

Summer 2021

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Dear colleagues and friends,

Warm greetings from the University of New Brunswick, Saint John, where I moved to in 2020 and now call home!

Since our last newsletter, the world has been experiencing the COVID-19 pandemic and its inevitable impact on our personal and professional lives. Despite this, here at the GlobalChild program, we have been busy and have continued to meet the timelines of our major projects and even initiate new plans branching from our ongoing projects. Below, we have tried to provide the highlights of our activities since our last newsletter in 2019.

As always, significant credit for this productivity goes to our vast network of collaborators and partner institutions, as well as our GlobalChild team comprised of a stellar **Steering Committee**: an impressive **Reference Group**; a small team of experts called the **Indicators Development Team** (IDT), the entire initial team of **researchers**; and our small team at the secretariat of the project: both my past team at UVic, and my new team here at UNB. I am grateful for, and amazed by, the capacity of each and every member of these teams in being resilient and pushing forward while the world has experienced such a historic pause!

The major highlight of this newsletter is pushing GlobalChild to its next stage: pilots and implementation. We have now completed and fully digitized sets of indicators for all 41 substantive rights under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), which comprise the GlobalChild platform. The platform itself exists in both English and French versions and is ready to be tested. Please see details of these plans below, among other exciting updates.

Thank you all for your interest in our work and happy reading!

Kind regards,
Ziba

Dr. Ziba Vaghri
Associate Professor
Director, GlobalChild Program of Research
University of New Brunswick, Saint John



The Canadian Launch of the GlobalChild Platform:

Based on the initial workplan, the GlobalChild platform was planned to launch in the summer of 2020 through an event held in Geneva. Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and the accompanying travel restrictions, this was not feasible. Therefore, the official GlobalChild launch is postponed until the summer of 2022, when/if the travel restrictions are lifted. In the meantime, the GlobalChild team is working towards the Canadian launch of the platform.

The [Launch Event](#) for the GlobalChild Platform in Canada will take place on December 13th, the 30th Anniversary of Canada's ratification of the CRC. This event will be held via webinar and opened by a few members of the GlobalChild Steering Committee (SC), including Dr. Yanghee Lee, the current chair of the SC. International and national child rights stakeholders will be participating virtually. Registration for the event will open Wednesday, September 1st. You can register [here](#).

We would sincerely appreciate our partners' support in creating publicity for this significant event by posting about the event on social media and sharing our launch-related posts, if you are interested in using pre-written messaging, please contact globalchild@unb.ca for our comprehensive social media engagement package.

 Facebook

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Change in the Steering Committee of the GlobalChild Project:

There have been a few changes in the composition of the international committee that is steering the GlobalChild project. The Honourable Jean Zermatten, a prominent Swiss judge, a passionate child rights advocate, and a former vice-chair (2007-2011) and chair of the UNCRC committee (2011-2013), has chaired the international SC of the GlobalChild project for 5 years (2016-2021). Upon completion of Jean's term, Professor Yanghee Lee, who has been a member of the GlobalChild team since its inception, was invited to chair the SC. Dr. Lee, also a former chair of the Committee (2007-2011), joins the SC with an impressive international leadership resume. Her most recent experience involves being the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar. Dr. Lee's chairpersonship was formalized during the SC meeting on July 26th, 2021.

We are also fortunate to have been able to add Dr. Hynd Ayoubi-Idrissi (UNCRC member from Morocco) and Mr. Benoit Van Keirsbilck, (UNCRC member from Belgium) to the SC. You can read about these distinguished members on the [webpage of the SC](#).



The Global Child Rights Dialogue (GCRD) Completed Successfully:

The GCRD, a huge global undertaking in collaboration with Dr. Laura Lundy and her [team](#) at Belfast University, and the international offices of [Save the Children](#), focused on fulfilling Article 12 by consulting and seeking out children's opinions on their rights. This project enabled children from all regions of the globe to participate in a series of workshops and share their thoughts and opinions with us on their rights under the UNCRC. The overarching goal was for children to discuss the child-friendly versions of the attributes (the central themes) for each CRC right and to share their input. Over 2,000 children between the ages of 11-17 years participated from 52 sites in 35 countries; from Argentina to Russia, Greece to Sierra Leone, and more.

The project was completed in 2019, and the outcomes were incorporated into the attributes and indicators of the GlobalChild project. A full methodology report can be found [here](#), and a report especially for younger readers can be found [here](#).



Child-friendly Educational Tools:

Due to the expression of interest from partners across the globe, child friendly versions of all 41 rights were compiled and converted into an educational tool for children. The result was a set of educational cards, which are [free for everyone to download and print](#), and are available in French, Spanish, and English. We hope this will be a useful tool for young people to learn more about their rights and how to know if they are being implemented or not.

We would like to acknowledge and appreciate the work of Amélie Brutinel and Audrey Durante on the French translation, as well as Dr. Raul Mercer, Dr. Veronica Schiariti, and Melina Mercer on the Spanish translation.



Publishing a Book with Springer:

The GlobalChild Indicators Development Team (IDT) is publishing a book: *Monitoring State Compliance with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child – An Analysis of Attributes*. The book documents the outcome of the first phase of our methodology in developing the indicator sets of the GlobalChild platform: identifying the key attributes of all substantive rights of children under the CRC.

This book is edited and authored by Ziba Vaghri, Jean Zermatten, Gerison Lansdown, and Roberta Ruggiero, with authorship by Adem Arkadas-Thibert, Christian Whalen, Katherine Covell, Damon Barrett, and Gavin Kotze. [Tim Covell](#) is the structural- and copy-editor of the manuscript. The book is currently undergoing review and is scheduled to be published by the end of the year.



Building the Platform:

Upon completion of the work of the IDT, Freshworks Studio, a Vancouver-based software development company, was contracted to digitize the indicators and build the GlobalChild Platform system. The platform was completed in late 2020 and will be available in both French and English. The indicator sets on the platform will not be available to the public, but parties interested in viewing may contact the secretariat of the project (globalchild@unb.ca) to request viewing credentials.



New Brunswick Pilot of the GlobalChild Platform:

The GlobalChild Platform is now ready to be piloted! The first pilot will take place in the province of New Brunswick, Canada. This pilot, using the 41 indicator sets of the GlobalChild platform, will take an inventory of the structures and processes in place in the province to support the 41 substantive rights of the children under the CRC. The collected data on these structures and processes will be examined vis-a-vis the outcome data at the level of children.

Data collected through GlobalChild will highlight gaps in the capacities of New Brunswick and will facilitate the development of evidence-informed policies and programs. The NB-Pilot is conducted in close partnership with the NB [Office of the Child and Youth Advocate](#).

The [New Brunswick Pilot of GlobalChild](#) is funded through the generous funds of the [Canadian Institutes of Health Research](#) (CIHR), the [New Brunswick Innovation Foundation](#) (NBIF) and the [New Brunswick Health Research Foundation](#) (NBHRF).

New Brunswick Health Research Foundation







InspIRights: Good Practices to Inspire and Facilitate Children's Rights:

The [InspIRights project](#) is a newly launched project of the GlobalChild program of research and an offshoot of the GlobalChild project. InspIRights is a 5-year project that, in collaboration with a wide range of experts from around the globe, will take an inventory of good practices that [inspire](#) children's rights. The compilation of such practices (i.e. legislation, policies, and programs) that promote the implementation of CRC will be fed into the GlobalChild Platform, while also being published as a stand-alone resource (a compendium or database).

InspIRights is funded through the generous funds of the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC).



The project will proceed in close collaboration with the [African Child Policy Forum](#) and [UNICEF Canada](#) and is a partnership of 8 universities from 8 regions of the globe, including [The University of New Brunswick](#) (North American Region), [ELASCO University](#) (Latin America and Caribbean countries region), [The University of Geneva](#) (Western European Region), [University of Oslo](#) (Scandinavian Region), [Pirogov Russian National Research Medical University](#) (Eastern European Region), [Mohamed V University of Rabat](#) (African Region), [Uskudar University](#) (Asian Region), and [University of New South Wales](#) (Pacific Region).



Recent and Upcoming Meetings and Events:

March 3, 2021: GlobalChild was featured in an [article in the National Post](#)!

July 2021: First meeting of the GlobalChild team, the NB office of Child and Youth Advocate, and the Government of New Brunswick took place to discuss the participation of the government in the NB pilot of the GlobalChild platform.

December 13, 2021: The Canadian Launch of the GlobalChild platform (webinar).

Important Presentations since our last Newsletter:

Health, development, and rights of refugee & asylum-seeking children under the CRC and through the eyes of children," International Society of Social Pediatrics and Child Health (ISSOP), September 26, 2019, Beirut, Lebanon. Available at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hDnZH63exGo>

"GlobalChild: A data-centric approach to tracking the development of children and compliance of the 196 UN Member States with the Convention on the Rights of the Child," United Nations, Switzerland - 30 Years of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, November 19, 2019, Geneva, Switzerland.

"Indicators as effective tools for implementation and monitoring of the rights of children for protection against violence, neglect, and abuse under the UN CRC," Les indicateurs de qualité de l'accompagnement de l'enfant en protection de l'enfance. Colloque scientifique international, November 2-3, 2020, Tangier, Morocco (webinar).

"GlobalChild: Combining the science of child development and global accountability" presentation for The International Summer Course on the Rights of the Child, set up by the Office of The New Brunswick Child and Youth Advocate, November 18, 2020, Saint John, Canada. (Webinar)

"GlobalChild: Promotion of child health and development through child rights" presentation for the UNB Board of Governors, December 3, 2020, Saint John, Canada. (Webinar)

"Global Child Rights Dialogue (GCRD): What children across the globe think about their right to health," 9th European Paediatrics Congress, November 10-12, 2021, Zagreb, Croatia.

New Publications:

Z. Vaghri and L. De Souza. (2020). Child Protection in British Columbia: Moving Toward Primary Prevention. Canadian Public Administration. September, 2021.

Z. Vaghri and M. Samms-Vaughan. (2020). Accountability in protection against violence: Monitoring and measurement. Child Abuse & Neglect: The International Journal, Online ahead of print. (Invited submission in celebration of the 30th anniversary of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child).

Vaghri, Z., Tessier, Z., & Whalen, C. (2019). Refugee and Asylum-Seeking Children: Interrupted Child Development and Unfulfilled Child Rights. Children (Special issue on Children on the Move), 6(11),120, 1-16. DOI: 10.3390/children6110120.

New Staff and Trainees:

GlobalChild is pleased to introduce the new members of our team:





Katrina Ostapchuk is the new GlobalChild program manager. She holds a Master of Science in International Development and Humanitarian Emergencies from the London School of Economics (LSE) and has conducted research in collaboration with the Overseas Development Institute (ODI) on the impact of displacement on gender relations in refugee populations.



Angela Garbadeen holds an undergraduate degree in Child & Youth Care from the University of Victoria and joins our team with five years experience coordinating and assisting with child & maternal health and policy research. Angela is currently working in the capacity of Research Assistant and is supporting the grant writing activities of the program.



Sam Freeze is completing a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology at the University of New Brunswick, Saint John. Sam has joined the GlobalChild team as a research trainee relying upon NBHRF funds for summer students. He is also a part of the Centre for Criminal Justice Studies lab at UNB Saint John.



Rowan Hickie has recently completed her LL.M in International Human Rights Law at the Irish Centre for Human Rights at the National University of Ireland Galway. In addition to her LL.M, Rowan also holds a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) degree and Juris Doctor from the University of Alberta. She has recently joined the GlobalChild team in a volunteer capacity.

Social Media:

We are excited to share that we have recently developed both a Facebook and LinkedIn page for GlobalChild. Many of you have already supported us on these platforms, and for that we are grateful. This initiative is part of a social media campaign led by the University of New Brunswick in preparation for GlobalChild's pilot & implementation phase. We kindly ask that you follow along and support us through these mediums.

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Contact us:

Email: globalchild@unb.ca
Phone: 1-506-648-5918

Follow us:









The GlobalChild team is a multi-agency alliance, led by the Secretariat from the University of New Brunswick, Canada, and generously funded by federal and provincial funding from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research and the Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research.

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