



Economic and Social Council

Distr.  
GENERAL

E/ICEF/1990/NGO/5

17 April 1990

ENGLISH ONLY

UN LIBRARY

APR 19 1990

UNICEF COLLECTION

UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND  
Executive Board  
1990 session

FOR INFORMATION

STATEMENT BY THE INTERNATIONAL CATHOLIC CHILD BUREAU INCORPORATED

Developing strategies for children within the context  
of their spiritual and family life

1. For over 40 years, the International Catholic Child Bureau (ICCB) has been dedicated to serving the physical, social and spiritual needs of children world-wide regardless of their religious creed. Throughout our history, ICCB has facilitated action to address often forgotten needs in the lives of handicapped children, street children, children addicted to drugs, refugee children and children subject to sexual exploitation.
2. ICCB is always careful to promote the spiritual growth of the child, the rights of the child (particularly to education), the family and intercultural awareness. Some examples are detailed below.
3. Concerned with the lack of facilities for the growing numbers of younger drug addicts in Colombia, ICCB, together with other partners, has established a therapeutic community for 50 male minors (12 to 18 years old) near Bogota, the capital. The programme provides these young people with the opportunity to develop physically, mentally, socially and spiritually, as well as to take responsibility for their own actions, thoughts and feelings. Because their problems often originated in their own families, the programme works closely with the families to encourage them to deal with the problems together through mutual understanding and support. A report on the programme is available from ICCB.
4. In Zambia, ICCB has implemented a community-based mental health programme for Mozambican refugee women and children. The purpose of the programme is to alleviate the trauma caused by the refugee experience and the stress associated with daily events in the settlement. A report on the results of this programme is also available from ICCB.

5. Children who are physically handicapped are often prevented from participating in the community at large. In Côte d'Ivoire, the ICCB regional secretariat in Abidjan has co-ordinated a programme for operating on physically handicapped children. The programme also develops therapeutic aids for the recovery of the children and helps to integrate them into their families and communities.

6. In conclusion, we urge UNICEF and international non-governmental organizations to consider the physical, psycho-social, mental and spiritual needs of children and their families when developing strategies better to meet the needs of children in the 1990s.

-----