

Genoa's Statement on "Children & the Mediterranean"

Genoa 7-9 January 2004

F

SUMMING UP SESSION

The conference

The Children & the Mediterranean conference, held in Genoa from 7th to 9th January 2004, was promoted by the Fondazione Gerolamo Gaslini and GENOVA 2004 in cooperation with the World Bank, the Arab Urban Development Institute, the Istituto Giannina Gaslini and Lynkeus, under the high patronage of the President of the Italian Republic, of the Prime Minister, and of the President of the European Commission. The overriding goal of the conference was to raise the awareness of child issues among policy makers and relevant stakeholders. The conference was held on the liner *Mistral*, generously made available for the three-day event by Festival Cruises, and which provided the conference with an ideal environment.

Conceived as an ideal follow-up and development event of the "Children and the City" conference, which took place in Amman, Jordan from December 11th to 13th, 2002, the premise of Children and the Mediterranean was that the child's basic rights be determinants in policy choices. The Conference focused on issues of child rights, health, early child development, the relationship between children and urban settings, adolescent health and youth participation (the latter theme being specifically related to Amman's approach).

The Conference covered several aspects of the situation of children in the Mediterranean. The striking disparities between and within countries in the status of children, the types of vulnerabilities faced by children, issues such as violence, abuse and exploitation of children require analysis beyond numerical indicators to identify reasons for not covering unreached children and addressing them. The projected future population growth and structure in the south Mediterranean, reaching 650 million people by 2050, requires a new vision, coupled with practical programmes in partnership with various stakeholders at different levels, to address tomorrow's challenges from now.

While significant progress has been achieved in the south Mediterranean in the past decade, reflected in dropping under five and infant mortality, higher immunisation coverage and primary school enrolment, it is clear that major challenges remain. These include: half a million children dying annually for preventive reasons, 11 million children out of primary education, 13 million children working and 70 million illiterates, mostly women and children. Seven long lasting conflicts cast their shadow over children and a host of child protection issues need to be addressed: including children deprived of primary caregivers, the worst forms of child labour and all forms of abuse and violence affecting children. Children, half of the population of the countries of the south Mediterranean, require more space for participation and empowerment with knowledge and skills. This is an agenda worthy of a strong Mediterranean programme, in the context of the Barcelona process and beyond, as part of the Euro-Arab dialogue and EU development assistance.

The conference appreciates the valuable contributions of all speakers invited to present their work on the specific themes tackled by the conference's workshops.

The conference acknowledges that the content that emerged from the workshops constitutes a first step towards effective sharing of knowledge, experience and best practices, and the promotion of a greater understanding of the most prominent issues inherent to the following fields:

1. Non communicable diseases
2. Nutritional and infectious diseases
3. Diabetes melitus
4. Testing new and old drugs on children
5. Innovative experiences and collaboration models in child care
6. Child protection
7. Injuries and environmental risks
8. E-health
9. The role of the Arts in child human development
10. Models for child friendly hospitals
11. Child development
12. Children's rights
13. The role of media and IT in child development

Genoa provided the venue for the conference, with three aims for the city: to confirm its role as a capital of solidarity in the year that sees it take on the title of European Capital of Culture; to stress and continue its tradition of excellence in paediatrics; to acquire a special role as a facilitator of Euro-Arab dialogue. At the end of the Conference Genoa is confirming these aims for the future, particularly as the site of the MEDCHILD Institute.

Fondazione Istituto Mediterraneo per l'Infanzia – MEDCHILD Institute

The conference provided the opportunity to announce the establishment of the Fondazione Istituto Mediterraneo per l'Infanzia – MEDCHILD Institute and present its activities.

The Conference acknowledges that MEDCHILD Institute is committed to establishing a Mediterranean network of cooperation with bodies and research centers of excellence and to updating each year the "Charting the Mediterranean Child" report in parallel with the associated Index of Child Well-being.

The Conference also notes related intentions of the MEDCHILD Institute for the years to come:

- to ensure the use of "mobile units for telediagnosis and initial intervention" for planned operations as regards selected areas and medical priorities;
- by agreement with Gaslini International, to promote training programs for physicians and nursing personnel;
- to ensure that pediatric hospital units across the Mediterranean area have access to pediatric products (e.g., pharmaceuticals) at the lowest possible prices and highest quality through the aggregation of market demand and the stronger negotiation power made possible by the "Gaslini marketplace";
- to develop the project for pediatric drugs so as to remedy the shortcomings currently existing in this sector (the child is not a little adult, but the ad hoc experimentation is limited due to the small market on pediatric healthcare);
- by agreement with Genoa University (Ethno-Medicine), to promote training of pediatric personnel with respect to the specific nature of Mediterranean cultures;
- by agreement with Mus-e, to promote "cultural integration of children through art" by developing the excellent initiative underway in sixteen European countries;

- by agreement with the Institut de la Méditerranée, to promote "literacy and training in basic skills" starting from the Second Chance educational project carried out in Marseilles.

The Conference also proposes that, wherever possible, the Fondazione Istituto Mediterraneo per l'Infanzia MEDCHILD Institute focus on country-specific social programmes and on the most effective, efficient and realistic ways to implement them.

The Conference urges the Fondazione Istituto Mediterraneo per l'Infanzia MEDCHILD Institute to serve as a platform to network multi-disciplinary and cross-cultural institutions and actors to further the integration of knowledge from natural sciences to social sciences in relation to early childhood development and the onset of health and behavioural difficulties later in life.

The conference also advocates that the Fondazione Istituto Mediterraneo per l'Infanzia MEDCHILD Institute act as a "body of analysis, planning, proposal and action" to promote (directly and indirectly) respect for children's rights throughout the Mediterranean area consistent with the 1989 UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, the relevant United Nations organizations, and with the Euro-Mediterranean partnership (1995 Barcelona process).

The Conference also notes with appreciation that MEDCHILD commits itself to working towards the exchange of useful experiences between countries and organizations working for the defence of children's rights and better lives for infants and youths in the Mediterranean region. In so doing, MEDCHILD intends to continue close collaboration with the Arab Urban Development Institute and seeks to promote a dialogue between mayors and other municipal and provincial authorities to which the protection of children is entrusted

In addition to public intervention programmes, and in order to attract more resources from the private sector for human development in the poorest nations, the Conference urges that MEDCHILD give special attention to private and/or public fund-matching initiatives whose direct beneficiaries are private individuals.

The "Charting the Mediterranean Child" report

The Conference urges MEDCHILD to continue its work of data collection and analysis and proposes that future editions of "Charting the Mediterranean Child" increasingly take into greater account country-specific and intra-country issues, such as differences between regions, urban and rural settings, countries affected by a situation of "dual burden" and ethnic and other minorities for key indicators.

Moreover, strategic partnerships will be established with local institutions and organizations (e.g., local governments and universities, not to mention qualified research centres and collaborators) also in order to facilitate local ownership of the report.

The conference also suggests that future editions of "Charting the Mediterranean Child" have a more inter-sectoral approach, aiming to implement a convergence of policies and actions for the children in the area.

The Conference suggests that the next report be designed to help the Fondazione Istituto

Mediterraneo per l'Infanzia MEDCHILD Institute adapt, promote and finance a growing number of programmes that have already proven their effectiveness in specific countries.

F

SUMMING UP SESSION

In closing, the conference is pleased to announce that a tentative agreement has been reached among the World Bank, AUDI, and the city of Dubai to host the follow-up conference in the UAE next year. Partners in the event will be UNICEF, the Gaslini Foundation, the Fondazione Istituto Mediterraneo per l'infanzia - MEDCHILD Institute and others to be defined.

La dichiarazione di Genova sui “Bambini nel Mediterraneo”

Genova 7-9 gennaio 2004

F

SUMMING UP SESSION

La conferenza

La Conferenza “Children and the Mediterranean”, tenutasi a Genova dal 7 al 9 gennaio 2004, è stata promossa dalla Fondazione Gerolamo Gaslini e da GENOVA 2004 in collaborazione con la Banca Mondiale, l’Arab Urban Development Institute, l’Istituto Giannina Gaslini e la Lynkeus, sotto il patrocinio del Presidente della Repubblica Italiana, del Primo Ministro e del Presidente della Commissione Europea. Lo scopo principale della conferenza era di aumentare la consapevolezza sui problemi dell’infanzia tra i responsabili delle decisioni politiche e i relativi finanziarie. La conferenza ha avuto luogo sulla nave da crociera Mistral, generosamente messa a disposizione per l’evento dalla Festival Crociere e che ha fornito alla conferenza la cornice ideale.

Concepita come l’ideale prosecuzione e l’ampliamento della conferenza “Children and the City” che si è tenuta ad Amman, in Giordania, dall’11 al 13 dicembre 2002, la premessa alla conferenza “Children and the Mediterranean” era che i diritti fondamentali dei bambini devono essere determinanti nelle scelte politiche. La conferenza era incentrata sui argomenti quali: i diritti e la salute del bambino, l’early child development, la relazioni tra bambini e assetto urbano, la salute degli adolescenti e la partecipazione dei giovani (quest’ultima specificamente correlata alle conclusioni di Amman).

La conferenza ha riguardato diversi aspetti della situazione del bambino nel Mediterraneo: le differenze nelle condizioni dei bambini tra diversi paesi e all’interno dei paesi stessi, questioni come la violenza, l’abuso e lo sfruttamento dei bambini. Tutto ciò richiede un’analisi che va oltre i numeri per identificare le ragioni della mancata assistenza dei bambini difficilmente raggiungibili. La futura crescita della popolazione e la futura struttura nel sud del Mediterraneo, che raggiungerà 650 milioni di persone entro il 2050, richiede una visione nuova, assieme a programmi pratici di collaborazione con diversi attori finanziari a diversi livelli, per affrontare le sfide di domani.

Sono stati fatti progressi significativi nel sud del Mediterraneo negli ultimi dieci anni che permesso di abbassare la mortalità infantile in modo significativo, di incrementare copertura immunitaria e iscrizioni alla scuola primaria, ma rimangono chiaramente altre sfide più grandi. Queste includono: mezzo milione di bambini che muoiono ogni anno per ragioni preventive, undici milioni di bambini che non ricevono un’istruzione, tredici milioni di bambini che lavorano e settanta milioni di analfabeti, in gran parte donne e bambini. Sette lunghe guerre gettano la loro ombra sui bambini e una quantità di problemi legati alla protezione dei bambini devono essere affrontati: fornire le cure primarie ai bambini che ne sono privi ed eliminare le peggiori forme di lavoro infantile e tutte le forme di abuso e violenza a danni dei bambini. I bambini costituiscono la metà della popolazione dei paesi del sud del Mediterraneo e hanno bisogno di maggiori spazi per partecipare e acquisire conoscenze e capacità. Quello che è stato discusso in questa conferenza si inserisce perfettamente in un forte programma mediterraneo, nel contesto di quanto scaturito da Barcellona ed oltre, come parte del dialogo tra Europa e mondo arabo e dello sforzo europeo per lo sviluppo.

La conferenza apprezza i preziosi contributi di tutti i relatori invitati a presentare il loro lavoro su temi specifici affrontati dai workshop della conferenza.

La conferenza riconosce che il contenuto emerso dai workshop costituisce un primo passo verso l'effettiva condivisione di conoscenze, esperienze e migliori procedure e la promozione di una maggiore comprensione delle principali questioni riguardanti i seguenti argomenti:

1. Malattie non trasmissibili
2. Malattie nutrizionali e infettive
3. Diabete mellito
4. Test di vecchi e nuovi farmaci sui bambini
5. Esperienze innovative
6. Protezione dei bambini
7. Ferite e rischi ambientali
8. E-health
9. Il ruolo delle Arti nello sviluppo del bambino umano
10. Modelli per ospedali a misura di bambino
11. Sviluppo del bambino
12. Il ruolo dei media e l'IT nello sviluppo del bambino

Genova ha fornito la sede per la conferenza, per tre ragioni: confermare per la città il ruolo di capitale della solidarietà nell'anno che la vede Capitale Europea della Cultura; sottolineare e continuare la sua grande tradizione nel campo pediatrico; acquisire un ruolo speciale come intermediario per un dialogo tra Europa e mondo arabo. Alla fine della conferenza, Genova conferma queste ragioni per il futuro, in particolare come sito del MEDCHILD Institute.

Closing Remarks by Viviana Mangiaterra, Children & Youth Consultant, World Bank

F

SUMMING UP SESSION

I would just like to contribute with some reflections that came out from my mind just thinking of the conclusion outcomes of this conference and what I retain from the different workshops I attended and from the informal discussion that I had with my colleagues during this three days. I think there are some keywords that are coming out from this conference from the discussion around the different topics, several topics that we discussed during these three days, and I would like to share with you these key words, and some other reflections about these different areas that are passing my mind. In my opinion the first keywords for this conference have been, as a reiteration and reinforcement of what has been the Amman commitment, the move from knowledge to action. I think it has been said in several sessions that there is really a need to go now behind the research, the studies, the scientific and economic evidence that several studies and research have been accumulating during this year, to go behind the awareness that has been raised on the areas of children and youth's need and really move into ventures, into actions. I think it has been again reiterated following Amman points that local approaches are very important to make sure that we are concretely tackling the issues and address the issues that are facing children and youth. I think it has been really reiterated in different sessions the need to design and tailor approaches that are responding to the local needs and these approaches they need to be developed as much as possible with and for children and families and communities at a local level. So actually behind the political commitment, the institutional body and systems, we really need to go at a local level to tackle the children where they are in the family in the communities. I think another important point that came out from this conference is the need of tackling issues on children and youth through a multi-sectorial approach. The complexity, the multiple and interlinked nature of children risking vulnerability has been re-emphasised and these are issues calling for multi-sectorial approaches that are going behind the classic health, education and protection and other different section approaches, and of course a multi-sectorial approach could be very useful and could take advantage of synergies among different interventions and more clearly link the intervention to the development outcomes in terms of their achievement of the millennium goals. Another important issue and key word that came out from this conference is partnership. It has been said in several occasions that leveraging the power of partnership will really be the key to achieve positive outcomes for children and youth. Partners (and we had several partners present at this conference with different profiles and background) should look more for complementarity rather than replacement or duplication of their force. Automatically if we are looking for complementarity and we are really developing jointly design multi-sectorial action plans, everybody would automatically find this place and his responsibility from technical and financial prospective. Among other partnerships that we were speaking about during this conference I think came out very strongly the importance of looking for a partnership with children and for children and this kind of special partnership should be really pursued as a key policy and instrument for really addressing mainly successful programmes for children and youth, we are really keen on this kind of partnership in the World Bank. We saw that we are measuring every day children and youth themselves are powerful agents for changes if they are given the opportunity to voice their priorities, their opinions and to develop and test their capabilities. Another important element I think came out from this conference again the importance and the difficulties that we have encountered during this year of our trying to

reach and design more carefully programmes addressed to children. How important and at the same time difficult is it to make sure that their inclusion of the most vulnerable is insured? This we think is very important not only for human intrinsic values but it is really important from an economic prospective in order to break into generational poverty cycle and preserve human capital and insure equity. We are very keen in the World Bank on the importance of really working in this sense and make sure that the most vulnerable has the chance to be included. I think the issue has been pointed out during the discussion and the presentation in several workshops during this conference and the issue is present, looking at this from the prospective of all the inequities between countries as it was mentioned by the Genoa declaration, but actually living in the richest countries the issue came out at the discussion, because we have discrepancies and inequities within countries so it is a problem and the difficulties that we are encountering all over in this region.

Another important element that came out I think was the difficulties to measure progress and I think I want to quote some of the conclusions from the group that tackled this issues: direct measures of various dimensions of child well-being must be brought into the picture more carefully and perhaps in a different way. These measure are actually unlikely captured by the current studies by our resources and ways that we have used up to now to measure progress. So additional work needs to be done to have more refined indicators capturing the complexity of well being in children and youth and work is crucial in this area. The last point I would like to mention, as a reflection that came out very strongly in this conference, is the issue of solidarity. And I think the fact that we are here from different background, different cultures and different countries is again an important example of this commitment and how much work, how much road can be done based on solidarity. And again I would like to use this terminology from the World Bank prospective that is not very common. My vice- president was speaking about love, so I think I am allowed to speak about solidarity from the prospective of my work and my position in the World Bank. I would also like to say that it was very rewarding to be, as you know, the Advisor for the Children & Youth department for the Bank. This is a new position that has been created recently, and my task and responsibility are to develop and comprehend strategies on Children and Youth for the Bank and I found this conference very important and I got a lot of inputs for my work. I am sure that a lot of the elements that came out from this conference will be reflected in this strategy and I see already that a lot of convergences have been down from the initial work that we have been doing during last year and what came out from this conference I would be really pleased if you in a few months when the strategy will be published will recognize some of your inputs that you gave to your work during these three days. This would be a really good measure of success of the strategy that I hope it will be developed based on the inputs from regions and countries. So tailor and developed not into theoretical frames, but really with concrete inputs from community and from real different countries' problems/issues. These are my reflections and I hope they will be useful to guide some of the discussions.