

background paper for participants on the current knowledge about children on the streets and programs to assist them. CIESPI staff working on Children with Mental and Developmental Disabilities will bring their expertise on street children who suffer from these conditions. We hope that the policy will be formally approved in July this year. CIESPI will then assist in the broad dissemination of the guidelines and describe the challenges and opportunities of implementing them.

CIESPI take Rio project national: Working relationships established in eight other states.

CIESPI is capitalizing on the experience of working with the Children and Youth's Rights Council in Rio, by inviting key people in other cities in Brazil to learn from the Rio experience and share their experiences of trying to formulate policies for street children. These states include Amazonas, Pernambuco, Maranhão, Bahia, Rio Grande do Sul, Goiás, Espírito Santo, and São Paulo. Participants will come to CIESPI at the end of April for the first of three annual two day conferences to discuss how the policies are developing in Rio and the other cities. The project has also created international interest in light of the widespread disjunction between the legal rights of children and the implementation of those rights. In Brazil, for example, while Article 19 of the Statute on the Child guarantees the right of all children and adolescents to live in the context of their families and communities, children on the streets almost by definition do not enjoy that right.

CIESPI capitalizes on the project to build a data base on vulnerable children and youth in Brazil

Children in the situation of the streets generally come from low-income communities. While we seek to improve their situation once they reach the streets, we are also concerned to stop that transition in the first place. To do that, we need to know more about their situation in their home communities. Our city, state, and indeed national government lack an easy to use, public access data bank devoted to key information on such children and youth. As part of the project, CIESPI is building a databank from existing data in a variety of government data bases, the vast majority of which are not practically accessible to the public. The databank will include key indicators on such topics as demography, family income and poverty, health, violence and education. The next issue of this newsletter will highlight some information from this developing data bank.

National and international funders support the project

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