement of Strategic Intent (SSI), on which I reported in this space last year. In 2007, the first of the three years covered by this SSI, we fleshed out our thinking thematically with the completion of framework documents for our three issue areas – "Strengthening the Care Environment", "Successful Transitions: the Continuum from Home to School", and "Social Inclusion and Respect for Diversity".

We have now progressed to elaborating the SSI geographically by developing outcome-oriented strategies for individual countries and regions. This is starting to make clear the benefits that will increasingly accrue over the coming years from the tough choice we made to reduce the number of countries in which we work from over 40 to 21, in order to increase the impact we could have in each of them.

That choice was another example of how we have sought to reconcile continuity with change: to remain true to the spirit of doing the most good for the most children, it was necessary to cut loose from some eligible countries, and thus from the historical bonds that had originated with Royal Packaging Industries Van Leer.

By making our goals explicit, our SSI increases not only our focus but also our accountability. In today's world, and especially as we aspire to influence policymakers, we have a responsibility to be transparent about who we are, what we are trying to do and how we are trying to do it. Two decades ago, when few European foundations saw any need to publish an annual report, we were among the first to do so. We still aspire to that groundbreaking role, and this Annual Report reflects

feedback we invited from the Dutch 'Transparency Prize' jury on last year's publication. We would appreciate your feedback on the Annual Report as well.

Among the improvements you will see are that we report not only on what grants we have made in the last year, but on what has resulted from some of the money previously granted (see pp 14-28). In future years, I expect we will be able to do this more and to ever higher standards as our recently strengthened and restructured Monitoring, Evaluation, Studies and Information unit becomes able to report on the outcomes of the first grants made under the new SSI.

As a final point on the change agenda, under my stewardship the foundation has increased its public commitment to being a learning organisation. We have recognised our knowledge, insights and networks as assets that increase our ability to help positive change happen for children.

I can look back on my time as Executive Director knowing that I have endeavoured to take my stewardship responsibilities seriously in their broadest sense, looking for ways to achieve the greatest level of change for the highest possible number of children. I have also aspired to position the Bernard van Leer Foundation as a leader not only in early childhood but also among endowed foundations, which enjoy the twin luxury of having both longer time horizons and quicker reactions than those typically available to government, business and fundraising non-profits.

Change always means challenges, and I would like to sign off by thanking staff, partners and peers for the patience they have shown. I will be watching with interest and pride over the coming years as the new directions we have taken begin to bear fruit.



*Peter Laugharn*  
Executive Director

## Advocacy and public policy

# Exploring new approaches to maximise impact

**Foundations like the Bernard van Leer Foundation are uniquely placed to think creatively and explore interesting new venues in pursuit of long-term goals. This year's theme essay looks at ways in which we can capitalise on success by creating innovative partnerships between players in business, decision making and early childhood development.**

Privately endowed foundations have traditionally tended to go about their work in relative obscurity. Like many of the individuals who endowed them – not least Bernard van Leer – they have often seemed to see reticence and modesty as fitting approaches to bring to philanthropy, and even regarded it as unseemly to seek to attract the limelight onto themselves.

Times are changing, and increasingly it is not only accepted but expected for foundations to be savvy about maximising the beneficial impact they seek to have. The Gates Foundation and the Clinton Foundation are high-profile examples of a new wave of private foundations for whom it is natural to capitalise on exposure to policymakers and the media as means to further their objectives.

As our Executive Director Peter Laugharn discusses in his report (pp 7-8), the Bernard van Leer Foundation first approached its mission back in the 1960s through direct contact with governments. In a sense, then, this emerging trend offers the foundation an opportunity to return to its roots. It is doing so by way of a major, three-part initiative called “Leveraging the Evidence”, to which around EUR 700,000 – or about 3.5% of the foundation’s annual grantmaking budget – has been committed.

Field-based work will continue to be the bedrock of the foundation’s activities, and the outlet for the vast majority of our grantmaking, as it generates the wealth of knowledge about how to improve the lives of disadvantaged children that we have accumulated over the years and that we continue to build upon. The aim of “Leveraging the Evidence” is to bring that knowledge to the attention of decision makers who have the potential to benefit many more children than the foundation alone could ever hope to reach.

### **Finding the right messengers**

Recruited in 2007, Nic van der Jagt is the foundation’s first Public Policy Officer. His remit goes beyond the kind of projects long funded by the foundation which include an element

of advocacy aimed at national-level decision makers; the emphasis here is more on international public policy, which means attempting to influence those who set agendas in such organisations as international NGOs, multilateral and bilateral funding agencies and supranational bodies such as the European Commission, the World Bank and organs of the United Nations.

“Early childhood development is like many social causes,” Nic van der Jagt says, “in that it has a loyal and articulate group of experts and advocates but is not very well connected to the decision makers it would like to influence, and also in that there is a tendency to ‘preach to the converted’ rather than to struggle for access to the people it would be most helpful to convert. In other words, the problem is not with the message. It’s with finding the right messengers who are able to get that message to those who most need to hear it.”

That’s the thinking behind Business Champions – the first part of the “Leveraging the Evidence” initiative – a partnership between the foundation, the Wolfensohn Centre for Development and the Committee for Economic Development. Its aim is to expose high-profile business leaders to the well-established evidence that increased government investment in quality early childhood programmes delivers handsome long-term economic payoffs for society.

The rationale is straightforward: first, that business leaders are a natural audience for the compelling cost-benefit case for investment in early childhood, and second, that government decision makers typically value the opinions of business leaders. That is especially true in ministries of finance and planning, where civil servants often tend to be especially hard-nosed and challenging for the more conventional spokespeople of the early childhood community to reach.

Non-profit organisations and corporate titans may not initially seem the most obvious of bedfellows. But the Bernard van Leer Foundation owes its existence to the business acumen of its



In a pre-school in Ichhapur village, India, 4-year-old Bulubhoi is practicing writing letters and numbers on a slate board. This is one of many supported kindergartens that the People's Rural Education Movement works with in villages in Orissa and Andhra Pradesh.

*Photo: Jim Holmes*

founder, and it is a reality of today's world that lobbying efforts, conference speeches and op-ed pieces about early childhood investment are more likely to make an impact when they come from business leaders than when they come from early childhood specialists.

The Business Champions initiative illustrates one reason why an endowed foundation can be well placed to do international public policy work. The foundation's Executive Director, Peter Laugharn, explains: "It's often difficult to attribute changes to your efforts in the field of public policy advocacy, and that's especially true in the case of 'soft target' activities such as events with business leaders.

"Of course, we will always seek to track, rigorously and credibly, the extent to which our activities can be judged to have contributed to change. But as a privately endowed foundation we have more liberty to think creatively and take more risks in pursuit of those long-term contributions than might be possible for many organisations which rely on public donations."

#### **Learning from stumbling blocks**

So what, exactly, is it hoped that newly won converts from the business community will be persuaded to champion? Typically, the answer to that question involves "scaling up" – taking programmes which have proved their worth on a relatively small scale and applying them to larger groups of children. This is the ultimate aim of the foundation's grantmaking and something which generally requires the commitment of leaders in national or local government or one of the aforementioned targets of international public policy.

But there's a problem. Not every programme which works on a small scale ends up being as successful when it's taken to scale.

Hence the second part of "Leveraging the Evidence", an action-research programme funded by the foundation and carried out by the Brookings Institution. This partnership involves studying several examples of programmes that were scaled up successfully and of others that weren't, and figuring out what were the salient differences.

The research team is also tasked with analysing what stumbling blocks explain why early childhood interventions have historically not been prioritised. Candidates include a lack of

clarity over the costs and benefits; the difficulty of persuading politicians to think in terms of time frames that are considerably longer than their electoral cycles; and a zero-sum mentality that sees early childhood investment as necessarily detracting from other areas of public investment – notably in primary education – rather than as potentially intensifying their impact.

This work should improve international public policy efforts by leading to a greater pragmatic understanding of how to overcome the obstacles that have frequently frustrated early childhood advocates in seeking to have promising interventions taken to scale.

Which brings us to the third component of "Leveraging the Evidence" – a new partnership with the Consultative Group on Early Childhood Care and Development (CGECCD) aimed at reinforcing its advocacy support strategy. The CGECCD has recently made considerable progress in sharpening its messaging about early childhood, and the aim of this partnership is to further develop its ability to get its cornerstone messages more widely heard and acted upon.

As readers of previous annual reports will be aware, these efforts do not represent a new departure so much as further steps into territory which the foundation had already been charting. Last year's report, for example, described advocacy efforts centred around the International AIDS Conference in Toronto in 2006, notably support for the Joint Learning Initiative on Children and AIDS (JLICA) and the Coalition on Children Affected by AIDS (CCABA).

With 2008's biannual International AIDS Conference on the horizon, these partnerships remain central to the foundation's efforts to influence funders and policymakers. JLICA is steadily accumulating authoritative evidence on what works best in terms of strengthening families, supporting community action, providing essential services and establishing and implementing useful policies. Meanwhile, CCABA advocates for early childhood programmes as one of the most important policy responses to the large numbers of children affected by the pandemic.

Further initiatives focus on shaping the media agenda around the 2008 International AIDS Conference, as journalistic coverage of HIV/AIDS still tends to be dominated by negative

images; this is especially true when it comes to young children, who rarely appear in the media narrative as anything more than objects of pity. To encourage efforts to engage seriously and sensitively with the challenging living conditions faced by those affected, the foundation has been working with Panos and development writer Anthony Swift on a package of materials comprising a book, policy briefs, press sensitisation materials and a travelling photo exhibition.

#### Advocacy messages

2007 also saw the foundation develop a new advocacy asset in partnership with the Open University, the new publication series entitled *Early Childhood in Focus (ECiF)*. The two issues published in 2007, on how young children form attachment relationships and handle the transition to primary schooling, quickly established *ECiF*'s reputation for translating complex academic thinking into the kind of clear and simple messages required by public policy advocates for early childhood.

Broadly speaking, when it comes to early childhood, these advocacy messages fall into two groups. There are those which draw on the principled arguments of child rights, as laid out by the Convention on the Rights of the Child and associated General Comment 7 on implementing children's rights in early childhood. And there are those which draw on the pragmatic arguments of the economic payoffs of investment in early childhood, a subject which will be addressed directly in one of the three further issues of *ECiF* planned for 2008.

These are, of course, not mutually exclusive, and should ideally be complementary; in its public policy work, the foundation draws on both according to what works best in context. While the Business Champions initiative will naturally major on the pragmatic case, in 2007 we also learned more about how a children's rights framework can be made to impact on public policy through our initiative to assess how Jamaica implemented the recommendations of GC7.

The lessons from this project will inform our work elsewhere – for, as in all other aspects of its activities, in public policy too the foundation is committed to being a learning organisation. We know we have progress to make in streamlining our effectiveness as an advocate, not least in ensuring that we have a strong flow of rigorously assessed and thoroughly documented work from the projects we fund in the field.

One enduring problem with early childhood advocacy has been that much of the evidence comes from North America; a stronger evidence base from the majority world, which the foundation's monitoring and evaluation unit is gradually helping to build, will assist us in advocating more effectively to a majority world audience.

Trude Maas-de Brouwer, who chairs the foundation's Board of Trustees, comments that "this is an exciting time to be advocating for early childhood. The strong economic case for investing in young children is increasingly being complemented by vivid evidence from neuroscience. Early childhood experts have long argued that young children's environments leave lasting effects on many aspects of their lives. Now that insight can be corroborated by arresting images of neuronal connections which graphically demonstrate the way in which different environments literally shape a young child's brain."

Such discoveries change nothing if not disseminated, a step in which the mainstream media play a pivotal role. In 2008 therefore a fourth strand will be added to "Leveraging the Evidence" in the form of the Oscar van Leer Fellowship for Journalism. The fellowships, which replace the Oscar van Leer Award, which will be offered to four journalists per year. The aim is to improve the quantity and quality of media coverage for early childhood issues, principally by enabling majority world journalists to gain exposure to international best practices and to be able to transfer the skills they pick up to journalistic colleagues in their workplaces.

Like his father, on a personal level Oscar van Leer displayed self-effacing modesty about his philanthropic work – but while that personality trait has often been organisationally epitomised by the Bernard van Leer Foundation in the past, the Oscar van Leer Fellowships will rather exemplify the outward-looking dynamism of the foundation's future.

# The Foundation's grantmaking in 2007

## An overview by issue area

The Bernard van Leer Foundation supports early childhood development programmes in the form of grants to local partner organisations, who are a range of public, private and community-based agencies. They range from small, innovative organisations for whom we are the main source of funds, to large national actors for whom we are one donor among many.

We aim to fund projects that will have a lasting and tangible effect on the lives of children around the world. And the benefits should go both ways; we invest in activities that will also add to the foundation's knowledge and understanding. By contributing to our own publications and advocacy work, the projects we fund can ultimately have an influence that extends well beyond their local communities.

In 2007, the foundation made 134 grants in 31 countries – a total of EUR 18,293,800 – with an average of EUR 197,000. The funds were distributed in the three issue areas as follows: 'Successful transitions: The continuum from home to school' (34%), 'Social inclusion and respect for diversity' (31%) and 'Strengthening the care environment' (29%).

The boxed stories on the following pages highlight aspects of the work of six of our partners across the world. Visit our website at [www.bernardvanleer.org](http://www.bernardvanleer.org) for more detailed information about our grantmaking, the partners we work with and their projects.

### Issue area:

#### Social inclusion and respect for diversity

Through 'Social inclusion and respect for diversity' we aim to promote equal opportunities and skills that will help children to live in diverse societies. (For more details see the summary of the framework document for the Diversity issue area on our website.)

#### Global

Partner organisation: Arizona State University

Grant amount: EUR 146,600

Grant period: Dec. 2007 – Dec. 2008

Overall objective: To develop, implement and evaluate demonstration projects for parent participation in early childhood education and care programmes serving children of recent immigrants in five countries.

Partner organisation: World Forum Foundation

Grant amount: EUR 9,600

Grant period: May 2007 – May 2009

Overall objective: To support two 'leaders' in early childhood education to network and train with ECD professionals on a global scale.

#### Asia/Middle East and North Africa

##### Cyprus

Partner organisation: Arab Resource Collective Ltd

Grant amount: EUR 300,000

Grant period: Feb. 2008 – Feb. 2011

Overall objective: To sharpen the focus of the partnership between the Arab Resource Collective and the Bernard van Leer Foundation towards social inclusion and respect for diversity.

##### Egypt

Partner organisation: National Union for ECD in Egypt

Grant amount: EUR 300,000

Grant period: Dec. 2007 – Dec. 2010

Overall objective: To support the efforts of the Children of the Nile project to (a) find other funders and (b) make explicit in its programming on the ground the importance of inclusion and respect in daycare and kindergarten environments for young children.

##### Israel

Partner organisation: Adam Institute for Democracy and Peace

Grant amount: EUR 336,800

Grant period: Jan. 2007 – Jan. 2010

Overall objective: To strengthen and extend the promotion of respect, empathy and conflict resolution through democracy education in kindergartens in southern Israel.

Partner organisation: Differences and Multi-Cultural Institute

Grant amount: EUR 350,000

Grant period: Jan. 2007 – Jan. 2010

## Positive change for young Arab children in Israel

The quality of early childhood education available to Arabic-speaking children in Israel has historically been of a far lower standard than that available to Hebrew-speaking children, due to less government attention and funding. The foundation has long supported organisations which have managed to provide high-quality daycare or kindergartens for Arabic-speaking children, and recently encouraged existing partners – some of them Arab and some Arab-Jewish – to form a collective in order to unify initiatives in different parts of the country.

In its most recently completed phase, the collective – called Musharaka, meaning 'partnership' in Arabic – sought to develop more rich and authentic pedagogy and materials for young Arab children in Israel. Several hundred high-quality educational kits already existed for Hebrew-speaking children, and now Musharaka has produced the very first attractive materials for Arab educators to use based on the holistic integrated approach. With titles like 'Fun, Feeling and Fulfilment', these three kits – more are in the pipeline – incorporate learning through craft activities and play rather than conventional chalk-and-talk. Related teacher training was also developed, and has been recognised by the Ministry of Education.

Musharaka also produces a twice-yearly newsletter, among other reasons to address the relatively low level of training generally available to Arab early childhood educators in Israel. Each issue of *Hamsat Wasal* focuses on a specific topic, such as working with parents or gender equality (Musharaka seeks in sensitive ways to encourage progressive change within Arab communities in such matters as gender). The newsletter reaches practically the entire 5000-strong population of Arab early childhood professionals in Israel, and has proved a popular way for them to share views and experiences. An additional electronic newsletter provides information about resources available in Arabic.

Each of Musharaka's member organisations acts as a resource for the area in which it is located – whether the North, the Triangle or the Negev – and they combine forces at the national level. The next phase of this project is strongly oriented towards lobbying and advocacy to achieve widespread improvement of early childhood care and education in Arab communities in Israel. The aim is to persuade government ministries to fund and support initiatives which Musharaka has already proved to be valuable. These initiatives range widely and cover discussion groups for fathers, puppetry for children, and activities to strengthen communication between educators and parents.

**Overall objective:** To expand and consolidate initiatives that increase openness to and empathy for different identities among children in kindergartens in Israel, and to reduce stereotypes and prejudice.

**Partner organisation:** Ezer Mizion – Israel National Support Organization

**Grant amount:** EUR 266,305

**Grant period:** Jul. 2007 – Jul. 2010

**Overall objective:** To extend the benefits of Active Nurturing Playgrounds to a further 100 scriptural schools in Israel in order to meet the developmental needs of young Chareidi (ultra- Orthodox) boys and to preempt developmental delays and difficulties.

**Partner organisation:** Hagar: Bilingual Education for Equality

**Grant amount:** EUR 7,500

**Grant period:** Jul. 2007 – Nov. 2007

**Overall objective:** To support the establishment of an integrated bilingual and multicultural kindergarten in Beersheva.

**Partner organisation:** Musharaka Trust for Arab ECCD in Israel

**Grant amount:** EUR 482,100

**Grant period:** Apr. 2007 – Mar. 2009

**Overall objective:** To take further the recent collective work by Arab organisations in Israel to improve the daily lives of young Arab children with well-trained teachers, good-quality materials for learning and play, and informed support from the adults around them.

**Partner organisation:** Person to Person

**Grant amount:** EUR 387,500

**Grant period:** Sep. 2007 – Aug. 2010

**Overall objective:** To further increase the number and range of young children in Israel who experience a respectful atmosphere every day at school and freedom from violence, with the extension of the Human Dignity Initiative from nine schools to 19 schools and more widely through a Human Dignity Network and website.

## Europe

### Regional

**Partner organisation:** EUROCHIPS

**Grant amount:** EUR 210,000

**Grant period:** Sep. 2007 – Sep. 2010

**Overall objective:** To improve the lives of the children of prisoners in Europe by raising awareness among prison, judicial and child-welfare decision makers and the general public at large of the existence and specific needs of these children; promoting ideas, information and good practice to boost the competence of those working with these children; and lobbying for the prisoners' children's rights and influencing European and local/national prison regulations and family policies in the best interests of the child.

**Partner organisation:** International Step by Step Association

**Grant amount:** EUR 3,000

**Grant period:** Jun. 2007 – Sep. 2007

**Overall objective:** To cover the costs of a special issue of the *Children in Europe* magazine on the theme "Vygotsky Ideas: Crossing Borders".

**Partner organisation:** International Step by Step Association

**Grant amount:** EUR 9,800

**Grant period:** Dec. 2007 – Jan. 2009

**Overall objective:** To develop an edited collection of papers presented at the 17th Annual EECERA Conference by ISSA, "Exploring Vygotsky's Ideas: Crossing Borders", into publishable form reflecting respect for diversity.

### Belgium

**Partner organisation:** VBJK

**Grant amount:** EUR 49,000

**Grant period:** Nov. 2007 – May 2008

**Overall objective:** To cover the costs for the translation from Dutch into English of the results of a research study (book and DVD) by the director of VBJK (Resource, Research and Training Centre on Early Childhood Care and Education) on the qualities of the early years profession and how to improve professionalism related to working with young children in a participatory way; and the production of an interactive video installation to be used at least five national and international conferences.

### Greece

**Partner organisation:** EADAP

**Grant amount:** EUR 250,000

**Grant period:** Sep. 2007 – Dec. 2009

**Overall objective:** To establish EADAP in its own property with functional offices.

## The children of Elefsina

Through art activities – drama, painting, dance and music – young children can discover who they are and where they belong. That's the lesson emerging from the project Elele – Turkish for 'together' – funded by the foundation and implemented by Schedia, a small NGO in Athens, Greece. Schedia develops and disseminates innovative pedagogical approaches for young children that promote respect for diversity through art.

Elele operates in Elefsina, an industrial town south-east of Athens with a population of around 23,000. The project reaches out to groups who feel marginalised: primarily Turkish-speaking Greek Muslims and Albanian migrants. Children from these communities tend to experience discrimination and struggle at school because they have difficulties expressing themselves.

Schedia's baseline study found that mainstream services did not reach out to the Turkish-speaking Greek communities; teachers did not understand the children's cultures or perspectives. Elele was established to offer alternative means of expression for children who struggle verbally. 120 children aged 3 to 7, from the indigenous Greek as well as Albanian and Turkish-speaking communities, attend multilingual evening or weekend activities at the Centre for the Promotion of Respect for Diversity, established by Schedia and the municipality.

Children's narratives tell us how they have gained in confidence. At a festival for all children of Elefsina, evaluators witnessed increased confidence from children showing their works of art, demonstrated through ways of walking and expressing. Parents from the Turkish-speaking communities, too, have grown in confidence by interrelating in the democratic and inclusive meeting space provided by the Centre.

Schedia also organised 'respect for diversity' training workshops to help 25 pre-school and primary-school teachers to discover and understand their stereotypical thinking and behaviour. Through drama, they explored experiences of discrimination and marginalisation. Now, they teach reading and writing in different ways and seek meetings with parents to learn about their cultures rather than only to discuss problems.

The project secured the municipal authority's support, and successfully challenged municipal services to bring about inclusive policies. As a result, childcare centres are now open to unemployed as well as working parents; there are more literacy and Greek language courses for non-Greek-speaking adults, and vocational training courses for poorly educated parents; and families rendered homeless by the earthquake of 1999 have finally been entitled to permanent housing.

Schedia is now concentrating on disseminating its innovative model of creating meeting spaces in which children and parents interrelate confidently and build friendships through the medium of art.

**Partner organisation:** Network for Children's Rights – DIKTYO

**Grant amount:** EUR 35,000

**Grant period:** Nov. 2007 – Apr. 2008

**Overall objective:** To organise three workshops and a conference about children's books and respect for diversity. The events took place in the greater Athens area in November and December 2007. The objective is to sensitise the Greek education professionals, parents, the publishing world and the media towards the need to include and promote the values of social inclusion and respect for diversity in children's books.

**Partner organisation:** SCHEDIA

**Grant amount:** EUR 200,000

**Grant period:** Jul. 2007 – Jul. 2009

**Overall objective:** To promote respect for diversity and social inclusion in early childhood services in Greece and Turkey, through strengthening the networking of the two organisations (Schedia and KEDV) and the networks they are part of. Both organisations will develop and disseminate a common basis for guidelines for educators and parents regarding good practices in terms of educational practice and parents' involvement.

### Ireland

**Partner organisation:** PAVEE POINT

**Grant amount:** EUR 150,000

**Grant period:** Jun. 2007 – Jun. 2009

**Overall objective:** To develop and deliver an *éist* national diversity and equality training-of-trainers programme and establish a national diversity and equality training network for trainers.

### Netherlands

**Partner organisation:** Eduniek Locatie Utrecht

**Grant amount:** EUR 250,000

**Grant period:** Jan. 2008 – Jan. 2011

**Overall objective:** To contribute to a society in which equity, empathic engagement and respect for diversity are becoming routine.

**Partner organisation:** Hogeschool InHolland

**Grant amount:** EUR 258,000

**Grant period:** Jan. 2008 – Jul. 2010

**Overall objective:** To develop an innovative methodology using information and communication technology to help 6- and 7-year-old children to discover their identity, support primary school teachers in accompanying identity development and the

creation of social group relationships, reinforce the ties between school, home and the neighbourhood and provide curriculum materials for teacher training.

**Partner organisation:** Stichting Child Care International

**Grant amount:** EUR 100,800

**Grant period:** Jul. 2007 – Jul. 2010

**Overall objective:** To develop an exchange network that facilitates the transfer of relevant information, knowledge and expertise of early years initiatives (practice, research and policy) within and outside the Netherlands. One of the priority themes is social inclusion and respect for diversity.

**Partner organisation:** Stichting Child Care International

**Grant amount:** EUR 80,000

**Grant period:** May. 2007 – Jul. 2008

**Overall objective:** To organise the conference "Social Agenda for the Early Years Services", which aims to deliver to policy, decision and opinion makers the message that quality childcare provision implies attention to social inclusion, equality and respect for diversity. It also seeks to give meaning to and shape the social agenda for young children through interesting and promising experiences from practice and research from within and outside the Netherlands.

**Partner organisation:** Stichting Memorabele Momenten

**Grant amount:** EUR 204,600

**Grant period:** Sep. 2007 – Sep. 2010

**Overall objective:** To build upon the "Sharing the Extraordinary" project, which brings musical experiences to childcare centres and increase its outreach for young children living in multicultural neighbourhoods in Amsterdam. The focus of this project includes intercultural communication between young children and social identities of young children.

**Partner organisation:** Uitgeverij SWP

**Grant amount:** EUR 35,900

**Grant period:** Jul. 2007 – Jul. 2008

**Overall objective:** To support a Dutch publication on the SPOREN (Stichting Pedagogiekontwikkeling Reggio Emilia Nederland) approach and to cover the costs for an English version of the publication. With these publications Stichting Pedagogiekontwikkeling 0-7 will make its programme accessible to a large group of educators and practitioners. The Dutch version was published in November 2007, the English



Pre-school De Kraal in Amsterdam, the Netherlands, uses early education materials developed by Stichting Pedagogiekontwikkeling 0-7 (SPOREN). A standard component of SPOREN's work is documenting children's learning, creativity and thinking processes through photos, text and audio tape.

*Photo: Devi Roebers*

version is expected in June 2008. Both books will be published by SWP Publishers in Amsterdam.

### Turkey

**Partner organisation:** SARDES

**Grant amount:** EUR 27,100

**Grant period:** Jul. 2007 – Oct. 2007

**Overall objective:** To prepare and organise a two-day workshop “The Power of Picture Books”, a professional exchange between Dutch and Turkish authors and illustrators of picture story books for young children. The intention is to raise the interest of publishers to publish high-quality picture books as well as raise awareness of the importance of picture-book reading. The workshop was held in Istanbul, Turkey, in November 2007.

**Partner organisation:** SARDES

**Grant amount:** EUR 39,700

**Grant period:** Aug. 2007 – Jan. 2008

**Overall objective:** To conduct a feasibility study for a country-programme framework in Turkey within the issue area of ‘Social inclusion and respect for diversity’. The study will come up with specific pointers for intervention at the levels of policy, practice and generation and dissemination of knowledge, with the intent to reach out to disadvantaged families and communities (environments in which young children grow up).

### United Kingdom

**Partner organisation:** Queen’s University Belfast

**Grant amount:** EUR 326,000

**Grant period:** Dec. 2007 – Dec. 2010

**Overall objective:** To establish an international network of leading researchers, policymakers and early childhood practitioners organised around a steering group and five learning groups. In addition, to establish a website and produce working papers that seek to distil existing knowledge and expertise on social inclusion and respect for diversity.

### Latin America

#### Mexico

**Partner organisation:** Melel Xojobal, A.C.

**Grant amount:** EUR 311,600

**Grant period:** Jan. 2007 – Jan. 2010

**Overall objective:** To increase general awareness about the

rights of the indigenous in the broader Chiapas society and to create opportunities for indigenous children to gain access to services which will allow them to enjoy a better quality of life and to develop their potentials.

**Partner organisation:** Melel Xojobal, A.C.

**Grant amount:** EUR 13,230

**Grant period:** Jan. 2008 – Jan. 2009

**Overall objective:** To create a bilingual version (English and Spanish) of a book of stories written and illustrated by indigenous women from southern Mexico for their own children and disseminate it in Mexico, the USA and Europe. The book will be used by pre-school teachers working with immigrant populations in Colorado, who will be interviewed by a researcher about how the stories are received by local children and parents.

### North America

#### Canada

**Partner organisation:** Childcare Resource & Research Unit

**Grant amount:** EUR 24,000

**Grant period:** Jun. 2007 – Apr. 2008

**Overall objective:** The Childcare Resource and Research Unit will provide an overview report on diversity and early childhood in the Canadian context. The report will contribute to the work of the Joint Learning Initiative and will lead to the development of a foundation working paper in 2008.

#### USA

**Partner organisation:** Third Millennium Foundation

**Grant amount:** EUR 26,700

**Grant period:** Jul. 2007 – Jan. 2008

**Overall objective:** To develop a paper providing a critique of how diversity and related terms in the USA are conceptualised and defined and to map the approaches to diversity and tolerance education in the USA.

**Partner organisation:** National Center for Children in Poverty

**Grant amount:** EUR 263,800

**Grant period:** Dec. 2007 – Dec. 2009

**Overall objective:** To examine the efficacy of regional action coalitions of stakeholders as a way to promote research-practice partnerships and advance social inclusion and respect for diversity to the forefront of the early childhood political agenda.

## Good treatment is the message

*El buen trato entra por casa* (good treatment starts at home). That is the name of the project implemented by the Centros Comunitarios de Aprendizaje (CECODAP) in Caracas, Venezuela, and the message being taken to the Venezuelan people as a result.

The capacity to leverage a localised project into a broader social impact is an important strength of partners such as CECODAP, which has published and advocated on children's issues in Venezuela for many years. Although based in the capital, Caracas, it plays a key role in a network of NGOs and grassroots organisations across the country.

The goal of this project – implemented in Caracas and two neighbouring states – was to change public opinion about the physical punishment of children, both at home and at school. Corporal punishment has widely been seen as both traditional and acceptable in Venezuelan society; use of physical force to compel obedience is not considered an act of violence by many parents or educators – or by children themselves, who go on to adopt this attitude towards others.

The project organised a series of workshops and activities for parents, educators and children, focusing on issues such as self-esteem, self-defence and conflict resolution in daily life at home and at school. These involved the participation of preschools, primary schools and *defensorías*, or children's rights centres, which exist to give children advice, aid and protection.

That the project itself modelled children's participation was one of its strongest points, notably as 12 teenage volunteers who were trained in play-based activities involved more than 600 younger children in a "National Week for Rights", enhancing the self-esteem of all concerned.

Beyond the direct participants, CECODAP succeeded in mobilising opinion behind the sensitisation campaign. Though the capital's education authorities were initially unsupportive, the state education authorities were enthusiastic throughout and CECODAP has since been invited to present its work at national government events; the governmental programmes of health, education and community participation – better known as "Missions" – helped to disseminate project materials, which include cartoon storybooks, posters and publications aimed at teachers and the police.

With various public and civil society organisations behind it, the advocacy campaign was picked up by national media – an important step in the ongoing battle to embed ideas about discipline without violence more firmly in the public consciousness.

**Issue area:****Successful transitions: The continuum from home to school**

Through 'Successful transitions' we aim to help young children make the transition from their home environment to daycare, pre-school and school. (For more details see the summary of the framework document for the Transitions issue area on our website.)

**Asia/Middle East and North Africa****India**

Partner organisation: Committee for Legal Aid to Poor

Grant amount: EUR 250,904

Grant period: Jun. 2007 – Jun. 2010

Overall objective: To ensure that early childhood care and education for children aged 0–6 is recognised as a legal right and reflected in the law and policy.

**Malaysia**

Partner organisation: Partners of Community Organisations

Grant amount: EUR 321,400

Grant period: Jan. 2008 – Jan. 2013

Overall objective: To document the impact of early childhood education on children's performance in primary schools and to construct a commercial daycare training centre for generating income to sustain the project's early childhood care and development programme.

Partner organisation: Persatuan Guru Tadika

Grant amount: EUR 309,300

Grant period: Jan. 2008 – Jan. 2013

Overall objective: Persatuan Guru Tadika will become an internationally recognised Asian institute on early childhood care and education with two core capacities: community-based training and production of low-cost learning materials by 2010.

**Morocco**

Partner organisation: Association ATFALE

Grant amount: EUR 345,100

Grant period: Jul. 2007 – Jul. 2010

Overall objective: To continue to support universal quality pre-school education in Morocco – across government, private-sector and civil-society providers, and to build further on the achievements in earlier phases of the project.

**Thailand**

Partner organisation: Impact Association (Footholds in the Hills Project)

Grant amount: EUR 300,000

Grant period: Jan. 2008 – Jan. 2011

Overall objective: To develop and institutionalise two training curricula for teachers, parents and elders in Thai and seven local languages and to teach children in their own language by using an integrated and culturally appropriate curriculum.

**Europe****Netherlands**

Partner organisation: Maastricht University

Grant amount: EUR 20,000

Grant period: Jun. 2007 – Jun. 2007

Overall objective: To organise an international expert meeting on media and early childhood development.

**Latin America****Regional (Amazon region, Venezuela)**

Partner organisation: Fundación Ensayos Para el Aprendizaje Permanente

Grant amount: EUR 240,000

Grant period: Sep. 2007 – Sep. 2010

Overall objective: To design and implement context-relevant initial education curriculum that prepares Amazon children and communities to a successful transition from home to primary education.

**Brazil**

Partner organisation: IFAN Instituto da Infância

Grant amount: EUR 35,000

Grant period: Jul. 2007 – Nov. 2007

Overall objective: To formulate a proposal for a three-year programme for the Northeast aimed at enhancing municipal policy and practice on school readiness and successful transition from home to school.

Partner organisation: Centro de Criação de Imagem Popular

Grant amount: EUR 340,000

Grant period: Sep. 2007 – Sep. 2010

Overall objective: To consolidate a successful transition from home to school for children in situations of urban violence.



Girls at play in the Children's Culture Centre, Morro dos Macacos *favela*, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Play helps children to develop mentally, socially, physically and emotionally. Children learn through play, children communicate through play, and they make friends through play. Play is everything for children.

*Photo: Jon Spaul*

**Partner organisation:** Instituto Promundo

**Grant amount:** EUR 170,400

**Grant period:** Oct. 2007 – Oct. 2009

**Overall objective:** To promote the rights of Brazilian children (age 0–6) by influencing the development of public policies and practices on early childhood development, care and education through strategic alliance building and evidence-based advocacy work.

#### Peru

**Partner organisation:** Facultad de Educación DAPSEU

**Grant amount:** EUR 238,100

**Grant period:** Sep. 2007 – Sep. 2010

**Overall objective:** To design and implement context-relevant initial education curriculum that prepares Amazon children and communities to a successful transition from home to primary education.

**Partner organisation:** Ministerio de la Mujer y Desarrollo Social

**Grant amount:** EUR 300,000

**Grant period:** Jun. 2007 – Jan. 2010

**Overall objective:** To enhance the effectiveness of early childhood education programmes through curriculum improvement, staff and parent training and social monitoring.

**Partner organisation:** Panez y Silva Consultores

**Grant amount:** EUR 120,500

**Grant period:** Jan. 2007 – Jan. 2010

**Overall objective:** To encourage children to cope with the transition from home to initial education.

**Partner organisation:** Gobierno Regional del Callao

**Grant amount:** EUR 370,000

**Grant period:** Jul. 2008 – Nov. 2011

**Overall objective:** To improve school achievement in literacy, numeracy and socio-emotional development for children in the first and second year of primary school growing up in an extremely poor urban context.

#### North America

##### USA

The **overall objective** of the following six projects is to create nurturing family and community environments for the early growth and development of young black children and achieve good educational outcomes through structured learning processes

**Partner organisation:** Professional Associates, Inc.

**Grant amount:** EUR 186,800

**Grant period:** Jan. 2008 – Jan. 2009

**Partner organisation:** Sharkey/Issaquena County Improvement Association

**Grant amount:** EUR 78,970

**Grant period:** Jan. 2008 – Jan. 2009

**Partner organisation:** Cary Christian Center

**Grant amount:** EUR 78,109

**Grant period:** Jan. 2008 – Jan. 2009

**Partner organisation:** Mayersville Youth Development Committee

**Grant amount:** EUR 72,272

**Grant period:** Jan. 2008 – Jan. 2009

**Partner organisation:** Quitman County Development Organization

**Grant amount:** EUR 80,814

**Grant period:** Jan. 2008 – Jan. 2009

**Partner organisation:** Tallahatchie County Ministerial Alliance

**Grant amount:** EUR 79,291

**Grant period:** Jan. 2008 – Jan. 2009

**Partner organisation:** High/Scope Educational Research Foundation

**Grant amount:** EUR 50,000

**Grant period:** Dec. 2006 – Jan. 2007

**Overall objective:** To disseminate the findings of the IEA “Pre-primary Project” and related studies to an international audience of researchers, policymakers and educators.

#### Sub-Saharan Africa

##### Regional (East Africa)

**Partner organisation:** MS Training Centre for Development Cooperation

**Grant amount:** EUR 80,800

**Grant period:** Dec. 2007 – Jun. 2009

**Overall objective:** To ensure partner organisations have the capacity to monitor and evaluate the implementation of activities, the production of outputs and outcomes, to use

## Government interest in *etem* daycare

In the arid north-east of Uganda, with high rates of child malnutrition and mortality, Karamoja is a difficult place to work. It is home to the Karamajong people, pastoralists who are transitioning from their traditional nomadic lifestyle towards a sedentary one.

The Karamajong had long rejected formal education, associating it with colonialism. But things changed in the mid-1990s, when "Alternative Basic Education in Karamoja" (ABEK) centres – a joint initiative of Save the Children and the Ugandan authorities – succeeded in generating enthusiasm about education and changing the Karimajong's attitudes.

Problems emerged, however. Because girls traditionally look after their infant siblings, they often either were absent or brought along with them children much younger than the ABEK's intended 6+ age range, causing disruption.

This is where the foundation became involved, in 2004, with a project implemented by Save the Children in Uganda and aimed at improving early childhood development and education among the Karamajong, notably through adopting a traditional idea – a communal area called an *etem* – as a place to base daycare for young children.

Over 80 *etems* are now established, covering almost a third of all ABEK centres. There have been successes. The ABEK centres with an associated *etem* saw a strong rise in ABEK participation from girls. Children at the *etems* grew visibly in happiness, confidence and expressiveness. And the *etems* were hugely popular, some attracting up to seven times the envisaged enrolment of 50 children each.

But problems remain to be addressed. The quality of care provided at *etems* is inconsistent; facilitators are often not sufficiently educated or trained to help children and parents develop toys and learning materials, and to prepare for the transition to school through activities to nurture emerging literacy and numeracy.

That basic needs remain unmet – security, health, sanitation, nutrition – also holds back progress. Parents can see the primary purpose of *etems* as to feed the children rather than to stimulate their development. The project is tackling this by incorporating income-generating activities.

Nonetheless, the interest generated from communities and local governments during this first phase offers hope for prospects of improving the model and making it sustainable, allowing it to be rolled out to more communities. As the project proceeds, it will become possible to track the performance of children who progress from *etems* to ABEKs and on to formal schooling.

lessons and experiences, document and communicate their learning from project work.

#### Kenya

**Partner organisation:** Maasai AIDS Awareness Programme

**Grant amount:** EUR 246,600

**Grant period:** Aug. 2007 – Aug. 2010

**Overall objective:** To strengthen sustainable community early education, stimulation, care and support systems for AIDS-affected young children and their families.

**Partner organisation:** Samburu Aid in Africa

**Grant amount:** EUR 300,000

**Grant period:** Jan. 2008 – Jan. 2011

**Overall objective:** To improve the quality of life and well-being of young children aged 0–8 years in Wamba, Nyiro and Baragoi Divisions in Samburu District, Kenya.

#### Mozambique

**Partner organisation:** Associação Wona Sanana

**Grant amount:** EUR 100,100

**Grant period:** Apr. 2007 – Apr. 2009

**Overall objective:** To contribute to an improvement in the quality of early childhood care and education services in Mozambique.

**Partner organisation:** Associação Wona Sanana

**Grant amount:** EUR 160,000

**Grant period:** Jan. 2008 – Jan. 2009

**Overall objective:** To acquire office premises to guarantee the continuation of the Wona Sanana project in carrying out its work to promote child development and protection in a sustainable and affordable way.

#### Tanzania

**Partner organisation:** Amani International Foundation

**Grant amount:** EUR 70,000

**Grant period:** Sep. 2007 – Mar. 2009

**Overall objective:** To provide technical support to the formulation of a joint strategic plan and programme proposal for six foundation partners to implement the foundation's programme for successful transitions from home to school in the country (see the Tanzania Home Economics Association-Mwanza entry below).

**Partner organisation:** Kinnapa Development Programme

**Grant amount:** EUR 180,000

**Grant period:** Mar. 2007 – Mar. 2009

**Overall objective:** To promote the well-being of young children in Kiteto district in the areas of education, nutrition, health and early stimulation.

**Partner organisation:** KIWAKKUKI

**Grant amount:** EUR 162,300

**Grant period:** Apr. 2007 – Apr. 2009

**Overall objective:** To raise parents', care givers' and communities' awareness on rights of children affected by HIV/AIDS, poverty and ill health and support them in providing for these children's basic needs.

**Partner organisation:** Monduli Pastoralist Development Initiatives

**Grant amount:** EUR 211,400

**Grant period:** Dec. 2007 – Dec. 2009

**Overall objective:** To support communities in Sepeko Ward, Monduli District, to strengthen access to – and improve quality of – their early childhood education programmes.

**Partner organisation:** Tanzania Home Economics Association-Mwanza

**Grant amount:** EUR 131,100

**Grant period:** Jun. 2007 – Feb. 2009

**Overall objective:** To develop a joint strategic plan and programme proposal for six foundation partners to implement the foundation's programme for successful transitions from home to school in the country.

#### Uganda

**Partner organisation:** Save the Children in Uganda

**Grant amount:** EUR 240,000

**Grant period:** Jul. 2007 – Jul. 2010

**Overall objective:** To enable 20,873 children (2–5 years) in four districts in Karamoja to have access to and complete quality early childhood development education through community-driven initiatives by mid-2010.

#### Zimbabwe

**Partner organisation:** Family AIDS Caring Trust – Rusape Office

**Grant amount:** EUR 118,000

**Grant period:** Apr. 2007 – Apr. 2009

## Children as active participants in shaping their own world

In the department of Caldas in central Colombia – especially in marginalised rural areas, where poverty and violence have caused high levels of internal displacement – children frequently suffer from abuse, malnutrition and a lack of health and educational services. Traditionally authoritarian relationship structures in families, schools and communities mean that children tend to experience a limited amount of affection or attention to their feelings, thoughts and ideas.

The Fundación para el Desarrollo Integral de la Niñez, la Juventud y la Familia (FESCO) is a local NGO, founded 23 years ago, which seeks to change views about early childhood by promoting opportunities for young children to take initiatives and express their intelligence and creativity, and become active participants in shaping their own world and environments. The foundation-funded project “Niños y Niñas Protagonistas de su Desarrollo” (children as protagonists of their own development) aims to ensure that an understanding of young children’s rights and needs comes to be reflected in the formulation of local, regional and national social development plans.

Implemented in four municipalities in Caldas, the project started with a baseline study to enable comparisons of attitudes to be made over time. It has so far reached 430 families, 1472 children, 30 community leaders, 10 educational agents and 92 teachers through workshops covering subjects that include gender equality, relationship-building, rights to access of services, and childrearing practices that promote children’s well-being.

Central to FESCO’s approach are communication, alliance building and the training of *agentes educativos* (educational agents), young people who are drawn from and – it is hoped – will continue to live in local communities. Training materials used by educational agents have been developed in collaboration with local stakeholders, including with the active participation of young children. They include a series of radio programmes that was also broadcast by local stations.

FESCO puts great efforts into strengthening networks and alliances with various social actors, including public-sector agencies, universities, NGOs and community organisations, to promote integrated interventions that are supported by in-depth studies. One tangible outcome is that training for educational agents is now firmly established in a course offered by the Caldas University in Manizales.

FESCO’s work has attracted considerable praise: an honorary mention in the Dubai International Award for “Good Practices to Improve Conditions for Life” in 2007 was the latest in a series of recognitions in recent years. Also in 2007, FESCO collaborated with the foundation’s other partners in Colombia to launch a new initiative called “Talento Humano”, aimed at sharing experiences of training educational agents in different contexts at local, regional and national level.

**Overall objective:** To strengthen the capacity of families and communities to provide care and support to children aged 0 to 8.

**Partner organisation:** J.F. Kapnek Trust

**Grant amount:** EUR 170,200

**Grant period:** Jan. 2008 – Jan. 2010

**Overall objective:** To ensure the effective and smooth transition from early childhood development centres/pre-schools to primary schools for young children in Zimbabwe.

#### **Issue area:**

##### **Strengthening the care environment**

Through 'Strengthening the care environment' we aim to build the capacity of vulnerable parents, families and communities to care for their children. (For more details see the summary of the framework document for the Care issue area on our website.)

#### **Asia/Middle East and North Africa**

##### **India**

**Partner organisation:** Rural Development Trust

**Grant amount:** EUR 5,823

**Grant period:** Apr. 2007 – Apr. 2008

**Overall objective:** To contribute to better school performance and social and emotional development of 161 children affected by the Tsunami through life skills training

##### **Indonesia**

**Partner organisation:** World Population Foundation

**Grant amount:** EUR 152,700

**Grant period:** Jul. 2007 – Jul. 2009

**Overall objective:** To improve knowledge, attitudes and skills of teachers, parents and children aged 4 to 6, to enable them to openly and freely address issues regarding sexual reproductive health and rights.

#### **Europe**

##### **United Kingdom**

**Partner organisation:** The Panos Institute London

**Grant amount:** EUR 321,200

**Grant period:** Jan. 2008 – Jan. 2009

**Overall objective:** To revitalise and promote public and policy debate and discussion of the challenges posed by HIV/AIDS to the early development of children, their support networks in sub-Saharan Africa, notably South Africa.

#### **Latin America**

##### **Regional (Central America)**

**Partner organisation:** FLACSO – Programa El Salvador

**Grant amount:** EUR 16,220

**Grant period:** Feb. 2008 – Jul. 2008

**Overall objective:** To produce a reader that illustrates the counterparts' and the foundation's relevance and contribution to child development programmes in Central America.

##### **Colombia**

**Partner organisation:** Federación de ONGs de Caldas

**Grant amount:** EUR 245,500

**Grant period:** May 2007 – May 2010

**Overall objective:** To construct alternative ways for caregivers and children to shape their relationships in daily life, that allow reflection and assuming responsibilities and to develop an environment in which positive relationships exist between children and caregivers.

**Partner organisation:** FESCO

**Grant amount:** EUR 106,400

**Grant period:** Jan. 2007 – Jan. 2009

**Overall objective:** To document, analyse and validate training of caregivers and their role in providing care and education to young children, based on the intervention practices and methodologies applied by the foundation's partners in Colombia.

**Partner organisation:** FESCO

**Grant amount:** EUR 11,150

**Grant period:** Jul. 2007 – Jul. 2008

**Overall objective:** To disseminate FESCO's experiences and insights using the materials produced by the organisation so far.

##### **Mexico**

**Partner organisation:** CIDES I.A.P.

**Grant amount:** EUR 46,600

**Grant period:** Oct. 2007 – Oct. 2008

**Overall objective:** To consolidate the educational programme for indigenous children and families in Mexico City and to record and make available to the public the outcomes of the long-term institutional relationship with the foundation, presenting its experiences and lessons learned on the intervention methodology in the projects supported by the foundation.

## A story worth telling

Storytelling has traditionally been an integral part of the Caribbean culture – a way of informing about social issues, passing on values, and strengthening bonds between generation and generation.

That tradition, however, has been weakening – with implications for the quality of care for young children, as storytelling is among the most practical and effective ways for parents to stimulate the minds of their children. It is well established that expressive communication helps children to develop their speech, reasoning skills and creativity. And it costs nothing.

Beginning in 2004, the foundation funded Arts-in-Action, part of the University of the West Indies, to undertake a project entitled “STEPS” – Storytelling for Early Childhood Parenting Support. Its aim was to investigate ways of reviving interest in the Caribbean storytelling culture, showcase the value of this oral tradition in early childhood care and education, and develop methodologies that could ultimately be integrated into existing systems and services.

The project operated in Belize, the Cayman Islands, Dominica, Guyana, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago. It involved holding workshops, training trainers and collating stories. A total of 909 people attended these workshops – including parents and caregivers, teachers from pre-school to secondary level, early childhood professionals and young children – and they collated 220 stories, songs, lullabies and nursery rhymes.

This was always intended to be only the beginning. Follow-up projects are now finding various ways to take forward the fruits of STEPS into early childhood care and education services across the Caribbean.

In Belize, for example, teachers are using training manuals which link storytelling to educating children about their rights, the Ministry of Education has taken up a storytelling competition for teachers, and March has become “stimulation month” in schools, with grandparents invited into the classroom to talk to pupils.

In Dominica, a children's story book has already been produced and widely disseminated. In Suriname, a CD with accompanying book featuring 60 songs is currently in production, and the Ministry of Education has allowed teachers to be trained in storytelling during school time – a step towards getting methodologies recognised by the curriculum.

Meanwhile the Caribbean Child Support Initiative, the foundation's regional umbrella programme, is working with children on radio programmes that will be broadcast on both community and mainstream stations. The impact of STEPS should continue to unfold over the coming years.

**Partner organisation:** Cuidarte A.C.

**Grant amount:** EUR 350,000

**Grant period:** Jan. 2008 – Jan. 2011

**Overall objective:** To improve the quality of the relationships between children, parents and caregivers, and educational agents living in poverty in the urban areas of Guadalajara, and to strengthen the networks between civil society organisations and the public sector to ensure healthier conditions for children to grow up in, supported by policies favourable to the well-being of young children.

**Partner organisation:** Facultad de Psicología

**Grant amount:** EUR 300,000

**Grant period:** Jan. 2008 – Jan. 2011

**Overall objective:** To provide vulnerable children aged 0–8 years with 'protective' spaces where parents, caregivers and educational agents can together help these children to strengthen their basic competencies and skills and to mitigate the effects of growing up in poor and violent social and physical environments.

**Partner organisation:** Integranat AC

**Grant amount:** EUR 222,900

**Grant period:** Jan. 2007 – Jan. 2010

**Overall objective:** To create an environment that protects young (indigenous) children living in a vulnerable situation in the rural and urban settings of the municipality of Cintalapa that offers them the opportunities to develop their potentials and skills, building on the involvement of parents and communities and with support from public- and private-sector services through networking and alliances.

**Partner organisation:** Melel Xojobal, A.C.

**Grant amount:** EUR 14,900

**Grant period:** Jul. 2007 – Jul. 2008

**Overall objective:** To make a photo documentary of a family with children who decided to travel from Chiapas (in the South of Mexico) to the border city Tijuana. The documentary will depict the precarious events the family has to go through and will be used by NGOs and the public to raise awareness of the situation.

**Partner organisation:** Unidad de Capacitación e Investigación

**Grant amount:** EUR 14,550

**Grant period:** Aug. 2007 – Sep. 2007

**Overall objective:** To contribute to the development of an educational climate in Mexico that is respectful of the indigenous communities, their cultures and views, as well as contribute to better care and protection of the indigenous communities, in particular children, in their daily environment.

## **North America and the Caribbean region**

### **Caribbean region**

**Partner organisation:** CARICAD (Caribbean Centre for Development Administration)

**Grant amount:** (a) EUR 142,700, (b) EUR 194,800

**Grant period:** Jan. 2008 – Jan. 2010

**Overall objective:** (a) To support the development and implementation of the learning community concept. (b) To support the standardisation and packaging of the Roving Care concept and methodologies and prepare for regional dissemination, training and technical assistance.

### **Dominica**

**Partner organisation:** Christian Children's Fund – Dominica

**Grant amount:** EUR 54,700

**Grant period:** Jan. 2008 – Jan. 2009

**Overall objective:** To replicate the concepts, methods and services of the Roving Care programme of the Caribbean Child Support Initiative in order to increase good practice in parent support in the Caribbean region.

### **Grenada**

**Partner organisation:** Grencase

**Grant amount:** EUR 54,700

**Grant period:** Jan. 2008 – Jan. 2009

**Overall objective:** To replicate the concepts, methods and services of the Roving Care programme of the Caribbean Child Support Initiative in order to increase good practice in parent support in the Caribbean region.

### **St Lucia**

**Partner organisation:** Ministry of Education and Culture

**Grant amount:** EUR 105,700

**Grant period:** Jan. 2008 – Jan. 2009

**Overall objective:** To replicate the concepts, methods and services of the Roving Care programme of the Caribbean Child Support Initiative in order to increase good practice in parent support in the Caribbean region.

The Foundation's grantmaking in 2007: An overview by issue area

**Partner organisation:** Ministry of Education and Culture

**Grant amount:** EUR 150,000

**Grant period:** Jan. 2008 – Jan. 2010

**Overall objective:** To enhance both children's and adults' literacy and numeracy skills through a multi-dimensional, integrated programme of child stimulation, early language development and parent education.

#### St Vincent and the Grenadines

**Partner organisation:** Ministry of Health

**Grant amount:** EUR 150,000

**Grant period:** Jan. 2008 – Jan. 2010

**Overall objective:** To build on the existing health services to deliver an integrated intervention to improve the physical and psychological well being of parents and children.

**Partner organisation:** SVG Save the Children Fund (VINSAVE)

**Grant amount:** EUR 54,700

**Grant period:** Jan. 2008 – Jan. 2009

**Overall objective:** To replicate the concepts, methods and services of the Roving Care programme of the Caribbean Child Support Initiative in order to increase good practice in parent support in the Caribbean region.

#### USA

**Partner organisation:** University of Maryland School of Medicine

**Grant amount:** EUR 10,000

**Grant period:** Aug. 2007 – Oct. 2007

**Overall objective:** To contribute to travel and accommodation costs for some participants attending the Bellagio Conference "Child Development from a Global Perspective: Lost Potential, Modifiable Risk Factors, Successful Programs, and Future Goals", October 2007.

#### Sub-Saharan Africa

##### Regional

**Partner organisation:** African Fathers

**Grant amount:** EUR 75,500

**Grant period:** Feb. 2008 – Sep. 2008

**Overall objective:** To promote more involved fatherhood in Africa by capitalising on the governance and media policy space that has opened in recent times in favour of such efforts.

#### Kenya

**Partner organisation:** Christian Children's Fund – Kenya National Office

**Grant amount:** EUR 199,000

**Grant period:** May 2007 – May 2010

**Overall objective:** To provide support to mitigate the impact of HIV/AIDS on the well-being of young children in four high HIV-prevalent communities in western Kenya.

**Partner organisation:** IMPACT Research & Development Organization

**Grant amount:** EUR 34,795

**Grant period:** Jan. 2008 – Apr. 2008

**Overall objective:** To provide documented factual information, analysis and recommendations on focus, direction, potential partners and programme support mechanisms to guide the development of programmes that address the main issues within the care environment of children aged 0–8 years and their families living in poverty and/or who are affected/infected by HIV/AIDS in Kenya.

**Partner organisation:** Kenya Orphans Rural Development Programme

**Grant amount:** EUR 207,300

**Grant period:** Jan. 2008 – Jan. 2010

**Overall objective:** To strengthen partner communities' caregiving systems in providing and maintaining a continuum of care for young children's material, social, spiritual and emotional needs.

#### Mozambique

**Partner organisation:** International Child Development Programmes

**Grant amount:** EUR 7,432

**Grant period:** Jul. 2007 – Jul. 2007

**Overall objective:** To contribute to the International Child Development Programmes training workshop in Maputo, July 2007.

#### South Africa

**Partner organisation:** ACESS

**Grant amount:** EUR 254,800

**Grant period:** Jun. 2007 – Jun. 2009

**Overall objective:** To promote a comprehensive social security package for young children and children affected by HIV/AIDS.

**Partner organisation:** AIDS Foundation of South Africa

**Grant amount:** EUR 452,700

**Grant period:** Jan. 2008 – Jan. 2011

**Overall objective:** To mitigate the impact of HIV/AIDS on orphans, vulnerable children and their primary caregivers in three target communities in Free State Province.

**Partner organisation:** Community Development Resource Association

**Grant amount:** EUR 207,800

**Grant period:** Jul. 2007 – Jul. 2009

**Overall objective:** Collaboration of foundation partners and other selected organisations to share experiences and learning, build knowledge and collaborate in various ways to improve practice and policies in the early childhood development sector in South Africa.

**Partner organisation:** Lesedi Educare Association

**Grant amount:** EUR 249,000

**Grant period:** Dec. 2007 – Dec. 2010

**Overall objective:** To unleash the potential and strengthen the resilience of parents/caregivers and families to manage their lives more effectively in order to be able to provide a gentle, just and stimulating childhood for their young children.

**Partner organisation:** TREE

**Grant amount:** EUR 415,300

**Grant period:** Oct. 2007 – Oct. 2010

**Overall objective:** To improve the well-being of vulnerable young children in 20 marginalised communities in four regions of KwaZulu-Natal Province.

#### Uganda

**Partner organisation:** Action for Children

**Grant amount:** EUR 275,700

**Grant period:** Jan. 2007 – Jan. 2010

**Overall objective:** To strengthen the capacity of grandparents to care for orphans and other vulnerable children (0–8 years) in Kampala and Wakiso districts.

#### Zimbabwe

**Partner organisation:** Southern Africa AIDS Information Dissemination Service

**Grant amount:** EUR 57,600

**Grant period:** Dec. 2007 – Dec. 2008

**Overall objective:** To locate and support the fulfilment of children's rights and their potential within the fundamental cultural values of the people of Zimbabwe.

### Other Grants

#### Global

**Partner organisation:** Committee for Economic Development

**Grant amount:** EUR 100,000

**Grant period:** Jan. 2008 – Jan. 2009

**Overall objective:** To put on a series of three conferences – in the Netherlands, the USA and South Africa – promoting early childhood as an economic and business priority, and to identify business champions for early care and development.

**Partner organisation:** Consultative Group on Early Childhood Care and Development (CGECCD)

**Grant amount:** EUR 60,000

**Grant period:** Jan. 2007 – Jan. 2008

**Overall objective:** To support the CGECCD in its role as a platform bringing together early childhood development point persons from donor organisations, practitioner networks and academic institutions with the aim of fostering positive change for young children in developing countries.

**Partner organisation:** Consultative Group on Early Childhood Care and Development

**Grant amount:** EUR 40,000

**Grant period:** Nov. 2007 – Apr. 2008

**Overall objective:** To strengthen advocacy support by helping raise the profile and importance of early childhood development within the organisations represented by the Consultative Group members and other organisations.

#### Belgium

**Partner organisation:** European Foundation Centre

**Grant amount:** EUR 60,000

**Grant period:** Dec. 2007 – Dec. 2007

**Overall objective:** To enable the EFC secretariat to work further in benchmarking and capacity building by identifying and setting standards for the European foundation sector, as well as giving European funders a platform and mechanism to act at international/global level.

The Foundation's grantmaking in 2007: An overview by issue area

**Partner organisation:** NEF

**Grant amount:** EUR 20,000

**Grant period:** Apr. 2007 – Apr. 2008

**Overall objective:** To provide operating support to the European Foundation Centre's HIV/AIDS Funders Group.

**Netherlands**

**Partner organisation:** Zuidwalschool, Den Haag

**Grant amount:** EUR 3,000

**Grant period:** Jun. 2007 – Jun. 2007

**Overall objective:** To organise a thematic week and a one-day festivity for children and parents marking the international day against racism and discrimination.

**United Kingdom**

**Partner organisation:** The Open University

**Grant amount:** EUR 262,600

**Grant period:** Nov. 2007 – Dec. 2009

**Overall objective:** To develop clear advocacy messages for policymakers drawing on existing fields of established academic research in early childhood. It will lead to the publication of six editions of *Early Childhood in Focus (ECiF)* through 2008–2009. The intention is to promote right-based policy advocacy drawing on issues related through General Comment 7 to the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

**USA**

**Partner organisation:** Wolfensohn Center for Development/  
Brookings Institute

**Grant amount:** EUR 450,000

**Grant period:** Dec. 2007 – Jun. 2010

**Overall objective:** To draw lessons and insights regarding the delivery of sustainable early childhood development programmes at scale, and to use these lessons proactively to develop a more effective global advocacy strategy for support of early childhood development.

**Partner organisation:** Room to Read

**Grant amount:** EUR 30,000

**Grant period:** Dec. 2007 – May. 2008

**Overall objective:** To support Room to Read's March 2008 Chapter Leadership Conference.

# Governance

The Dutch legal system allows for considerable flexibility in the design of governance structures. Foundations are broadly structured along two models. In the first model the Board of Trustees is responsible for both oversight and execution of policy. This 'one-tier' Board structure is fairly common in what is known as the 'Anglo Saxon' system of governance. In the second, 'Rhineland', model, the Board's main responsibility is overseeing the foundation's strategy and operations in the broadest sense, while execution of policy (i.e., the daily operations) is delegated to an Executive Director or an executive board. The Bernard van Leer Foundation employs this 'two-tier' Board structure.

The fiduciary responsibility for fulfilling the vision and mission of the foundation, as laid down in the Articles of Association, fully rests with the Board of Trustees and cannot be delegated to an executive level. The Board is therefore tasked with the selection and appointment of the Executive Director, the approval of the strategic plan and annual financial and operational plans, and the general oversight of the functioning of the foundation. The Board meets four times per year, and more if and when necessary.

## Composition

All members of the Board are also member of the Board of Trustees of the Van Leer Group Foundation (see the Financial review on p. 35 for more about the Group), but they have different Chairs. This ensures that while there is alignment between funder and recipient on mission and values, the Bernard van Leer Foundation has the possibility of attracting other funders and partners while the Van Leer Group Foundation has room to fund more than one entity.

The Board of Trustees is currently composed of nine members. The Board selects and appoints its own members. Trustees generally serve up to a maximum of three four-year terms. The foundation's Trustees bring a wide range of knowledge of and experience in the areas of scholarship, business, government, policy and non-profit management to their task of governing the foundation.

The Board appoints from among its members a Chair and Vice-Chair. The Executive Director of the foundation serves as secretary to the Board. The Board members receive no remuneration but are reimbursed for expenses incurred in their capacity as Trustee.

## The board's oversight of grant making

Within the budget approved by the Board, the foundation makes more than 150 grants in a typical year. The Board has delegated authority for approving grants up to EUR 500,000 to the foundation's Executive Director. Higher amounts require approval by the Board. The Trustees review approved grants at their regular Board meetings. Trustees make periodic visits to selected partners worldwide together with a staff member of the foundation, which allows Trustees to meet grant recipients and learn about their work.

## Members of the Board of Trustees

**Peter Bell** (born 1940) joined the Foundation's Board of Trustees in 1986. Mr Bell is currently a visiting fellow at The Carter Center in Atlanta. He is vice chair of the Inter-American Dialogue and a trustee of the World Peace Foundation. He is a former chair of the ONE Campaign, CARE, Refugee Policy Group, and Advisory Council of the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs at Princeton. He obtained a B.A. in History at Yale College in 1962 and a Master's degree from the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs at Princeton in 1964.

**Joep Brentjens** (1940) has been a Board member since 1998. He is presently Chairman of the Supervisory Board of Heijmans NV, member of the Board of Fortis Obam NV, and Chairman of the Niels Stensen Foundation and the Lucas-Ooms Foundation.

**Gideon Frank** (1943) joined the Board in early 2008. Mr Frank is currently Vice Chair of the Board of the Israel Atomic Energy Commission. He obtained his BSc in Mechanical Engineering and MSc in Nuclear Sciences from Technion, Israel Institute of Technology.

**Rien van Gendt** (1943) became a Board member in 2007, after serving as Executive Director of the Van Leer Group Foundation since 2002. He served as Executive Director of the Bernard van Leer Foundation from 1988 till 2002. He is also a member of the Board of Trustees of the Van Leer Jerusalem Institute, the Jerusalem Film Center and of the Bernard Van Leer Stiftung in Lucerne, Switzerland. He has been General Manager of Crecor BV since 2002. He serves on the boards of several foundations, not-for-profit organisations and corporations in the Netherlands

## Governance

and abroad. Mr Van Gendt graduated as an economist from the University of Amsterdam in 1967 and received his PhD in Economic Studies in 1980.

**Wilfred Griekspoor** (1950) has been a Board member since 2005. He is Director Emeritus of McKinsey & Company, serves on the board of PharmAccess and is a founding board member of the AIDS Foundation East West. Mr Griekspoor holds an MSc in Physics from the University of Utrecht.

**Harry Leliveld** (1939) joined the Board in 2002. He is a member of the Board of Trustees of the Van Leer Jerusalem Institute and a member of the Stiftungsrat of the Bernard Van Leer Stiftung in Lucerne. He is also a member of the management board of Brack Capital Real Estate BV and a member of the Supervisory Board of Optas NV. He is advisor/consultant to the European Foundation Financial Investment Officers (EFFIO), Emeritus Member of the US Foundation Financial Officers Group and member of the board of the Amsterdam Zoo. Mr Leliveld has a MSc in Economics from the University of Amsterdam.

**Trude Maas-de Brouwer** (1946) has been on the Board since 2001 and has been Chair of the Board since 2002. She serves on several supervisory boards, including ABN AMRO, Philips Electronics Netherlands, Schiphol Group, Twynstra en Gudde and Arbo Unie. She participates in advisory groups with regard to lifelong learning, innovation in education and writes articles in the Dutch financial daily. Ms Maas has an MA in Linguistics from Utrecht University.

**Nancy Newcomb** (1945) has been Board member since 2001. Ms Newcomb currently serves on the Board of Directors of Moody's Corporation, Sysco Corporation, and the DirecTV Group, Inc. She also serves on the boards of the New York Historical Society, where she is co-chair of the Executive Committee, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute, and the Foundation for Landscape Studies. She has an MA in Economics from Boston University in 1968 and attended the Program for Management Development at the Harvard Business School.

**Ivar Samrén** (1938) joined the Board in 1981 and has been Chair of the Governing Council of the Van Leer Group Foundation since 1987. He has been a member of the Board of Trustees of the Van Leer Jerusalem Institute since 1988, and has served as its Chairman since July 1995. He currently serves as Chairman of the Egmont Group/Foundation and DFDS-Torline AS in Copenhagen. Mr Samrén graduated as an economist from the University of Lund in Sweden.

# Financial review

## **The Van Leer Group Foundation**

The Bernard van Leer Foundation receives the bulk of its income from the Van Leer Group Foundation, a charitable entity based in the Netherlands. Other members of the Van Leer Group Foundation are the Van Leer Jerusalem Institute, the Jerusalem Film Center and Crecor BV, all based or working in Israel. The income of the Bernard van Leer Foundation accounts for approximately 85% of the expenditures of the Van Leer Group Foundation.

In the late 1990s, the Van Leer Group Foundation sold Royal Packaging Industries Van Leer NV, which it had fully owned. The Van Leer Group Foundation's income now derives from a global portfolio of diversified investments. The value of the Van Leer Group Foundation's assets at the end of 2007 is approximately Euro 750 million. For more information about the Van Leer Group Foundation's investment policy, see its annual report on [www.vanleergroupfoundation.nl](http://www.vanleergroupfoundation.nl).

## **Salary benchmarking**

The salaries for all foundation staff, including the Executive Director, were benchmarked in 2007 against salaries of other, comparable professional organisations in the Netherlands. This analysis found that the foundation's salary levels had grown to be higher than those of benchmarked organisations. As a result, foundation management reduced salary scales. The foundation intends to conduct salary benchmarking exercises every three years.

## Abbreviated financial statements 2007

### **Income and expenditures**

#### **The Foundation's income**

The Bernard van Leer Foundation's income totalled EUR 23,206,800 in 2007. The Bernard van Leer Foundation received EUR 22,990,000 in 2007 (99.1% of total income) from the Van Leer Group Foundation. The remainder came from income from interest (EUR 216,800 or 0.9%).

#### **The Foundation's expenditure**

In 2007, a total of EUR 18,585,900 was approved in grants. After corrections for some cancelled projects, this resulted in a total grantmaking of EUR 18,293,800. In addition, a further EUR 1,078,300 was allocated to projects implemented directly by the foundation ('foundation-managed projects') rather than by partner organisations.

That brings the total of programmatic spending to EUR 19,372,100, making up 78.1% of the foundation's total expenditure in 2007, with the remaining 21.9% (EUR 5,446,500) being administrative spending. In the foundation's Statement of Strategic Intent the administrative spending was anticipated at an average of 22% for the period 2007–09.

#### **The Foundation's balance**

Total expenditure exceeded total income by EUR 1,611,800. In 2007, the foundation deducted EUR 22,400 from the indexation of pensions. As a consequence the general reserve decreased from EUR 2,400,900 to EUR 811,500. The reserve should be further reduced to EUR 0 by 2008.



The Adam Institute for Democracy and Peace addresses major rifts in Israeli society by working towards conflict resolution through “democracy education.” The project takes such education to kindergartens where young children hear stories and engage in activities that stimulate them to think about living together and resolving conflicts.

*Photo: Barbara Rosenstein*

**Balance sheet at December 31**

	<b>2007</b>	<b>2006</b>
	EUR	EUR
<b>Assets</b>		
<b>Fixed assets</b>		
Book value fixed assets	106,800	135,400
<b>Long-term assets</b>		
Guarantee Network of European Foundations	60,000	60,000
	<u>166,800</u>	<u>195,400</u>
<b>Current assets</b>		
Van Leer Group Foundation current account	22,208,200	22,276,500
Debtors	727,100	732,800
Cash & Bank	3,933,800	5,717,300
	<u>26,869,100</u>	<u>28,726,600</u>
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>27,035,900</b>	<b>28,922,000</b>
<b>Available funds and liabilities</b>		
<b>Available funds</b>		
Nominal foundation capital	453,800	453,800
Reserved for indexation of pensions	437,300	459,700
General reserve	811,500	2.400.900
	<u>1,702,600</u>	<u>3,314,400</u>
<b>Other funds</b>		
Approved but not yet committed project grants	5,135,600	6,914,200
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Project commitments	19,377,900	17,844,700
Creditors	819,800	848,700
	<u>20,197,700</u>	<u>18,693,400</u>
<b>Total available funds and liabilities</b>	<b>27,035,900</b>	<b>28,922,000</b>

**Income and expenditure account for the year**

	<b>2007</b>	<b>2006</b>
	EUR	EUR
<b>Income</b>		
Van Leer Group Foundation	22,990,00	23,620,000
Co-funders <sup>1</sup>	0	395,000
Interest	216,800	158,100
	<b>23,206,800</b>	<b>24,173,100</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Grants	18,293,800	19,001,300
Foundation managed projects	1,078,300	1,016,600
Administration and programme services	5,446,500	4,999,600
	<b>24,818,600</b>	<b>25,017,500</b>
<b>Operating result</b>	<b>-1,611,800</b>	<b>-844,400</b>

1. The reduction in co-funding is largely due to the finalisation of a grant from the Dutch Ministry for Development Cooperation.

**General principles**

All assets and liabilities are stated at face value, unless otherwise indicated. Outstanding commitments in foreign exchange are valued at the rates of exchange at balance sheet date. All figures are either rounded up or down to the nearest EUR 100. Income is accounted for in the period to which it is related. The amounts mentioned under Co-funders are accounted for in the period of receiving the amounts, unless the funding can be unambiguously allocated to a particular year. Expenditure is accounted for in the period to which it is related or to which it is committed.

**Specific principles**

Tangible fixed assets are valued at purchase cost after deduction of depreciation based on the estimated lifetime of the assets. The loans due within one year are included under current assets. Cash and Bank in foreign currencies are valued at the rates of exchange at balance sheet date. Cancellations of projects are included under grants expenditure.

### Cash flow statement for the year

	<b>2007</b>	<b>2006</b>
	EUR	EUR
<b>Receipts</b>		
Van Leer Group Foundation	23,058,300	23,629,600
Co-funders	0	395,000
Interest	216,800	158,100
Repayment loan	0	33,200
	<b>23,275,100</b>	<b>24,215,900</b>
<b>Disbursements</b>		
Projects	18,539,100	19,432,900
Administration	6,467,900	6,493,600
Purchases of fixed assets	51,600	80,100
	<b>25,055,900</b>	<b>26,006,600</b>
Increase in cash & bank	<b>-1,783,500</b>	<b>-1,790,700</b>
<b>Increase in cash &amp; bank</b>		
Balance cash & bank December 31	3,933,800	5,717,300
Balance cash & bank January 1	5,717,300	7,508,000
	<b>-1,783,500</b>	<b>-1,790,700</b>



The Comenius Foundation's "Where there are no pre-schools" project works to consolidate alternative early education and development services for children aged 3–5 in rural and remote communities in Poland. It trains educators in child observation skills, working with mixed age groups, creating open and stimulating classroom environments as well as cooperating with parents.

*Photo: Courtesy Comenius Foundation*

## Administration and programme services

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	<b>Total Actual 2007 EUR</b>	<b>Total Actual 2006 EUR</b>
<b>Board of Trustees</b>	156,000	94,600
<b>Staff</b>		
a) salaries	2,915,300	2,857,300
b) social charges	796,800	544,200
c) general staff cost	163,300	124,200
d) recruitment	55,800	49,500
e) staff development	27,200	72,300
f) temporary personnel	29,700	8,300
	<b>3,988,100</b>	<b>3,655,800</b>
Consultants	98,400	145,400
Staff travel/Hospitality	322,700	230,100
Documentation	23,300	26,400
Premises	427,100	433,500
Office equipment	159,300	156,400
Office expenses	16,300	27,100
Telecommunication	51,300	54,000
Public relations	11,300	12,100
External auditors	41,100	35,100
General costs	151,600	129,100
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,446,500</b>	<b>4,999,600</b>

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## The Foundation's grant making

In 2007 the foundation made grants for a total of EUR 18,585,900 (table 1). Table 2 shows the grantmaking per issue area. Table 3 indicates how grants are distributed over developing and industrialised countries, while table 4 shows the grants made per country. Details of the main grants made by the foundation in 2007 can be found in the overview of the foundation's grantmaking on pages 13–32 of this report.

**Table 1: Overall grantmaking**

Number of projects	134
Total amount (EUR 1,000)	18,586
Average (nearest EUR 1,000)	139

**Table 2: Grantmaking by issue area**

	Care	Diversity	Transitions	Other grants
Number of projects	44	41	40	9
Total amount (EUR 1,000)	5,435	5,829	6,296	1,026
Average (nearest EUR 1,000)	120	140	160	110
% Total amount	29%	31%	34%	6%

**Table 3: Grantmaking by developing/industrialised countries**

	Developing	Industrialised
Number of projects	80	54
Total amount (EUR 1,000)	11,500	7,086
Average (nearest EUR 1,000)	144	131
% Total amount	62%	38%

**Table 4: Amounts granted per country in 2007 (amounts in EUR)**

	<b>No. of projects</b>	<b>Amount granted</b>	<b>% of total</b>
Regional, etc.	13	1,229,600	6.62%
Belgium	3	129,000	0.69%
Brazil	4	590,400	3.18%
Canada	1	24,000	0.13%
Caribbean	8	907,300	4.88%
Colombia	3	363,000	1.95%
Cyprus	2	340,000	1.83%
Egypt	2	330,000	1.78%
Germany	1	74,900	0.40%
Greece	3	485,000	2.61%
India	2	256,700	1.38%
Indonesia	2	162,100	0.87%
Ireland	1	150,000	0.81%
Israel	8	1,847,900	9.94%
Jamaica	1	90,000	0.48%
Kenya	6	995,700	5.36%
Malaysia	2	630,700	3.39%
Mexico	11	1,365,600	7.35%
Morocco	1	345,100	1.86%
Mozambique	5	300,000	1.61%
Netherlands	10	1,037,400	5.58%
Peru	3	790,500	4.25%
Poland	2	115,000	0.62%
South Africa	7	1,590,700	8.56%
Tanzania	6	771,600	4.15%
Thailand	1	300,000	1.61%
Turkey	2	66,800	0.36%
Uganda	3	518,200	2.79%
United Kingdom	4	947,000	5.10%
USA	11	1,356,800	7.30%
Venezuela	2	118,900	0.64%
Zimbabwe	4	356,000	1.92%
<b>Total</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>18,585,900</b>	<b>100%</b>



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## AUDITORS' REPORT

### *Introduction*

We have audited whether the accompanying abbreviated financial statements of Stichting Bernard van Leer Foundation, The Hague, for the year 2007 (as set out on pages 35 to 43) have been derived consistently from the audited financial statements of Stichting Bernard van Leer Foundation for the year 2007. In our auditors' report dated May 22, 2008 we expressed an unqualified opinion on these financial statements. Management is responsible for the preparation of the abbreviated financial statements in accordance with the accounting policies as applied in the 2007 financial statements of Stichting Bernard van Leer Foundation. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these abbreviated financial statements.

### *Scope*

We conducted our audit in accordance with Dutch law. This law requires that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance that the abbreviated financial statements have been derived consistently from the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

### *Opinion*

In our opinion, these abbreviated financial statements have been derived consistently, in all material respects, from the financial statements.

### *Emphasis of Matter*

For a better understanding of the company's financial position and results and the scope of our audit, we emphasize that the abbreviated financial statements should be read in conjunction with the unabridged financial statements, from which the abbreviated financial statements were derived and our unqualified auditors' report thereon dated May 22, 2008. Our opinion is not qualified in respect of this matter.

The Hague, May 22, 2008

for Ernst & Young Accountants

Signed by P.J.A.M. Jongstra

# Publications in 2007

Bernard van Leer Foundation publications are available free of charge in both paper and electronic formats. You can download PDF files and order paper copies via our website <[www.bernardvanleer.org](http://www.bernardvanleer.org)>.

## Working Papers

### Early Childhood in Brazil: General overview and current issues

Working Paper 44

Gabriela Azevedo de Aguiar, Gary Barker, Marcos Nascimento and Márcio Segundo

What is Brazil doing for its youngest children? Governments have prioritised the education system, whose failings are well documented, but not early childhood development. Nonetheless, there are numerous examples of good practice in early childhood education in Brazil, including children's participation and progressive pedagogies that build on local cultures. This paper concludes that the missing pieces are political will, accountability and investment.

36 pages | ISBN 978-90-6195-099-8

### Bringing politics into the nursery: Early childhood education as a democratic practice

Working Paper 43

Peter Moss

Care and education for young children are often understood primarily as a commodity to be provided in the marketplace, or as a kind of factory to produce human capital. But institutions for children and young people can also serve a very different role. They can be understood as forums for democratic political practice. This is a choice that we, as citizens, can make. This paper applies the idea of democracy to a wide range of institutions providing education and care for young children.

40 pages | ISBN 978-90-6195-097-4

### Outcomes of good practice in transition processes for children entering primary school

Working Paper 42

Hilary Fabian and Aline-Wendy Dunlop

The transition to primary school is one of the greatest challenges of early childhood. Handled well, it can set children into a virtuous cycle of learning. But how can transitions be made more effective? Based on a background paper for UNESCO's Education for All Global Monitoring Report 2007, this paper assesses the literature and draws lessons about ways of forging links between primary schools, children's home

environments and early childhood programmes.

40 pages | ISBN 978-90-6195-096-7

### Is everybody ready? Readiness, transition and continuity: Reflections and moving forward

Working Paper 41

Caroline Arnold, Kathy Bartlett, Saima Gowani and Rehana Merali

This working paper considers ways to tackle early drop-out and under-achievement at school. It examines transitions from both home and early childhood programmes, examining how the latter can be designed to address poverty and exclusion. It also looks at why the 6–8-year age group of 0–8s is typically ignored by professionals and policymakers, and what is needed to sustain good practices and learning during the vital early years of formal schooling.

56 pages | ISBN 978-90-6195-095-0

## Early Childhood Matters / Espacio para la Infancia

### Strengthening the young child's care environment

Early Childhood Matters 109

This edition of *Early Childhood Matters* is devoted to the Foundation's issue area 'Strengthening the care environment'. It lays out the foundation's thinking on both the 'near environment' of parents, caregivers and teachers and the 'further environment' of systems, policies and public opinion. Emphasising the importance of taking a holistic approach to young children's development, it includes contributions from CARE USA and Right to Play along with views from Guatemala, Thailand, Jamaica, Uganda and Colombia.

58 pages | ISSN 1387-9553

### Fortaleciendo el ambiente de cuidado del niño pequeño

Espacio para la Infancia 28

Esta edición de Espacio para la Infancia está dedicada al área temática de la Fundación: "Fortaleciendo el ambiente de cuidado". En ella se muestra la visión de la Fundación con respecto al "entorno cercano" de los padres, los cuidadores y profesores y el "entorno general" de los sistemas, políticas y de la opinión pública. Prestando especial atención a la importancia



One of the objectives of the Roving Caregivers programme in Dominica is to facilitate strong parent–child bonding and early stimulation for children up to 3 years of age. The foundation has supported the programme for many years.

*Photo: Peter de Ruiter*

de aplicar un enfoque holístico para el desarrollo de los niños pequeños, en este número podrá encontrar las experiencias de CARE de Estados Unidos y de la organización Right to Play (Derecho a Jugar), así como otras de Guatemala, Colombia, Tailandia, las Antillas, Zimbabwe y Uganda.

60 páginas | ISSN 1566-6476

#### **Promoting social inclusion and respect for diversity in the early years**

Early Childhood Matters 108

This issue of ECM takes a close look at one of the three new programme areas guiding the foundation's work: Social inclusion and respect for diversity. It includes contributions from Michel Vandenbroek, Martha Friendly, Jeanette Rhedding-Jones and Paul Connolly, and an interview with Martha Nussbaum. It deals with issues ranging from immigrant parents to indigenous communities, and includes insights from Albania, Nepal, Israel and Northern Ireland.

60 pages | ISSN 1387-9553

#### **Promoviendo la inclusión social y el respeto por la diversidad en los primeros años**

Espacio para la Infancia 27

Esta edición de Espacio para la Infancia presenta en mayor profundidad una de las tres áreas temáticas que guían el trabajo de la Fundación: Inclusión social y respeto por la diversidad. Como punto de partida, este número presenta el Marco de referencia de la Fundación en este área, así como varios artículos de reconocidos expertos en el ámbito internacional. También presenta ejemplos de experiencias sobre el trabajo llevado a cabo con padres inmigrantes o sobre el establecimiento de una red de organizaciones en Centroamérica. Otros ejemplos proceden de Albania, Nepal or Israel.

64 páginas | ISSN 1566-6476

overviews of finances and grantmaking in 2006. There is also an executive summary in Spanish.

56 pages | ISBN 978-90-6195-098-1

#### **Monograph**

Guía a la Observación General N° 7: Realización de los derechos del niño en la primera infancia

Esta publicación constituye una guía exhaustiva y práctica con respecto a la aplicación de la Convención sobre los Derechos del Niño y más concretamente cuando se refiere a los niños pequeños. El libro trata sobre la Observación general N° 7 del Comité de los Derechos del Niño de las Naciones Unidas, aprobada en septiembre de 2005, y sobre el día de debate general, celebrado en septiembre de 2004, y el cual originó dicha observación general. Contiene, oportunamente resumidas, las contribuciones presentadas al Comité para esa jornada, junto con otros materiales pertinentes.

228 páginas | ISBN 978-90-6195-094-3

#### **Corporate**

##### **Annual Report 2006**

The Bernard van Leer Foundation's Annual Report for 2006 centres on the foundation's key advocacy messages for the issue area 'Successful transitions: The continuum between home and school'. It includes a foreword by the Chair of the Board of Trustees, a report from the Executive Director, and



The foundation supports projects in Kenya that help rural communities to establish early childhood development daycare centres. These provide young children with nutritious meals, opportunities for social and psychological development, and pre-school learning without which many would not go on to primary school.

*Photo: Karen I. Ande*

# Resumen ejecutivo

**En este capítulo les presentamos un resumen del contenido de esta edición de la Memoria Anual. Durante el año 2007, la Fundación ha dedicado mayores esfuerzos para reforzar las actividades dirigidas a incidir en las políticas públicas relacionadas con la primera infancia. A continuación mostramos un extracto de algunas de estas iniciativas y de los resultados que se espera obtener de las mismas. Por último, les ofrecemos una muestra de seis proyectos financiados con anterioridad por la Fundación y los logros obtenidos en consecuencia.**

En su prólogo a esta edición de la Memoria Anual, la presidenta del Consejo de Administración de la Fundación Bernard van Leer, Trude Maas-de Brouwer, destaca la importancia del valor del dinero en períodos de dificultades económicas y considera a la comunidad empresarial como un socio potencial para encauzar los mensajes de la Fundación. Puesto que nuestra institución surgió a partir de los sueños y ambiciones de una familia de tradición industrial, la presidenta añade que ésta es una dirección lógica y natural a explorar.

También rinde homenaje al director ejecutivo Peter Laugharn, que abandona la Fundación tras seis años de estar a su cargo. En su contribución a este informe, el Sr. Laugharn señala que en estos momentos tiene lugar un cambio más trascendental que su propia salida de la Fundación: la jubilación de Ivar Samrén, el miembro que durante más años ha prestado servicio al Consejo de Administración y el último en haber sido personalmente designado por Oscar van Leer.

Con la jubilación de Ivar Samrén, la Fundación se separa un poco más de la influencia directa de su familia fundadora. Peter Laugharn centra su atención en la necesidad de establecer un equilibrio entre la continuidad y el cambio. Debemos estar conscientemente decididos a representar los valores esenciales con los que la Fundación Bernard van Leer fue creada, sin quedar anclados en el pasado, especialmente si al hacerlo renunciamos a la oportunidad de obrar de la mejor manera posible.

## **Nuevos enfoques con incidencia en políticas**

La sección especial de esta Memoria Anual está dedicada a los planteamientos que Trude Maas-de Brouwer y Peter Laugharn hacen sobre la mayor atención prestada por la Fundación al apoyo de actividades con incidencia política. Al igual que muchas personas que las instituyeron (como es el caso de Bernard van Leer), las fundaciones privadas se han venido mostrando a menudo comedidas y modestas, adecuando sus

enfoques hacia la filantropía. Pero los tiempos están cambiando. Y es que, cada vez con mayor frecuencia, no sólo se acepta, sino que se espera que las fundaciones sean capaces de maximizar el efecto beneficioso que aspiran lograr.

La Fundación se ha embarcado en una importante iniciativa denominada “Apalancamiento de la evidencia”, que desarrollamos con mayor detalle a lo largo de este resumen. Un total de alrededor de 700.000 euros (equivalentes a un 3,5% del presupuesto total dirigido a la concesión de subvenciones) han sido destinados a esta iniciativa. El trabajo de campo seguirá constituyendo la piedra angular de las actividades de la Fundación y por lo tanto, la vía hacia la que se canalizan la mayor parte de sus fondos destinados a la financiación de programas. La experiencia en el terreno es, al fin y al cabo, la que genera la riqueza del conocimiento acerca de cómo mejorar la vida de los niños que viven en condiciones de desventaja, el cual hemos ido acumulando a lo largo de los años y sobre el que aspiramos a seguir construyendo en el futuro. El fin último del “Apalancamiento de la evidencia” es llevar este conocimiento a la atención de los diseñadores de políticas que disponen del potencial necesario para beneficiar a muchos más niños de los que la Fundación podría nunca anhelar.

Nic van der Jagt, recientemente incorporado a la plantilla como el primer Oficial de Políticas Públicas de la Fundación, afirma que “el desarrollo de la primera infancia es similar a otras muchas causas sociales en el sentido de que, aunque tiene un grupo fiel y articulado de expertos y defensores, no está muy bien conectado con las personas que cuentan con el poder de influir en las políticas públicas y sociales. Además, se tiende a continuar “predicando a los conversos” en lugar de esforzarse por acceder a aquellas personas a las que resultaría más útil convencer. Dicho de otro modo, el problema no es el mensaje, sino encontrar el mensajero adecuado capaz de hacer llegar el mensaje a aquéllos que más necesitan escucharlo”.

## Resumen ejecutivo

Esta es la filosofía que hay detrás de la denominada *Business Champions* (Campeones Empresariales), la primera fase de la iniciativa “Apalancamiento de la evidencia”, un proyecto de colaboración entre la Fundación, el Centro Wolfensohn para el Desarrollo (*Wolfensohn Centre for Development*) y la Comisión para el Desarrollo Económico (*Committee for Economic Development*). Su objetivo es exponer los dirigentes empresariales de alto perfil a los sólidos argumentos sobre la evidencia de que el aumento de la inversión pública en programas de calidad para la primera infancia ofrece interesantes compensaciones económicas duraderas para la sociedad.

El planteamiento es muy simple. En primer lugar, los líderes empresariales son una audiencia natural para la prueba concluyente de la relación coste-beneficio sobre la inversión en la primera infancia. Y por otro lado, sus opiniones suelen ser tomadas en cuenta en las decisiones de los gobiernos. Esto es especialmente cierto en los ministerios de finanzas y de planificación, donde los funcionarios públicos tienden a ser especialmente duros y exigentes con los defensores habituales de la primera infancia.

¿Qué se espera del hecho de que la comunidad empresarial respalde nuestros argumentos? En general, la respuesta a esta pregunta significa “ampliar la escala”, es decir, que se tomen aquellos programas que han demostrado su valor en una escala relativamente pequeña y aplicarlos a grupos de niños más numerosos. Éste es el objetivo último que persigue el programa de concesión de subvenciones de la Fundación, y algo que por lo general requiere el compromiso de los dirigentes de gobierno nacionales o locales. Y además, constituye uno de los objetivos de la política pública internacional.

Pero hay un problema. No todos los programas que funcionan a pequeña escala, tienen el mismo éxito cuando se amplía su proporción. De ahí la segunda parte del “Apalancamiento de la evidencia”, un programa de investigación-acción financiado por la Fundación y llevado a cabo por la *Brookings Institution*. Se trata de un estudio de varios ejemplos de programas ampliados de escala que se llevaron a cabo con éxito y de otros que no, para así examinar sus principales diferencias.

La investigación también permitirá analizar qué obstáculos han impedido que la primera infancia no haya figurado como

prioritaria a lo largo de los años. Este trabajo buscaría mejorar la política pública internacional sobre la base de un mayor entendimiento pragmático acerca de cómo superar dichos obstáculos, que a menudo han frustrado los esfuerzos de los defensores de la primera infancia en la búsqueda de acciones prometedoras y susceptibles de ser ampliadas de escala.

El tercer componente del “Apalancamiento de la evidencia” es una nueva asociación con el Grupo Consultivo sobre la Atención y Desarrollo de la Primera Infancia (*Consultative Group on Early Childhood Care and Development -CGECCD*) destinada a reforzar sus estrategias de apoyo sobre la incidencia política. El CGECCD ha hecho progresos considerables en la precisión de sus mensajes sobre la primera infancia. Se espera que esta alianza contribuya a desarrollar aún más su capacidad para que sus mensajes tengan mayor alcance y que inciten a la acción.

#### La importancia de las alianzas para conseguir un mayor impacto

Los esfuerzos sobre incidencia política mencionados hasta ahora no representan un nuevo punto de partida pero sí un avance en un terreno explorado con anterioridad por la Fundación. La experiencia de influir sobre los financiadores y los formuladores de políticas obtenida en la edición de 2006 de la Conferencia Internacional sobre SIDA, está ayudando a actualizar los progresos para la edición de 2008, gracias a las alianzas establecidas con la Iniciativa Conjunta de Aprendizaje sobre la Niñez y SIDA (*Joint Learning Initiative on Children and AIDS -JLICA*) y la Coalición sobre los niños afectados por el SIDA (*Coalition on Children Affected by AIDS -CCABA*). La Iniciativa (JLICA) no deja de acumular pruebas contrastadas sobre lo que mejor funciona en términos del fortalecimiento de las familias, el apoyo a la acción comunitaria, la provisión de servicios esenciales y el establecimiento y aplicación de políticas útiles. Mientras tanto, la Coalición (CCABA) promueve programas de la primera infancia como una de las respuestas políticas más importantes para el gran número de niños afectados por la pandemia.

Otras iniciativas se centran en dar forma a la agenda de los medios de comunicación en torno a la próxima Conferencia Internacional sobre el SIDA, puesto que la cobertura periodística del VIH/SIDA todavía tiende a estar dominada por imágenes negativas; esto es especialmente cierto cuando se trata de niños pequeños, que rara vez aparecen en los

medios de comunicación a no ser que sea para provocar la compasión hacia ellos. Para alentar los esfuerzos de emplearse con seriedad y sensibilidad en las difíciles condiciones de vida a las que se enfrentan las personas afectadas, la Fundación ha trabajado con una organización de comunicación para el desarrollo, PANOS, y el escritor Anthony Swift, en un conjunto de materiales que comprende un libro, informes sobre políticas, materiales de prensa para la sensibilización y una exposición itinerante de fotografías.

Durante el año 2007, la Fundación, en colaboración con la Universidad Abierta (*Open University*) también desarrolló un nuevo activo sobre incidencia política: la serie de publicaciones denominada “La Primera Infancia en Perspectiva”. Con las dos ediciones publicadas en 2007 (acerca de cómo los niños establecen relaciones de apego y sobre cómo manejar la transición a la escuela primaria), esta nueva serie pronto se ha constituido en el recurso que permite traducir el complejo pensamiento académico en mensajes claros y sencillos para que sean de mayor utilidad a los defensores de políticas públicas dirigidas a la primera infancia.

En términos generales, cuando se trata de la primera infancia, los mensajes sobre incidencia política se pueden dividir en dos grupos. Los que basan sus argumentos sobre los principios de los derechos del niño y que responden a lo establecido en la Convención sobre los Derechos del Niño y la relativa Observación General N° 7 sobre la aplicación de los derechos del niño en la primera infancia, y por otro lado, los que se basan en los beneficios pragmáticos de invertir en la primera infancia. Éste último, será abordado en una de las tres ediciones de La Primera Infancia en Perspectiva previstas para el año 2008.

Obviamente, estos grupos de mensajes no se excluyen entre sí; es más, se deberían complementar. En materia de políticas públicas, la Fundación echa mano de ambos, de acuerdo a lo que mejor funciona en su contexto. Como cabe esperar, la iniciativa ‘Campeones Empresariales’, contribuirá de forma más natural al grupo pragmático. Pero en 2007, también aprendimos más acerca de cómo un marco de referencia sobre los derechos del niño puede influir en las políticas públicas, y fue a través de nuestra iniciativa para evaluar la forma en que Jamaica ha puesto en práctica las recomendaciones de la Observación General N° 7.

### **El respaldo de la neurociencia y la necesidad de la divulgación**

Según Trude Maas-de Brouwer, “éste es un momento emocionante para la promoción y defensa de la primera infancia. El sólido argumento económico sobre la inversión en los niños pequeños se está complementando cada vez más con la verificable evidencia de la neurociencia. Los expertos en primera infancia, siempre han argumentado que los ambientes de los niños pequeños dejan efectos duraderos sobre muchos aspectos de sus vidas. Ahora, este argumento puede ser corroborado por las llamativas imágenes de las conexiones neuronales que demuestran gráficamente la forma en que los diferentes ambientes, literalmente, dan forma al cerebro de un niño pequeño.”

Tales descubrimientos no cambiarán nada si no se dan a conocer, una acción en la que los principales medios de comunicación pueden desempeñar un papel fundamental. Por lo tanto, en 2008, un cuarto componente, las Becas Oscar van Leer de Periodismo, será añadido al “Apalancamiento de la evidencia”. Estas becas, que sustituyen al Premio Oscar van Leer, serán concedidas con periodicidad anual a cuatro periodistas. El objetivo es mejorar la cantidad y la calidad de la cobertura de los medios de comunicación dirigida a la primera infancia, posibilitando que periodistas procedentes de los países en desarrollo puedan acceder a las mejores prácticas internacionales y de este modo puedan transferir los conocimientos y habilidades adquiridos a sus propios compañeros periodistas en sus países de origen.

### **La responsabilidad de informar de los resultados**

Tal y como el director ejecutivo Peter Laugharn señala, nuestra creciente aspiración por influir sobre la formulación de políticas exige una mayor responsabilidad y transparencia acerca de quiénes somos, el trabajo que hacemos y cómo lo estamos llevando a cabo. La Fundación ha sido históricamente innovadora en este sentido: hace dos décadas, fuimos una de las primeras fundaciones europeas en publicar su Memoria Anual. En la presente edición, el informe refleja algunas de las observaciones emitidas por el jurado holandés del ‘Premio a la Transparencia’ sobre nuestro informe del año pasado. Por lo tanto, en esta edición damos una mayor importancia no sólo a las subvenciones concedidas sino a también a los resultados obtenidos en consecuencia.



The “Espaço protegido” project of the Centro de Criação de Imagem Popular (CECIP) in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, aims at creating a safe space for learning in a *favela*, where children lack proper educational services and are often the victim of violence. CECIP promotes children’s rights and helps improve children’s chances to make the transition to primary school.

*Photo: Jon Spaul*

Para ello, incluimos los informes de seis de los proyectos seleccionados:

- La labor del colectivo Musharaka - que significa “asociación” en árabe - se centra en desarrollar una pedagogía y unos materiales más ricos y genuinos para los niños pequeños árabes en Israel, con el fin de mejorar la calidad técnica de adiestramiento a disposición de los educadores árabes para la primera infancia en ese país;
- El proyecto “Niños y niñas protagonistas de su desarrollo” está cambiando gradualmente la actitud hacia la infancia en zonas rurales marginadas del centro de Colombia, mediante la formación de agentes educativos en las comunidades locales;
- Los éxitos de la fundación contraparte griega, Schedia, al mejorar las oportunidades de los niños pequeños de la comunidad turco-musulmana de habla griega y de las comunidades inmigrantes albanesas través de su “Centro de promoción de respeto por la diversidad”, la formación del profesorado y el trabajo con la municipalidad local;
- Las lecciones aprendidas de un proyecto ejecutado por Save the Children en Uganda entre las comunidades de pastores nómadas, con el objetivo de mejorar la efectividad de la “Educación Básica Alternativa” en Karomoja mediante la incorporación de distintas áreas dedicadas a la provisión del cuidado de los niños pequeños;
- Cómo los libros, manuales de capacitación y otras obras del proyecto “STEPS” (Cuentos para apoyo a padres con niños en edad preescolar), llevado a cabo por la organización El Arte en Acción (*Arts-in-Action*), de la Universidad West Indies, se están incorporando a los servicios para el cuidado y la atención de la primera infancia a lo largo de la región caribeña, y

- La iniciativa “El Buen trato entra por casa” desarrollada por los Centros Comunitarios de Aprendizaje (CECODAP), que consiste en una campaña de movilización de medios a partir del trabajo comunitario a pequeña escala que fue la base de una campaña nacional, y que culmina en una ley nacional en Venezuela que prohíbe el maltrato físico y verbal en el hogar y en la escuela.

En los próximos años, esperamos poder incorporar más informes de este tipo –e incluso de mayor calidad- ya que nuestra recientemente estructurada y fortalecida unidad de ‘Supervisión, Evaluación, Estudios e Información’ estará en condiciones para informar sobre los resultados de las primeras subvenciones concedidas bajo nuestra reciente Declaración de Intención Estratégica.



A crowded classroom in Laos with children of different ages. High rates of class repetition make the school system inefficient and lead to a massive drain on both public and household resources. In many countries, it takes an average of 1.4 years to complete one grade of school. The problem of class repetition is particularly acute at the start of formal education.

*Photo: Jim Holmes*

# Our staff at 1 May 2008

2007 recruitments included a new Programme Officer and a new Manager for the Monitoring and Evaluation, Studies and Information (MESI) unit, and a new Studies Officer is to be appointed in 2008. A full-time Monitoring and Evaluation Officer position has been created, recognising the importance of this function to the foundation. The position of Public Policy Officer was created to support the foundation's promotion of early childhood as an international public policy issue (see our feature essay on this topic on p. 9). With these recruitments and new positions, the staffing for the 2007–09 foundation strategy is complete.

## Executive Office

Peter Laugharn Executive Director  
Jane Hartman-de Boer Secretary to the Executive Director  
Nic van der Jagt Public Policy Officer

Reinhard Skinner Monitoring and Evaluation Officer  
René Schoenmakers Manager  
Sonja Wehrmann Resource Centre Assistant  
Vacancy Studies Officer

## Issue Area: Social Inclusion and Respect for Diversity

Michael Feigelson Programme Officer  
Norma Fischer Assistant  
Shanti George Programme Officer  
Jacqueline Hayden Programme Manager  
Leanne Lynch-Curry Assistant  
Rita Swinnen Programme Officer

## Proposal Administration

Essie Karting-Hallegua Support Officer  
Lia de Ruiter Proposal Administrator

## Support Services

Rutger Wijnands Manager

## Issue Area: Strengthening the Care Environment

Jolanda de Haan Assistant  
Marc Mataheru Programme Officer  
Aloysius Pereira Programme Manager  
Jackie Ratsma-Melville Assistant  
Nyambura Rugoiyo Programme Officer  
Huub Schreurs Senior Programme Officer

## Facilities

Marijke Schoenmaker Cleaner  
Trees Plugge Cleaner

## Financial Administration

Jane Moerland Financial Officer  
Jimmy Visser Financial Officer

## Issue Area: Successful Transitions

Alicia Fernández Assistant  
Liana Gertsch Programme Manager  
Joke Junger Assistant  
Jeanet van de Korput Programme Officer  
Stephan Meershoek Programme Officer  
Leonardo Yáñez Programme Officer

## Human Resources

Agnes Buis HR Officer/Administrator  
Sylvia Erwig-de Haas HR Officer  
Margriet Wolters HR Officer

## Publishing

Angela Barrau-Ernst Editorial Assistant  
Jan van Dongen Manager  
Teresa Moreno Writer/Editor Spanish Publications

## Information and Communication Technology

Steffan Hoeke ICT Officer  
Ellen Uijterwijk ICT Officer

## Monitoring and Evaluation, Studies and Information (MESI)

Anne Bergsma-Schierbeek Head of Resource Centre  
Vera van der Grift-Wanyoto Information Management Assistant

## Reception

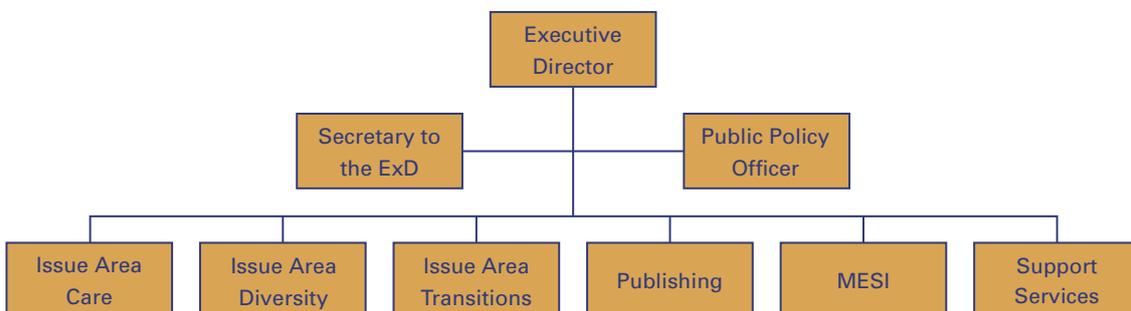
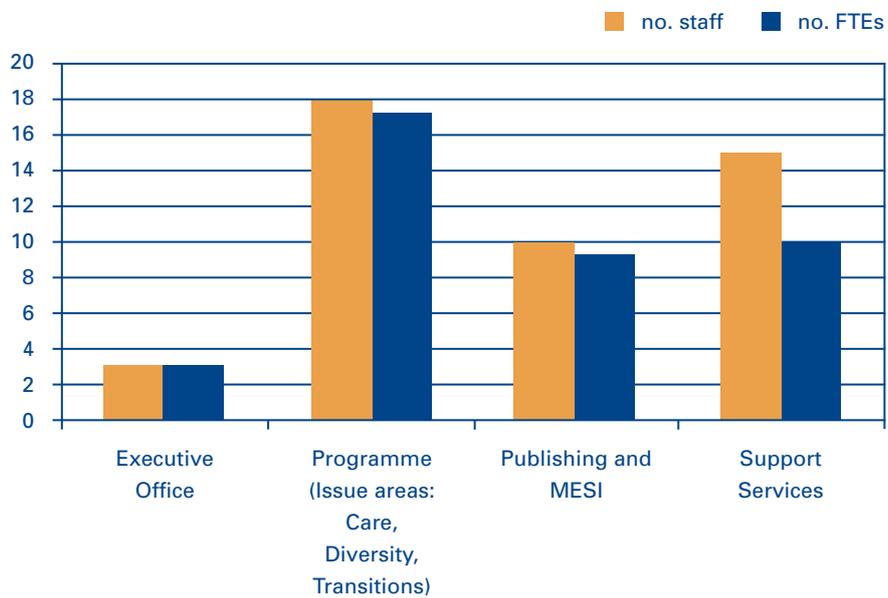
Marian Meyer Receptionist/Telephonist  
Teresa Pegge Receptionist/Telephonist  
Vicky Westerik Receptionist/Telephonist

## Travel Conferences and Visitors' Services

Inge Hanny-de Leau Assistant  
Pamela Visscher-Verheusen Head

Our staff at 1 May 2008

The chart below compares the number of staff with the number of FTEs (full-time equivalents) in the various departments of the foundation. The foundation has a total of 47 staff, all based at its offices in The Hague; the total number of FTEs is 40.





## About the Bernard van Leer Foundation

The Bernard van Leer Foundation funds and shares knowledge about work in early childhood development. The foundation was established in 1949 and is based in the Netherlands. Our income is derived from the bequest of Bernard van Leer, a Dutch industrialist and philanthropist, who lived from 1883 to 1958.

Our mission is to improve opportunities for children up to age 8 who are growing up in socially and economically difficult circumstances. We see this both as a valuable end in itself and as a long-term means to promoting more cohesive, considerate and creative societies with equality of opportunity and rights for all.

We work primarily by supporting programmes implemented by partners in the field. These include public, private and community-based organisations. Our strategy of working through partnerships is intended to build local capacity, promote innovation and flexibility, and help to ensure that the work we fund is culturally and contextually appropriate.

We currently support about 140 major projects. We focus our grantmaking on 21 countries in which we have built up experience over the years. These include both developing and industrialised countries and represent a geographical range that encompasses Africa, Asia, Europe and the Americas.

We work in three issue areas:

- Through "Strengthening the Care Environment" we aim to build the capacity of vulnerable parents, families and communities to care for their children.
- Through "Successful Transitions" we aim to help young children make the transition from their home environment to daycare, preschool and school.
- Through "Social Inclusion and Respect for Diversity" we aim to promote equal opportunities and skills that will help children to live in diverse societies.

Also central to our work is the ongoing effort to document and analyse the projects we support, with the twin aims of learning lessons for our future grantmaking activities and generating knowledge we can share. Through our evidence-based advocacy and publications, we aim to inform and influence policy and practice both in the countries where we operate and beyond.

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**Bernard van Leer**  *Foundation*

